

Regulatory and Other Committee

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

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	30 March 2015
Subject:	Counter Fraud Progress Report to 28 February 2015

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 fifteen fraud referrals since April 2014 – seven cases have now been concluded and we currently have 8 live cases. More information can be found on pages 5 to 8. We have had one successful prosecution since our last progress report – this related to an employee's misuse of a lease vehicle.

Our recent targeted fraud awareness programme and improved channels of communication continue to produce regular referrals from Adult Care and Safeguarding teams. It is important that we continue our pro-active activities and joint working approach in this fraud risk area to ensure that fraud and financial abuse cases are highlighted and addressed.

Our joint bid for to the Department for Communities and Local Government was successful and we received £200k to support the creation of a Lincolnshire Counter Fraud Partnership in conjunction with the district councils. This will involve counter fraud specialists and subject area experts working together to provide a sustained response to the threat of fraud to local authorities in Lincolnshire.

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

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.

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