

Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2011–12

Introduction

The Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT) has been established within Barnet for 7 years. During that time we have embedded and promoted a strong anti fraud culture across the council, its staff, partners and residents. The CAFT supports the council in its statutory obligation under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to ensure the protection of public funds and to have an effective system of prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.

Like any organisation of significant size and complexity, Barnet Council is inherently vulnerable to risks of fraud and corruption. Published fraud risks and good practice for local government are detailed within the publications CIPFA's 'Managing the Risk of Fraud', the Audit Commission's 'Protecting the Public Purse', the Department for Communities and Local Government 'ten point plan for tackling fraud in the local authorities' and the National Fraud Authority 'Fighting Fraud Locally' document. In response to these risks, CAFT have strived to ensure that the Council has a range of mitigating controls in place and over the last year have worked closely with services, especially the Governance, Internal Audit and Risk Management Functions.

With reducing government funding and the current economic downturn it is vital that we continue to maintain strong defences against fraud and make best use of our information and intelligence in order to ensure we have effective fraud barriers in place and make best use of our anti fraud service. The purpose of this annual report is to provide a summary on the outcome of preventative, proactive and reactive work undertaken during 2011/12. It further summaries the outcomes of the CAFT partnership work.

The change of emphasis from local government being a provider to a commissioner of services changes the risk profile of fraud, as well as the control environment in which risk is managed. More arm's length delivery of services by third parties in the voluntary and not-for-profit sector and personal control of social care budgets, for example, will mean that more public money is entrusted to more sectors, whilst the controls the local authority previously exercised are removed or reduced. Without new safeguards, preventing, detecting and investigating fraud will become more difficult.

The National annual fraud Indicator shows that there is £2.2 billion estimated fraud in public sector. This includes £900 million in housing tenancy fraud, £890 million in procurement fraud, over £153 million in payroll fraud, £131 million in council tax discounts and exemptions fraud, £46 million in 'blue badge' fraud, £41 million in grant

fraud and £5.9 million in pension fraud. This is money that can be better used to support the delivery of front line services. Local government is under pressure to make savings and tackling fraud can contribute to that agenda.

We are confident that we continue to provide an efficient value for money counter fraud service and that is able to investigate all referrals that are passed to us to an appropriate outcome. We continue to offer support, advice and assistance on all matters of fraud risk, including prevention, fraud detection, money laundering and criminal activity and deterrent measures whilst delivering a cohesive approach to reflect best practice which also supports the corporate priorities and principles.

In addition to the CAFT annual report, we also produce an interim report to the Audit Committee, and quarterly Assurance Reports to the Council's Senior Management, 2012/13 saw CAFT produced an anti fraud strategy which details the Council's overall approach and response to fraud risk.

Benefit Compliance Team identify and correcting error in our benefits system through various methods including dealing with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Housing Benefit Data Matches (HBDMS) and the Audit Commissions (AC) National Fraud Initiative (NFI) Benefit Matches. The team conduct assessments of benefit which may result in an overpayment which is then passed to our Benefit Investigation team to further investigate and identify fraudulent claims.

Performance Table	Q1 2011/12	Q2 2011/12	Q3 2011/12	Q4 2011/12	2011/12 Total	Total 2010/11
Number of HBDMS matches received	1443	544	729	886	3602	1745
Total Number of Compliance benefits assessments	287	254	172	149	862	865
Number of assessments which resulted in no change or increased benefit	69	49	11	22	151	241
Total Amount of Fraud overpayments identified	£348,990	£239,043	£130,676	£288,131	£1,006,840	£449,938
Number of assessments were o/p under £500	1	0	3	2	6	2
Number of assessments were o/p is £500 - £2000	16	16	11	8	51	30
Number of assessments were o/p is £2001 -£4000	7	8	7	6	28	41
Number of assessments were o/p is £4001 and above	16	13	13	10	52	39
Total amount of Error overpayments Identified	£202,675	£222,815	£128,295	£158,456	£712,241	£616,973
Number of assessments were o/p under £500	85	90	69	29	273	271
Number of assessments were o/p is £500 - £2000	79	55	40	30	204	170
Number of assessments were o/p is £2001 -£4000	20	16	11	19	66	54
Number of assessments were o/p is £4001 and above	6	11	7	11	35	17
Total amount of Fraud and error overpayments identified by CAFT	£563,540	£463,510	£270,875	£446,586	£1,744,511	£1,066,911
Total Amount of recovered benefit overpayment by Benefit Service					£5,252,871.00	
Amount recovered by Benefits Service, from CAFT identified fraud / error overpayments.	£369,990	£28,967	£82,850	£16,704	£498,511	£172,773

The performance table identifies that there have been 52 separate assessments that have resulted in a fraudulent overpayments higher than £4001; All of these overpayments have been investigated by Benefits Investigations team and to date 2 of these have resulted in prosecutions with guilty verdicts, 16 administrative penalties issued and 5 formal cautions issued. A further 10 cases have been passed to our legal team for prosecution and 12 are with the DWP legal team. 3 cases were closed as "fraud proven", 2 of whom we are unable to trace at this time. There are also 4 cases that are ongoing investigations. The largest of the fraudulent overpayment figures identified above relates to a single overpayment of £56,405.31. This case has been investigated by CAFT and is now with the DWP prosecution department awaiting a court date. In addition to the housing and council tax benefit overpayment, DWP have an overpayment in the region of £36,000. Further details of the investigation cannot be published at this stage as the case is still ongoing

There have been a further 35 assessments which identified claimant error benefit overpayments of over £4001 of which 25 were referred for Investigation. An administrative penalty has now been offered on one of these cases, 9 are still ongoing, and 15 have subsequently been closed as involving no fraud/claimant error. There were 10 cases that, due to the circumstances of the overpayment, were not referred for investigation as they were closed as claimant error with overpayment recovery.

Whilst we still continue to run the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) on a monthly basis, submitting it to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to extract our matches, December 2011 has seen a change to the SHBE matches received back. The DWP, on receipt of our SHBE extract now passes the information to Experian who in turn match the extract against their database to be risk assessed. The high risk cases are then converted by the DWP into the Housing Benefit Data Match Services (HBDMS) format and sent back to the Local Authority (LA) on a quarterly basis. In 2011/12 the new HBDMS Experian matches went fully operational and we have received a high volume of matches - 3,602 as against 1,745 the previous year. However, of these, 886 were received late in Q4 (28th March 2012). Therefore these matches plus 10 from Q3, have been carried forward to 2012/13. Over half have now been resolved with no change to benefit. Therefore, the number of assessments and overpayments is based upon an overall total of 2,706 matches.

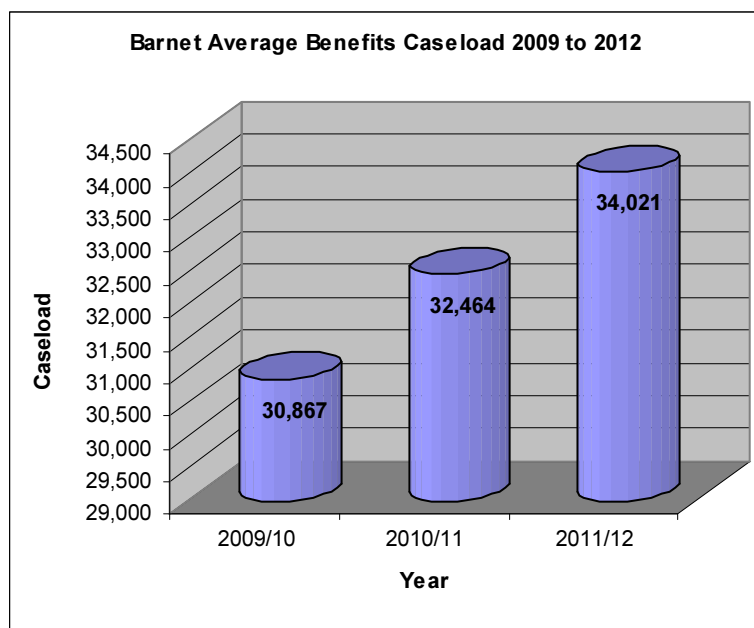
Benefit overpayment recovery is the responsibility of the Benefits Service. The role of CAFT is to identify, prevent and stop fraud and error in the benefits system. Where appropriate, we investigate and apply a sanction to the claimant. Our work ultimately means that that we have prevented a claim that should not be in payment from continuing thereby protecting and preventing further loss to the public purse. In cases where CAFT have not been able to identify assets or instigate a Financial Investigation the decision on the rate and method that an overpayment shall be repaid to the council is either at the discretion of a magistrate or responsible officer within the Benefits Service. The decision is usually dependent on the claimant's circumstances at the time, and could be recovered from an "attachment to earnings", from ongoing benefits or repaid at an agreed amount dependent on the claimant's current circumstances. In recent years, CAFT have become more involved in overpayment recovery process. If we have identified that a claimant has realisable assets, we have been able to instigate a financial investigation, allowing CAFT Officers to use their accredited powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to obtain restraint orders. Two examples of CAFT action in relation to this are;

Example A: Mr Bytqi had £47,700 in a safety deposit box that he had not declared when claiming housing and council tax benefit. The claim was reassessed taking this information into account and resulted in a housing and council tax benefit overpayment of £30,065.71. A restraint order was obtained at Wood Green Crown Court in June 2011 by CAFT Financial Investigators to ensure that the overpayment was paid off in full.

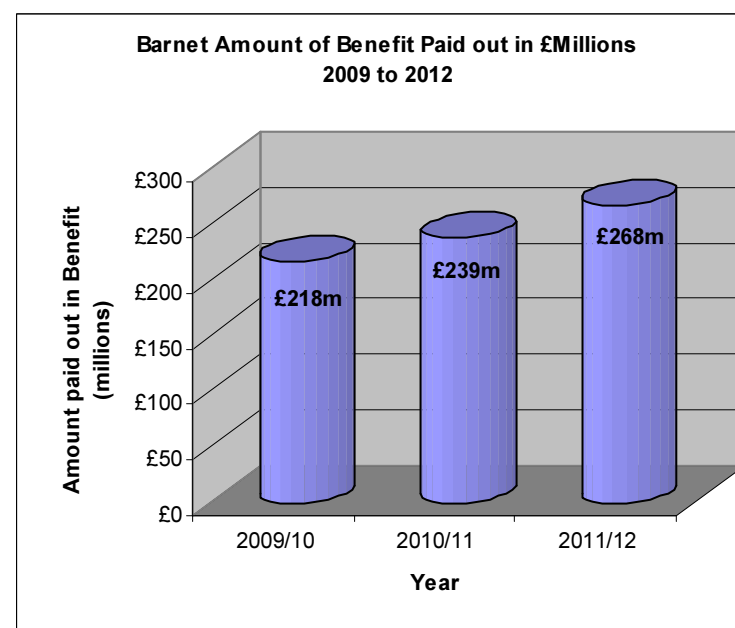
Example B: Ms West had failed to declare that she had been in employment since June 2008 and also that she had been a joint owner of a property since May 2003. This resulted in a housing and council tax benefit overpayment of £21,541.96. A restraint order was obtained from Wood Green Crown Court in July 2011 by CAFT Financial Investigators against the property Miss West jointly owned. As a result of the restraint order, Ms West repaid the overpayment in full.



Benefit Investigation Team prevent, identify, investigate, deter and sanction or prosecute persons that commit benefit fraud in Barnet. They are fully qualified professional investigation officers who operate in accordance with both the DWP's Fraud and Error Strategy and the Council's Counter Fraud Framework as well as relevant legislation.



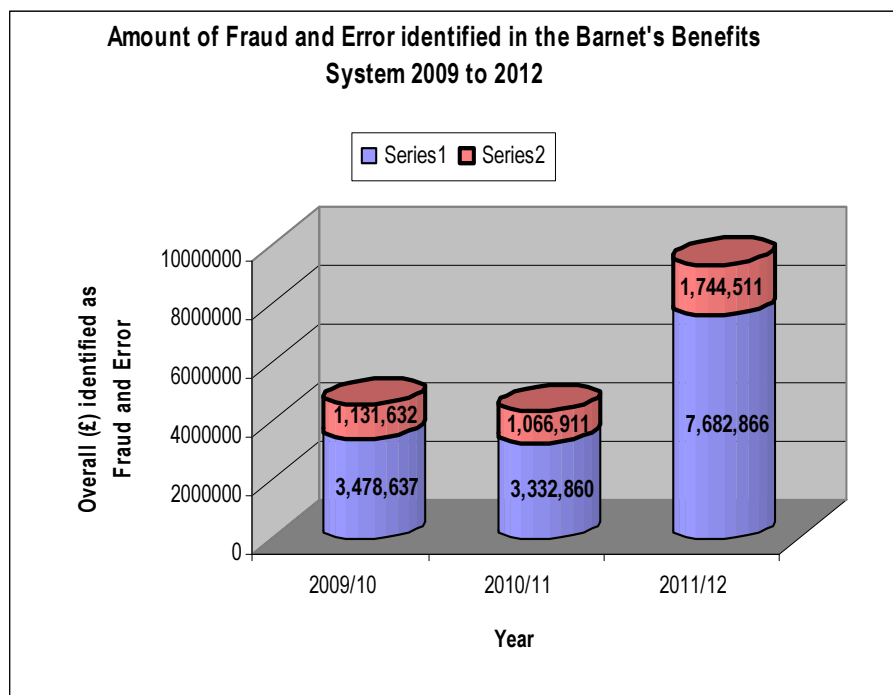
In recent years, the number of benefit claimants in the borough has



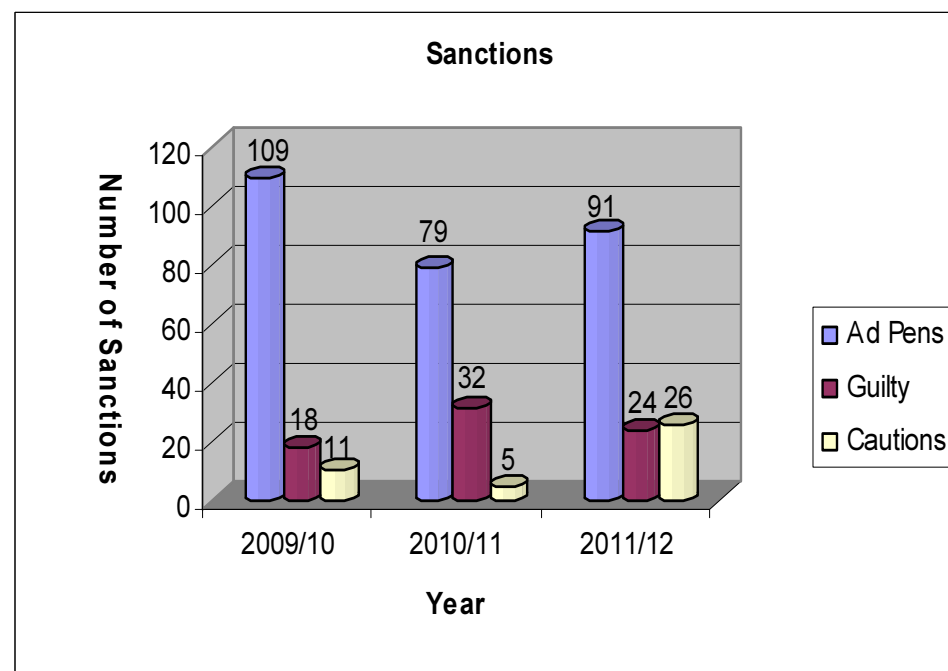
Due to the increase in benefit claimants the amount of benefit that

increased by 10.2%. This reflects the continuing national economic downturn resulting in an ever increasing Housing and Council Tax Benefit caseload for local authorities all over the country.

Barnet has paid out has also risen by 23% in the same period, further reflecting the current national and local situation.



Barnet's combined level of identified fraud and error for 2011/12 has increased significantly on previous years. This is mostly due to the way in which 'error' previously recorded by the Benefits Service. The implementation of the new Civica - Open Revenues Benefits System in 2011 has enabled the Benefits Service to have more accurate statistical data



The 2010/11 benchmarking results against London local authority fraud teams show that with the results above Barnet are placed once again in the top quarter for overall achievement of sanction numbers and top for achievement of number of sanctions per investigation officer to have demonstrating that working procedures are efficient, effective and value for money. This demonstrates that working procedures are efficient, effective and value for money.

CAFT have an excellent partnership working relationship with DWP. This has resulted in 12 successful joint prosecutions during 2011/12, as well as 2 joint cautions and 1 joint administrative penalty. These figures are included in the total above. Ongoing into 2012/13, we have 199 current investigations being carried out by the team. In addition to these investigations, we already have investigated and passed for prosecution 15 cases that are with our legal team and we have a further 12 cases that we have investigated jointly with the DWP and are with their legal team for prosecution. This level of prosecution demonstrates our successful joint working practices and our aim to deter and seek punishment for the more serious offenders of benefit fraud in our borough.

Benefit Fraud Investigation Case Studies:

A joint prosecution between CAFT and the DWP's Counter Fraud Investigation Service Organised (CFIS) is the case of Mr Jerry Zaandam: CAFT received an enquiry from the organised fraud team within CFIS concerning a Mr Jerry Zaandam. The allegation was that this was not his real name and he had been using numerous false identities to claim housing and council tax benefit, along with various DWP benefits. The investigation showed that Mr Zaandam's real name was Mr Oluseyi Jeremiah Adebayo and he had fraudulently claimed housing and council tax benefit totalling £26,199.97. These offences were part of 34 offences that Mr Adebayo was charged with and subsequently found guilty of at Crown Court. He was sentenced to 5 years and 8 months imprisonment and it was found that his British nationality was falsely obtained under the name Adebayo as he had previously been deported under another name. UKBA are dealing with his immigration status.

A joint prosecution between CAFT and DWP's local Counter Fraud Investigation Service (CFIS) is the case of Miss Lorraine Russell: CAFT received a referral from CFIS that the claimant may have a partner living in the property. Miss Russell had been claiming housing and council tax benefit since 1991. Miss Russell was interviewed under caution on two occasions and denied that Mr. Alan Carlton had been living in the property with her on a full time basis. She stated that he sometimes stayed there, but it was not his main residence. However, from the evidence gathered, her claim for income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit were cancelled back to 23 February 2004. The housing and Council tax overpayment amounted to £22,559.67 and the income support overpayment was £34,241.92. Miss Russell pleaded guilty at Wood Green Crown Court to three charges of dishonestly obtaining benefits and was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months. She was also ordered to undertake 200 hours unpaid work.

A CAFT prosecution is the case of Mr and Mrs Opoku-Annane: CAFT received a referral from the benefits team in connection with the housing and council tax benefit claim of Mr Ben Opoku-Annane and Mrs Rebecca Opoku-Annane. There were concerns that they had not declared income or bank accounts on their benefit claim. Further checks were undertaken and it was found that both Mr and Mrs Opoku-Annane had done work that they had not declared and also failed to disclose bank accounts that their earnings were going into. This resulted in a housing and council tax benefit overpayment of £14,244.42. Mrs Opoku-Annane was charged with two offences of failing to notify Barnet of changes in her circumstances that she knew would affect her benefit entitlement. She pleaded guilty and was ordered to undertake 140 hours unpaid work for each offence, to run concurrently. Mr Opoku-Annane was charged with three offences of failing to notify Barnet of changes in his circumstances that he knew would affect his benefit entitlement. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 4 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months. The suspended sentence order also had a community requirement of 180 hours of unpaid work.

Corporate Fraud team deal with the investigation of any criminal and fraud matters (except benefit fraud) attempted or committed within or against Barnet such as internal employee frauds, frauds by service recipients and any external frauds. The team operate in accordance with Barnet's Counter Fraud Framework and relevant investigative legislation. CAFT continue to work in partnership with the UKBA and Police to ensure that the public purse is adequately protected.

The table below details the number of referrals that were made to CAFT during 2011/12 (87 cases) in addition to the ongoing investigations that were carried forward at the close of 2010/11 (24 cases). CAFT continue to deal with a variety of issues and are often requested to provide intelligence reports for the Police, other local authorities and advice and assistance to services within the Council on matters that do not necessarily equate to criminal activity but are still issues of concern that require CAFT expert advice. These include preventative fraud advice, breaches of internal procedures and disciplinary issues. This element of CAFT work is difficult to breakdown into statistical reporting as it is so varied, but is however listed below under advice and assistance given.

Directorate	Total number of cases referred for investigation in 2010/11	Number of cases carried over from 2010/11	Number of new cases 2011-12 referred for investigation	Total number of cases 2011-12 closed	Insufficient evidence to proceed with Investigation	Closed insufficient Assets available for a financial Investigation	Passed to Police / Serious Organised Crime Agency (Money Laundering) to investigate	Closed Advice given to service	Closed No Fraud	Dismissed as a result of CAFT investigation	Closed Fraud Proven
Planning, Housing & Environment		9	26		9			9	7	3	
Deputy chief exec Service		9	23		5	2		5	9	1	2
Commercial services		2	8		1			6	2	1	
Adult Social Services		1	4		2			1			1
Children's Services		1	8		2			3	1	2	
Chief Executive Services		0	12		3			2	2	1	1
Corporate Governance		2	5					1			

Barnet Homes		0	1						1	1	
Total	90	24	87	86	22	2	0	27	22	9	4

The 9 cases above categorised as 'dismissed as a result of a CAFT investigation' relate to:

Operation QUEST was an investigation into Illegal workers securing employment with the Council as Civil Enforcement Officers working within the Environment and Operations Directorate. **Ade ORESANYA** was arrested by the UKBA despite claiming that the details that she supplied were correct. She was taken to her home address where a premises search was conducted. Her real documents were recovered and it was confirmed that her real name is Adebukonla Alaba ORESANYA. At that point, she confirmed that she used her sister's identity documents to secure a position of Civil Enforcement Officer with the Council. As a result, she has been detained by the UKBA whilst removal from the UK is being considered. **Oladokin AWONUSI** was arrested by the UKBA and confirmed to them that his real name was Olalekan Abraham ODUWAYE (dob 26/02/72). He also confirmed that he had used a false identity document to secure the position of a Civil Enforcement Officer with the Council. He also confirmed that he was really an 'overstay' and did not have leave to be in the UK. As a result, he has been detained by the UKBA whilst removal from the UK is being considered

AA50 - was a proactive investigation relating to the verification of identity documents supplied by a Civil Enforcement Officer working within the Council's Environment and Operations Directorate. A temporary member of staff by the name of Arsen Fundi submitted an application for the permanent position of Civil Enforcement Officer. The application form was provided along with his passport and a change of name deed dated 1st December 2010 showing the name change from Eddy Nduwimana to Arsen Fundi. As a result of conducting an 'Enhanced vetting procedure' CAFT discovered that the applicant had failed to declare the fact that he had an 'unspent' criminal conviction for Theft and Deception. Upon questioning, the suspect confirmed that he had failed to declare the conviction. The investigation concluded that he had changed his name for the purpose of hiding this information from any prospective employer. The employee was dismissed.

Operation MIRAGE was an investigation into the unlawful access of the DWP's Customer Information System, by a member of the Benefits Administration Team within the Deputy Chief Executive's Service. Following receipt of a letter from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) security team, alerting the Council to a potential security breach, investigations were carried out into a Benefit Officer's usage of the DWP - Customer Information System (C.I.S) which is accessible by specific members of staff within the Council for the sole purpose of administering Housing/Council Tax Benefit. (HB/CTB). The investigation revealed that CIS records relating to 41 individuals were accessed by the employee between the 1st Jan 2010 and 31st March 2011 and in respect of which we were unable to establish any link between a current or previous claim for benefit to the Council. The employee attended an interview under caution and, when questioned regarding his use of the C.I.S system, fully admitted that he had used the system on six separate occasions for various non work related personal reasons. Following a disciplinary hearing, the employee was dismissed.

Operation MONTANA was an investigation into Illegal workers securing employment with the Council's cleaning contractor. This investigation was conducted on behalf of the Commercial Services Directorate and took place both at North London Business Park and at Barnet House. The object of the operation was for UKBA and CAFT officers to identify and detain any illegal workers / cleaners employed by the cleaning contractor to clean the Council's office premises. All cleaners (14 at Barnet House and 15 at NLBP) were detained and their details were verified via the Home Office Immigration System. At Barnet House, 6 cleaners were identified and confirmed as illegal workers, 4 of these were released on reporting restrictions and 2 were arrested and detained. At NLBP, 2 cleaners were identified and confirmed as illegal workers and released on reporting restrictions, 4 were detained for the purpose of conducting house searches to obtain travel documents for verification. Whilst these illegal workers were not directly employed by Barnet Council, it was deemed to be a high risk situation that could have a severe detrimental effect on the integrity and reputation of the Council.

Operation PRIZM was an investigation into the fraudulent activities of the Bursary Officer working in one of the borough's school. This investigation was conducted on behalf of the Children's Services Directorate. The investigation revolved around the forging in autumn 2010 of an authorisation from the school's Chair of Governors by the school's Bursary Officer for a pay award to himself backdated to April 2010 and again in autumn 2011 backdated to April 2011. It was further found that payments from the school's bank accounts had been made into the Business Manager's own bank account via internet banking. The Bursary Officer was interviewed under caution and admitted forging signatures to obtain a pay rise as well as making unauthorised payments to himself from the school's bank account.

Operation MUSTANG: As a result of an ongoing investigation it was discovered that an employee in the Housing Supply Team had supplied falsified qualification certificates in order to secure a manager's position within a Council service. CAFT carried out background and enhanced vetting checks which revealed that the employee had been 'struck off' as a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), and had supplied a forged certificate. The employee was dismissed.

AA38: Relates to a referral from an HR Officer regarding an employee at a borough school who was using a false name to obtain a CRB check. This check showed that she had no previous convictions. However, further checks by CAFT identified her real name and confirmed that she had a conviction for fraud under a different name. the employee was dismissed.

AA78: Relates to a temporary member of staff working in the assisted travel department who was caught attempting to post jewellery to a friend using the Council post facilities. Her Temporary contract was terminated.

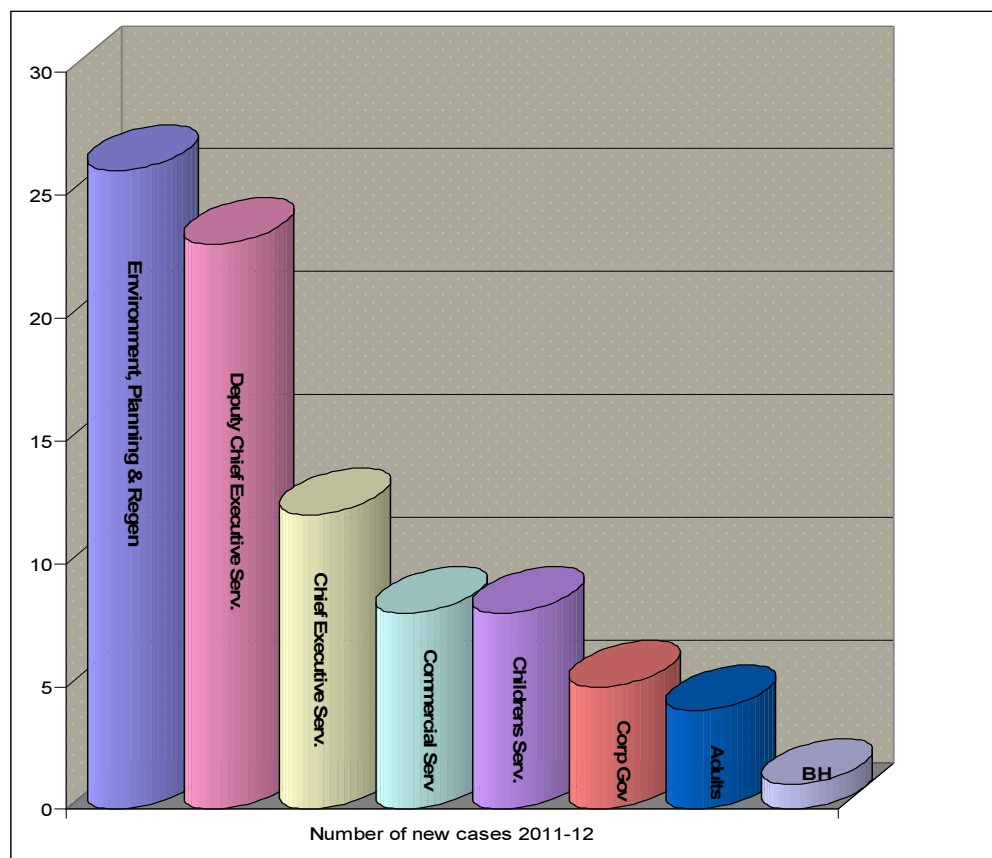
The 4 cases above categorised as 'Fraud proven' relate to:

Operation NEON: A Financial Investigation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 relating to a benefit fraud case where an overpayment in excess of £21,000 was recovered in its entirety as a result of the claimant's house being "restrained" for compensation purposes.

Operation ODYSSEY: A Financial Investigation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 relating to a benefit fraud case where an overpayment in excess of £7,300 was recovered in its entirety as a result of the claimant's bank account being "restrained" for compensation purposes.

Operation RIO: A Financial Investigation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. A Barnet council cheque was issued but intercepted in the post and altered to read £1,300. CAFT were able to obtain the account opening details and statements relating to the account that the cheque was paid into and freeze all funds in that account. It was found that the account was opened using forged identity documents. As a result CAFT recovered the funds and the account was closed by the bank.

Operation PROWLER: A Joint CAFT / UKBA case resulting from a “sham wedding”. CAFT were able to supply information to the UKBA regarding an Israeli male who was claiming to be a holiday maker in the UK. CAFT were able to obtain evidence that the male was in fact living and working in the UK and had opened 2 businesses from which he was receiving a very significant income. The suspect was arrested and removed from the UK



This chart shows the number of new cases by Directorate referred to CAFT in the year 2011/12. It is clear to see that the number of cases relating to the Environment Planning and Regeneration Directorate (26 cases) exceeds all other Directorates. This is mainly due to the fact that CAFT have carried out a number of proactive investigations as a result of the partnership we have with the UKBA and the Police which had direct impacts on areas such as ‘Street Scenes’ and Parking.

The Deputy Chief Executive’s Service (23 cases) showed an increase on previous years, mainly due to the increased proactive work within the ‘Registration and Nationality’ department that was conducted by CAFT and the UKBA into sham marriages.

Whilst the remaining Directorates show a lower number of referrals, it should be noted that there were no proactive reviews conducted by CAFT during the financial year 2011/12 in these areas.

Planned for 2012/13 are a number of proactive counter fraud reviews; some crosscutting and some targeted within specific areas such as Commercial Services, Adult Social Care and Barnet Homes.

Also included within the number of referrals shown are 6 whistleblowing cases which CAFT dealt with. This number is broken down into 3 cases within Environment, Planning and Regeneration, 1 case in Commercial Services, 1 case in Childrens Services and 1 case in the Deputy Chief Executive’s Service. All of these referrals have been investigated and resolved according to the whistleblowing policy.

Additionally in 2011/12, there have been 5 authorisations for surveillance in accordance with the Council’s policy on covert surveillance, all have been conducted by CAFT officers and relate to the same ongoing internal investigation which we are unable to report on at this time.



NATIONAL ANTI-FRAUD NETWORK

Joint Pro Active Plan – CAFT, Internal Audit and Risk Management

During the last year, CAFT continued to work closely with Internal Audit (IA) and Risk Management (RM) on the work streams within this plan and to produce a new joint annual work plan. This plan signifies the way in which we now work in practice i.e. a joined up approach in ensuring the Council is making the most of the resources and knowledge of all our services and that there are robust processes to improve its internal control and anti fraud environment

The level of proactive anti-fraud work is dependent on how much reactive work is received and as a result not all areas planned were fully reviewed in 2011-12.

Adult Social Care and Health

Area of review	Description of Work	Status
Self Directed Support (Direct Payments)	CAFT instructed PWC specialist anti fraud / Direct payment specialists to undertake this audit to ensure the arrangements for direct payments are fit for purpose, in relation to anti fraud measures.	Draft report has been issued. The review identified a number of issues in relation to the controls in place to prevent and detect fraud during the direct payments process. These issues relate to controls to prevent and detect fraud during the assessments process, the robustness of direct payments monitoring, and fraud awareness amongst staff involved in the processes. Overall, management are required to implement a number of recommendations to improve the overall control environment, heighten awareness of fraud and enhance controls in place to detect and prevent fraud in this area. CAFT will follow this up in 2012 as well as proactively working with the service to ensure that any new schemes / procedures address fraud risks.


Children's service


Area of review	Description of Work	Status
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Nursery Funding (NEF Grants)	Proactive counter fraud work to review nursery funding and correct use of grants.	Due to a referral received from the service area, CAFT have reviewed current procedures as part of dealing with the referral. Initial findings are that the current procedures in place are fit for purpose with previous recommendations implemented and effective as they enabled this fraud to be detected. This will be fully confirmed at conclusion of investigation.
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Continuous Anti Fraud work / reviews - The proactive plan anti-fraud plan covers investigations into all “internal” instances of suspected fraud, corruption and money laundering, ongoing proactive anti-fraud work including National Fraud Initiative (NFI) coordination and Investigation and fraud awareness training.

Area of review	Description of Work	Status
Fraud awareness training	<p>CAFT will deliver fraud and anti money laundering training through e-learning materials.</p> <p>In addition to the e learning CAFT delivered further training to Members, Finance and HR these were specialist bespoke training and awareness sessions on Fraud, Anti Money laundering and roles and responsibilities.</p>	<p>There was a successful launch of this training and the good feedback received on training package, so far:</p> <p>113 Managers have successfully undertaken the Managers Edition of the course</p> <p>557 Staff have successfully undertaken the All Staff Edition of the course</p>
NFI co-ordination	<p>Ongoing NFI co-ordination and support including data uploading, training, assistance and investigation of relevant matches in accordance with Audit Commission timelines.</p> <p>The CAFT co-ordinate the Audit Commission’s National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise. After submitting Barnet’s various data sets, we have so far received back 19,789 matches. The matches relate to discrepancies in data which could be errors or indicators of fraudulent activity. The matches are prioritised by the NFI, based on the accuracy of the match against the various data sets</p> <p>All returns to Audit Commission were completed in January 2012.</p>	<p>Due to the volume of matches involved we concentrated on the high priority matches which amount to 15,159 matches, a substantial amount of these matches relate to Housing Benefit Matches (3041), Council Tax Single Person Discount (3856) and Blue Badge / Concessionary Travel Matches (1,791).</p> <p>To date, the exercise has identified over £162,932 of overpayments relating to various council payments such as housing benefit payments, pension payments and care homes</p>

		payments. We are currently in the process of recovering £97,853, There is ongoing work in this area by all service areas and CAFT, and there are currently 1,193 open investigations in CAFT relating to NFI matches.
Payroll payment claims	Check sample of high overtime claims, sleep in, call out payments etc to supporting documentation. To include a focus on higher risk areas.	Unable to complete this review due to levels of re-active work.
UKBA Partnership + Vetting & Right to work in the UK 	<p>Ensuring arrangements are robust, with agreed targeted testing to verify compliance with checks that Council employees have the right to work in the UK, utilising UKBA embedded officer and UKBA intelligence in this area.</p> <p>Last year CAFT continued to work in partnership with UKBA for the third year and continue to be one of five London Boroughs with a UKBA Officer embedded within a local authority. The indications are that the Barnet partnership has been the most successful of the five boroughs and has proven results for both the Council and UKBA.</p> <p>The partnership demonstrates value for money for the Council due to the minimal costs incurred (just the cost of office accommodation of the officer) and increased successful outcomes, especially as we now have immediate access to immigration records, assistance and advice when required. Whilst we are unable to report on UKBA successes, we have summarised below a pro active exercise that was carried out in the last year by CAFT / UKBA into 'Sham Marriages'</p>	<p>Ongoing CAFT / UKBA target work in this area.</p> <p>As a result of analysing information being received by our UKBA officer it was apparent that the London Borough of Barnet's Register Office in Burnt Oak was being targeted by immigration offenders who were entering into 'Sham Marriages' as a way to facilitate and legitimise their stay in the UK. Officers from CAFT, UKBA and Police carried out a number of joint operations by attending the Register Office on the date and time of the weddings to identify and capture immigration offenders and to prevent an abuse of the marriage ceremony process. These operations were all successful and resulted in 7 immigration offenders being arrested. Of these, 3 have been removed from the UK and 4 are currently being dealt with in accordance with the statutory immigration requirements. Additionally, information became available leading to the identification of a further 2 suspects who were involved in benefit fraud. As a result of the partnership, the UKBA have managed to remove a number of immigration offenders from within the Borough, such as failed asylum seekers, overstayers and illegal workers. Research carried out by the CAFT Intel</p>

		team helped the UKBA to identify and trace these offenders who were posing as claimants, students and employees, some of whom were found to be working in local schools.
Barnet Homes Partnership – to Combat Tenancy Fraud in Barnet. 	<p>Last year CAFT and Barnet Homes worked in partnership to combat “Tenancy Fraud” within the Borough. This partnership placed one fully qualified Fraud Investigator on secondment to the Barnet Homes Office in Grahame Park, along with a part time investigator from Barnet Homes staff.</p> <p>A Corporate Plan Target was set - <i>To work with Barnet Homes to recover properties where tenancy fraud is being committed</i>. The target was to recover 18 properties in a year).</p>	<p>The partnership has proven to be a success, with 19 properties recovered within the year.</p> <p>As well as recovering the properties the partnership raised awareness of tenancy fraud through a publicity campaign, setting up a dedicated tenancy fraud hotline and working closely with registered social landlords in the borough.</p> <p>The partnership has continued into 2012/13, but without the CAFT seconded officer. We are working closely with them and utilising various CAFT officers as and when required. There currently is one part time dedicated tenancy fraud officer based at Barnet Homes.</p> <p>Moving into 2012/13, CAFT have embarked on a new working relationship with the Barnet Group and its subsidiary companies Barnet Homes and Your Choice Barnet – this will expand the work of CAFT.</p>