

Summary of concluded cases

Appendix B

Ref	Directorate	Allegation	Outcome	Recommendations
834	FSC	<p>Abuse of position A member of staff alleged that her line manager (the manager of a children's centre) had been setting aside KCC funds in a separate bank account which had been opened without the knowledge of KCC.</p> <p>It was further alleged that the manager had refused to allow the staff member to bank money received into the centres. Additionally, the manager had allegedly made advance payments to service providers in an attempt to secure services without proper tendering or authorising procedures being in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation substantiated evidence in support of the allegations. The manager had opened a separate account and had accrued large credits with suppliers to protect an under-spend of the budget. The manager was disciplined and dismissed for gross misconduct (subject to appeal). We recovered the majority of the diverted funds of £12,973. The remaining funds were used for legitimate goods/services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Audit have instigated a programme of establishment visits including children's centres which will check compliance with key financial standards and make recommendations for strengthening compliance as required.
835	ELS	<p>Abuse of position A head teacher of a special school was suspected of claiming 100% refunds for free school meals from KCC for all children in the school when not all children were entitled to receive free school meals. The value of these refunds was £26,840. Additionally there were concerns raised regarding the invoicing arrangements for the refurbishment of the head teacher's tied accommodation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We carried out further enquiries and found that although the post April 2011 claim was an error there had been other claims for 100% of pupils since 2003/04. The Head Teacher has now resigned from his employment. Our investigation did not identify any evidence of fraud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are working with ELS to explore and minimise this risk in the future.
839	FSC	<p>Direct Payments. KCC staff were suspicious that a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation identified some evidence including false invoices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have recommended that future care needs be met via a Kent Card

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		member of the public in receipt of a direct payment award (DPA) from KCC had provided forged invoices in support of her DPA application.	<p>during a particular period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The client's DPA has been withheld for that period preventing any loss to the Council. 	<p>or a managed care package.</p>
828	FSC	<p>Direct Payments</p> <p>It was suspected that a member of the public in receipt of a direct payment award (DPA) from KCC had failed to declare ownership of a number of properties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiries revealed that the client did own four additional properties and received a rental income from each. The DPA was reviewed taking into account the new information which resulted in a minor reduction in the award due to the insignificant level of equity in the properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have recommended that future care needs be met via a Kent Card or a managed care package.
842	ELS	<p>Procurement</p> <p>A letter was received (via an MP) from a member of the public. The letter alleged that a member of schools staff had used her position to influence the outcome of a number of tender processes at local schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investigation did not identify any supporting evidence. The schools in question had followed correct procurement procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no recommendations in this case.
816	BSS	<p>Procurement</p> <p>A whistleblower alleged that the Council had failed to adhere to its procurement procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investigation identified some supporting evidence. We were unable to pursue this matter further because the key member of staff responsible has left KCC employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recommended improvements to the processes for the opening of late tenders and the selection of contractors for frameworks. Internal controls have now been strengthened.
837	ELS	<p>Working while sick.</p> <p>Following a restructure a line manager raised concerns that a member of staff was working whilst off sick. The member of staff was a manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation substantiated evidence in support of the allegations as well as the misappropriation of KCC funds for her own company. The member of staff was disciplined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have made recommendations to prohibit the use of third party services to manage budgets on our behalf.

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		responsible for the delivery of a key service. Concern was raised that the staff member was actually carrying out work for her own company in direct competition with KCC.	and dismissed for gross misconduct (subject to appeal). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total value of monies lost was £12,722.50. • We have been unable to recover the majority of the funds as the member of staff and her company have no income/capital. • We are considering referring the case to the Police. 	
838	C & C	Blue Badges Ashford Borough Council identified a vehicle contravening parking regulations and their enquiries revealed that the blue badge being used on the vehicle had been altered to reflect a later expiry date (a potential offence of forgery).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Badge holder had already notified the loss of the badge some months before. • Investigation substantiated misuse of the Blue Badge by a third party for which Ashford Borough Council issued a Penalty Charge Notice. • We are unable to pursue a forgery offence without further evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommended that Ashford Borough Council contact KCC or the police if they discover this badge being displayed again.