



Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Audit & Risk Committee – 13 February 2023

Counter Fraud Progress Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update the Audit Committee on key areas of work undertaken by the Health Board Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFS) since the last meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

The following sets out activity under the Key Principles specified within the Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Standards for NHS Bodies (Wales).

3. RESOURCE UTILISATION

AREA OF WORK	Planned Days	Days to Date
Strategic Governance		
Ensuring that anti-crime measures are embedded at all levels across the organisation	45	39
Inform and Involve		
Identifying the risks and consequences of crime against the NHS, and raising awareness of these risks amongst NHS staff, stakeholders, and the public.	125	80
Prevent and Deter		
Discouraging those who may want to commit crimes against the NHS and ensure that such opportunities are minimised.	125	126
Hold to Account		
Detecting and investigating crime, prosecuting those who have committed crimes and seeking redress as a result.	321	267
TOTAL	616	512

4. STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

The Counter Fraud Team have attended a 2-day training and development session delivered by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority. The training covered the areas of Criminal Procedure in Investigations Act particularly around evidential disclosure, the function and application of diversionary cautions which are a new out of court disposal introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act replacing conditional cautions this year, and refresher training on investigation skills and the Fraud Investigation Model.

A benchmarking report of key performance indicators has been produced and is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The report measures Health Board performance

against an all-Wales benchmark average to provide greater context to the information. The report is based on Q1 – Q3 year on year data to allow comparisons to previous performance.

5. INFORM AND INVOLVE

A programme of awareness is now being offered to GP Practices. This extends the existing awareness programme at the Health Board and seeks to harden response to frauds and scams targeted at GP Practices as well as covering learning from a recent prosecution of a Practice Manager in the Swansea area as well as further referrals received relating to alleged fraud within GP Practices.

The Counter Fraud Team have disseminated 24 alerts and 16 awareness bulletins to staff in this year. They cover targeted communications to local Departments and Teams around specific fraud risks to their area to all staff communications via SharePoint.

6. PREVENT AND DETER

The Counter Fraud Team are undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment around overpayments of salary. The risk assessment is undertaken in line with requirements of the Counter Fraud Standards. The process will involve liaison with Workforce & OD, Finance and Payroll colleagues to measure and assess current controls against perceived fraud risk in this area.

A risk measurement exercise is being undertaken in relation to the offering of free Health Sector conferences/networking events to NHS staff. This follows receipt of local intelligence via the Director of Finance regarding Health Board and other NHS Wales employees attending such events with negative experiences. The measurement exercise will seek to inform the wider NHS via CFS Wales and the NHS Counter Fraud Authority of a so far unknown or unseen risk.

7. HOLD TO ACCOUNT

The status of the LCFS investigative caseload is summarised in Appendix 3 to the report. A summary of basic investigation KPI data is presented at outset of the appendix.

Case information presented is split by between those cases which are currently open and under active investigation by the LCFS; contained in the Open Cases table.

The Pending Cases table reflects those cases where active investigation by the LCFS has concluded, however the case must remain open due to other outstanding actions from third parties such as (but not limited to) disciplinary, professional body enquiries, financial recoveries.

A table of Closed Cases is also presented to review outcomes of investigations.