

Protecting the Public Purse Recommendations

Recommended action	Current position
Councils should ensure they keep the capability to investigate fraud that is not related to housing benefit.	Internal Audit staff are all members of professional bodies and are required to complete CPD. Fraud training is completed as required and within financial constraints.
Councils should improve their use of data, information and intelligence to focus their counter-fraud work.	Use is made of data, information and intelligence from various sources through taking part in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI), NAFN and local networking
Councils should review their counter-fraud arrangements in the context of the NFA's strategy for local government, <i>Fighting Fraud Locally</i> .	Completed
Councils should work with other register social housing providers to improve the use of civil and criminal action to deter tenancy fraudsters.	Work has been completed in this area with RSL's and has identified there is minimal risk of tenancy fraud.
Councils should use the Audit Commission's council tax single person discount (SPD) fraud predictor toolkit to assess the potential level of such fraud locally.	The fraud predictor toolkit has been used and gives an indication of the amount of potential fraud. The toolkit presumes that 4% of SPD claims are fraudulent which equates to £12,720 for the first year. Work has commenced on the SPD matches from the NFI data match and another SPD data match within the County is about to commence.
Councils should review their performance against the NFA's good practice on tackling housing tenancy fraud and council tax fraud.	Work completed in line with guidance
Councils should ensure the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matches are followed up effectively, including those targeting council tax discount abuse (next data release due in February 2012).	NFA's guide in respect of Council Tax fraud states that NFI matches should be followed up. Work has commenced on the recently released data matches.

<p>Councils should review personal budgets arrangements to ensure safeguarding and Whistleblowing arrangements are proportionate to the fraud risk.</p>	<p>N/A – this relates to areas such as Social Services</p>
<p>Councils should follow good practice and match success of others.</p>	<p>The authority keeps up to date with areas of emerging fraud and ensures that actions are taken to minimise the risk of fraud in these areas.</p>
<p>Councils should use our checklist for those charged with governance to review their counter-fraud arrangements.</p>	<p>The checklist is attached as Appendix 1 for approval by the Audit & Governance Committee.</p>

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