



Counter Fraud Fund: Supporting local authorities to boost their capability and capacity in tackling non-benefit fraud - Progress Report

As you are aware, a condition of the Counter Fraud Fund is for successful bidders to provide details of progress on their projects. Given that your scheme will have been running for just under a year, we would be grateful if you could please provide the details requested below on emerging findings. Once completed, this form should be submitted to counterfraud@communities.gsi.gov.uk by close of play on Friday 23rd October. Any queries should also be submitted to this address.

Project title and lead contact information

Project Title	Collaborative Working
Principal local authority name/name of bidding organisation:	South Northants Council
Name of Contact(s):	Belinda Green
Telephone number(s) of the contact(s):	01327 322182
Email address of the contact(s):	belinda.green@southnorthants.gov.uk

Q1(a) Are you still on track to deliver the high level objectives as set out in the original bid, including procurement of goods and services?

YES

Q1(b) If answered 'NO' at Q1(a), please provide supporting details. Otherwise please go to Q2.

Q2(a) Has there been any change in the scope, nature or design within the project compared to the original proposal?

NO

Q2(b) If answered 'YES' at Q2(a), please specify and provide a brief explanation of the nature of the changes and whether it relates to timescales, resources etc. Otherwise please go to Q3.

Q3(a) Is the project progressing with the same partners as set out in the original bid?

YES

Q3(b) If answered 'NO' at Q3(a), please provide brief details below. Otherwise, please go to Q4.

Q4(a) Please provide details of progress against spend in table below.

Description of expenditure (as per bid). Please add extra rows if necessary.	2014/15 Funding allocated (£)	2014/15 Funding spent (£)	2015/16 Funding allocated (£)	2015/16 Funding spent (£)
	2014/15 Funding allocated (£)	2014/15 Funding spent (£)		
Counter fraud officers	£17,400	£9,040	69,600	69,782
IT software and system development	£4,125	£4,900	16,500	16,000
Training and development	£2,000	£2,250	8,000	5,000
Subscriptions	£2,000	£2,000	8,000	3,000

Q4(b) Have all the funds awarded for the project been used for the purposes as outlined in your original bid?

YES

Q4(c) If answered 'NO' at Q4(b), please provide brief details below. Otherwise, please go to Q5.

Q5(a) Please provide details of savings realised from the project to date in the table below.

Description of financial saving	Projected financial saving (£)				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Original forecast	143,800	174,600			
Revised actual/forecast	143,800	174,600			

Q5(b) Please also confirm whether the estimated savings for 2015-16 as set out in the original bid application is on track.

YES

Q5(c) If answered 'NO' at Q5(b), provide details of any divergence and the key factors for any changes. Otherwise please go to Q6.

Q6. The Department for Communities and Local Government promotes information sharing and learning from each other and we would like to be able to share any emerging best practices or emerging success stories from the Counter Fraud Fund to encourage others to learn from the examples. We are particularly keen to share examples where groups of local authorities have formed successful partnerships working collaboratively. **Given your project has been running for a while, please let us know if it has delivered any demonstrable successes so far and if any of the wider benefits (financial and non-financial) identified in your original bid have yet been realised, including any particular issues raised at any stage of the project?**

The funding bid was based on establishing a shared Joint Corporate Fraud Team across South Northants and Cherwell District Councils building on the the successful shared service history of the two councils. The Joint Corporate Fraud team has been in place since April 2015 and we have successfully recruited two officers to the team and training plans are in place . The work of the team is underpinned by a service plan which has been agreed by Audit Committee at both councils and the members also receive regular updates. There have been a number of successes to date. The team now have a shared IT system across the two councils and have just procured a new data matching system initially for a period of 12 months. Policies and procedures are in the process of being reviewed and members will be asked to consider and approve a joint anti fraud and error framework in

Thank you for completing this progress report.

Please send completed returns to counterfraud@communities.gsi.gov.uk by close **Friday 23rd October 2015**.