

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director for Finance and Public Protection

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	24 November 2014
Subject:	Counter Fraud Progress Report to 31 October 2014

Summary:

This report provides an update on our fraud investigation activities and information on progress made against our counter Fraud Work Plan 2014/15.

Recommendation(s):

To note the outcomes of our counter fraud work and identify any actions it requires.

Background

This report provides an update on the progress made against the Counter Fraud Work Plan 2014/15, including our investigation activities. Details can be found in Appendix A, including:

- Key messages
- Proactive work
- Investigations
- Progress against plan
- Other matters of interest
- Counter Fraud Work Plan 2014/15

Conclusion

We have made good progress against the work plan for 2014/15 having completed work in a number of key fraud pro-active areas, particularly around fraud awareness.

We have received seven fraud referrals since April 2014 – we currently have three live cases and four which are now concluded. More information can be found on pages 5 to 7. We have had one successful prosecution since our last progress report – a direct payments case totalling just under £8k. The Audit Commission, in a recent publication "*Protecting the Public Purse*", report that social care fraud has

more than trebled since 2009/10. It is important therefore that we continue our proactive activities in this fraud risk area, raise awareness and publicise the results of all outcomes and successful prosecutions.

This progress report is designed to provide the Committee with information which enables it to:

- confirm the Council's Counter Fraud arrangements are targeted and effective
- assess whether appropriate progress has been made against the approved work plan, and
- ensure lessons have been learnt, that there is an understanding of the fraud risks facing the Council and that actions are being taken to reduce the risk

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Counter Fraud Progress Report
Appendix B	National Fraud Initiative - Slides

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522-553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk.