

Appendix 2 – Prosecution Summary: New Types of Fraud

This summary provides details of two Investigations that have been successful prosecuted by the directorate in Q1 2016. These are fraud types that have not previously been prosecuted by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (the Council).

Council Tax

The liable Council Tax payer, Miss Mpofu, approached the Council claiming to be full time student. She provided a student certificate and received a zero rate on her Council Tax, meaning that she was exempt due to being a student and therefore avoided more than £2,000 in Council Tax liability.

The Directorate conducted an investigation after an allegation was received.

It was discovered that she had in fact stopped her university course shortly after enrolling and, significantly, after she had received all the relevant paperwork that would allow her to obtain the exemption from the Council.

Miss Mpofu was interviewed under caution and admitted the offence.

She pleaded guilty at court and was sentence to a conditional discharge and was ordered to pay the outstanding liability. She was also order pay the directorate's costs of £349 and a £15 victim charge.

Social Care

Miss Lane was appointed as a carer for an elderly person with disabilities. She was paid by the Council (via Vibrance) to provide care as required by the service user.

After a short time the service user 'dismissed' Miss Lane due to her not providing the service as required. Miss Lane continued to send in timesheets to Vibrance and forged the service user's signature, therefore receiving payment.

Miss Lane was interviewed under caution by the Directorate's officers and fully admitted the offence.

She was summonsed to attend court where she pleaded guilty but then failed to return for sentencing. The Directorate's officers worked hard to locate and trace her and she was then arrested by Essex Police and sent back to court where she received her sentence.