



Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Audit & Risk Committee – 12 December 2022

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	60
Prevent and Deter		
Discouraging those who may want to commit crimes against the NHS and ensure that such opportunities are minimised.	125	91
Hold to Account		
Detecting and investigating crime, prosecuting those who have committed crimes and seeking redress as a result.	321	200
TOTAL	616	390

4. STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

The Counter Fraud Team attended an All-Wales Counter Fraud Forum held by Counter Fraud Service Wales in conjunction with NHS Counter Fraud Authority. The Forum covered an update in training around aspects of changes in evidence disclosure, pre charge bail and examination of electronic devices introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. Information was given on plans to develop a new approach to counter fraud intelligence utilising the case management system Clue3 which is to be trialled in NHS Wales. An update from Quality and

Assurance Inspectors was also given with a report to be issued imminently following their inspection visit to NHS Wales in September.

As well as operational updates information was provided of an organisational 'evolution' being undertaken within NHS Counter Fraud Authority. This is essentially a staffing, strategy and organisational review and restructure. There are to be no job losses in this exercise and impact on NHS Wales counter fraud teams will be minimal.

A statistical analysis of performance against key performance indicators has been produced and at Appendix 1 to this report. The analysis measures Health Board performance against an all-Wales benchmark average to provide greater context to the statistical information. The analysis is based on half-year year on year data to allow comparisons to previous performance.

5. INFORM AND INVOLVE

The Counter Fraud Team participated in International Fraud Awareness Week which ran 13-19 November. A series of articles and communications around NHS fraud risk were disseminated throughout the week.

The Counter Fraud Team also conducted site visits to deliver promotional materials and issue a special edition newsletter via Post Rooms.

Given the pressures on Wards at present these were avoided. Some promotional materials have been retained with a view to revisit sites at a more suitable point when pressures subside.

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

A proactive exercise has been concluded that examined the Health Board's exposure to continuation of salary payments to temporary staff recruited in response to the Covid-19 pandemic following the expiration of those temporary contracts. This emerged as a potential risk following identification of overpayments of salary to temporary staff members across NHS Wales in a short space of time.

The exercise examined 1240 staff records and established 37 instances of salary overpayment. A full report is at Appendix 2 of this report for information.

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.