

Report back from Audit Sub Group

OSCPR150306

Item 8

Report back from a meeting held on 31st January 2006.

Present: Cllrs Mrs A Bradshaw; A Norwood; G Sunderland Mrs C Watson
Apologies: Cllr Mrs Y Clarkson

Fraud Monitoring, 3rd Quarter 2005-06

Members examined the fraud monitoring report in some detail and noted that targets for this year had already been exceeded.

They questioned closely on publicity measures for reporting fraud and the operation of the hotline – 99% of the calls to the hotline were anonymous.

Members were informed that legal support was now back in-house, the backlog having been cleared.

Members were also informed that there would be a Government change to the funding regime in 2006-07, with an accompanied change of emphasis away from prosecutions to more warnings and the stopping of benefits. The gap funding of £7,000 had been provided for in next year's budget.

Audit Monitoring & IT Audit Strategy

Members were made aware that with two new people in the section, considerable training was required which was contributing to the slippage in the audit programme. Members also enquired about funding for an IT specialist auditor and received assurance that the underspend on wages in Audit would cover the cost. It was planned to have discussions with Allerdale about buying IT audit expertise from their recently appointed IT audit specialist.

Members' main concern was the outstanding audit actions which continue to span a good number of years. While there had been some movement of late, there were still outstanding actions dating back to 1998. Members asked that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive asking that either agreement was reached with Audit that some of these actions were now obsolete or that they were given a higher priority. A reply was received from the Chief Executive to say that Members could expect considerable movement in the next 2-3 months given that Corporate Team was now taking an active interest. Members have recommended that the outstanding audit actions be used as part of the evidence in the review of the restructure if considerable progress has not been made by June.

The full papers of the Audit Sub Group meeting are available by electronic link.