

ANTI-FRAUD TEAM REPORT 2013/14

Housing and Community Safety Advisory Committee – 17 June 2014

Report of Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Key Aim of Effective Delivery of the Corporate Plan

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Ramsay

Contact Officer(s) Bami Cole, Ext.7236, Glen Moore Ext. 3240.

Recommendation to Housing and Community Safety Advisory Committee: That Members note the content of the report and the work of the Anti-Fraud Team carried out in 2013/14 and that proposed for 2014/15.

Introduction and Background

- 1 This report sets out details of the activities of the Anti-Fraud Team during 2013/14, the team's work plan for 2014/15 and the potential impact on fraud investigation services within Sevenoaks District Council caused by the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service (S-FIS).
- 2 This is the second report of the Anti-Fraud Team to the Audit Committee. The Anti-Fraud Team is part of the Audit, Risk and Anti-Fraud shared services working jointly with Dartford Borough Council. The team is responsible for carrying out benefit fraud investigations and assists both Councils in highlighting instances of fraud which could adversely affect the level of taxes/income they collect/receive.

Summary of Key Issues in the Report

- 3 Details of the activities of the team during the year 2013/14 are attached as Appendix A to this report. The team's performance is set out in section three of Appendix A and section 4 outlines the implications for the local authority fraud investigation services in light of the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service. Section 5 sets out the team's priorities for 2014/2015.
- 4 A key highlight for the year is the Anti-Fraud Team's continued success in finding and sanctioning benefit fraud offenders and assisting the Council's Revenue Departments in highlighting falsely claimed Council Tax discounts which have a direct effect the amount of tax revenue the local authorities can collect.

Key Implications

Financial

Not Applicable

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Council is required to have effective anti-fraud arrangements in place in order to safeguard public funds and prevent the pursuance of crime. The anti-fraud team effectively contributes towards the council's fraud prevention initiatives. The DWP proposals may put at risk existing arrangements. Therefore the Council would need to assess the implications of the DWP proposals and its impact on existing arrangements.

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	No	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

Conclusions

- 5 This report sets out the achievements of a successful year for the Anti-Fraud Team during 2013/14 and outlines it's priorities during 2014/15 taking account of the significant impact of the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service which is due to impact on fraud investigation services provided by the Council.

Appendices

Appendix A – Anti-Fraud Team End of Year Report 2013/14.

Background Papers:

None.

Adrian Rowbotham
Chief Finance Officer