

RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Ryedale District Council

Counter Fraud Plan 2021/22

Assistant Director – Corporate Fraud:
Deputy Head of Internal Audit:

Jonathan Dodsworth
Richard Smith

Circulation List:

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 151 Officer

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Introduction

- 1 This plan sets out proposed counter fraud work for Ryedale District Council, for 2021/22.
- 2 The Counter Fraud Plan is based on an estimate of the amount of resource required to provide the range of counter fraud activities required by the Council. A total of 105 days of counter fraud work has been agreed for 2021/22.

2021/22 Performance Targets

- 3 Counter fraud team performance has been measured by two performance targets over the last three years, actual savings achieved and the percentage success rate for cases investigated. While the team has met and often exceeded these targets, they have had unintended consequences. For example by focussing the team's work towards reactive investigations, at the expense of other important activity such as proactive work and fraud awareness training. While the value of this type of work is more difficult to quantify, good practice guidance (and experience) suggests that it can provide greater benefit through helping to prevent and deter fraud from occurring. It is proposed to stop managing performance against the previous targets from 2021/22. This will ensure the counter fraud team can provide a more balanced service to the Council. As well as providing additional flexibility, for example to meet further anticipated work relating to Covid-19 grant funding. The savings figure and success rate will continue to be reported to the Committee as part of regular progress reports, for information.

2021/22 Counter Fraud Plan

- 4 A summary of planned areas of work is set out in the table below.

Fraud Area	Days	Scope
Counter Fraud General	10	Monitoring changes to regulations and guidance, review of counter fraud risks, and support to the council with maintenance of the counter fraud framework. This will include completion of the annual counter fraud risk assessment and review of the counter fraud policy and strategy.

Fraud Area	Days	Scope
Proactive Work	20	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of counter fraud issues and procedures for reporting suspected fraud - for example through training and provision of updates on fraud related issues. • targeted proactive counter fraud work - for example through local and regional data matching exercises. • support and advice on cases which may be appropriate for investigation and advice on appropriate measures to deter and prevent fraud.
Reactive Investigations	40	Investigation of suspected fraud affecting the council. This includes feedback on any changes needed to procedures to prevent fraud recurring.
Covid-19 response work	10	Undertake post assurance activities and investigation of potential fraud highlighted through this work. Assisting the council to recover money lost to fraud through grants.
National Fraud Initiative (NFI)	15	Coordinating submission of data to the Cabinet Office for the NFI national fraud data matching programme and investigation of subsequent matches.
Fraud Liaison	10	Acting as a single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions, to provide data to support their housing benefit investigations.
Total Days	105	