

Summary of Concluded Irregularities

Ref	Allegation	Outcome
862	The sister of a social care client was alleged to be using her sister's personal budget, paid via a Direct Payment, to support her ailing business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investigation substantiated that the client's sister had been misusing the Direct Payment and £1,649 has been repaid. The Direct Payment has been stopped and alternative care provision has been put in place.
874	A member of the public alerted KCC to the sale of allegedly stolen vehicle parts on an auction website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsequent investigation established that vehicle parts and similar items had been misappropriated and sold on an auction website. The member of staff involved has returned the remaining items and was required to repay £2,845. He has now left KCC's employment.
874b	A second employee was suspected to be involved in the thefts of vehicle parts identified above (874).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsequent investigation revealed no evidence of theft by the second employee and the case was closed.
875	Two care workers employed by KCC were alleged to have abused their position to create a banking account so that Service Users could donate funds in memory of a deceased resident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management investigated the allegations which did not identify any evidence of fraud or theft, however, one of the members of staff was issued with a final written warning for other performance related issues.
883	An allegation of theft of stock was received by KCC. A member of the public identified some lighting for sale on an auction website and suspected it was stolen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of stock identified some lighting was missing. The alleged theft was referred to Kent Police who investigated but declined to proceed with a prosecution. The police did not provide KCC with any evidence about who may have stolen the items. None of the alleged stolen property has been recovered.
887	A member of the public alleged that KCC had appointed an unsuitable voluntary sector provider as the lead organisation coordinating a bid for central funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No losses were suffered as the bid was not successful for reasons unrelated to the allegation. Evidence of increased level of risk associated to this organisation was identified. Recommendations have been made to improve understanding of different models of social enterprise and to enhance checks when engaging with the voluntary sector
888	A member of the public alleged that KCC had committed offences of fraud through the inappropriate use of a single source tender.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of fraud was identified. Recommendations were made to review the council procedures in relation to single source suppliers.

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893	A member of staff was alleged to be working for a third party during her contracted hours for KCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsequent investigation substantiated that the member of staff had worked for her own company while she was supposed to be working for KCC on 4 occasions. A final written warning was issued.
895	A Head Teacher of a school was alleged to have inappropriately awarded himself an increased salary for undertaking additional teaching duties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investigation identified that the Governing Body had awarded the increased salary for additional teaching duties however this was in conflict with current DfE guidance. Recommendations were made to strengthen the school's recruitment and remuneration policies.
896	A representative of a social care client was alleged to have deprived the client of capital to minimise the required contribution towards the cost of care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application for financial support was withdrawn by the client's representative during the preliminary phase of the investigation because there had been a misunderstanding. No further action was required. The client's representative elected to self-fund.
900	A member of the public applied for a pitch on a KCC operated site on the basis he was homeless. Anonymous information was received which alleged the applicant had a home in the Tonbridge area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsequent investigation identified the applicant did not have a home elsewhere and the application was allowed to proceed.
901	A photocopied Blue Badge was seized by a neighbouring council's parking enforcement team and returned to KCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Badge was cancelled and a warning letter was issued to the badge holder. The badge holder was advised to reapply for a new badge.
903	An application for a Blue Badge was received that included a false Kent Association for the Blind registration number (KAB).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investigation identified that the applicant frequently changed his name and favoured a famous musical artist. KAB confirmed that a number had been issued to the address but not in the name the applicant. However, the applicant was entitled to a Blue Badge as a result of receiving Disability Living Allowance which was independently verified. A recommendation was made to process the application on the basis of the DLA award.
904	The Natwest bank informed KCC that cheques relating to a client whose financial affairs were being managed by the Client Financial Affairs Team had been presented without an authorising signature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary investigation identified there were no losses to client and no evidence that the cheques went missing after receipt by KCC. The Natwest Fraud Team is investigating. No further action required by KCC.

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905	HR Business Centre notified Internal Audit of a salary overpayment that had accrued over 9 months and totalled £13,752.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary investigation revealed no evidence of dishonesty of fraud by the employee and the salary overpayment has been repaid in full. No further action required.
911	HR Business Centre notified Internal Audit of a salary overpayment that had accrued over 24 months and totalled £13,143.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary investigation revealed no evidence of dishonesty of fraud by the employee. The overpaid salary calculation will be reviewed by HRBC and recovered. No further action required.
912	A Blue Badge was confiscated by a council in London and returned to KCC. The badge was illegally being used by the son of the original badge holder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council in London are pursuing the person using the Blue Badge. KCC has returned the Blue Badge to its original owner and issued a letter reminding the badge holder of their responsibilities.
913	A social care client in receipt of a personal budget, paid via a Direct Payment, was alleged to have either gifted, or had stolen, monies from his account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary visit with FSC to the care client revealed this to be an issue of misuse by the client's mother. No evidence of fraud or financial abuse was discovered however £1,560 is being recovered because the Direct Payment was not spent in accordance with the assessed support needs.

Summary of Proactive Fraud Reviews

Financial Assessments – Personal Budgets

Directorate	Scope	Overall Findings
BSS/FSC	Preventing fraud through design or redesign of policy and procedures is a key element of the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. The purpose of the review was to highlight potential weaknesses or risks in existing controls, policies or procedures in relation to the financial assessment of social care clients in receipt of a personal budget.	<p>The review was based on a sample of non-residential cases and residential cases. When appropriate, we compared the Council's policy and procedures to those used by other Local Authorities to verify the personal and financial circumstances of Housing and Council Tax benefit claimants.</p> <p>In our view the process for financially assessing personal budget clients is susceptible to fraud and error. The review identified that there was no framework that defined minimum standards for collecting and retaining evidence. This may have led to the inconsistent levels and quality of evidence requested and retained in support of the assessment.</p>

		<p>Two recommendations were made to strengthen the assessment process and associated forms, of which one was high priority. This recommendation concerned the introduction of a verification framework that defines the minimum standards of evidence that must be obtained, scrutinised and retained.</p>
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