

Quarter 3
2016/17

Fraud Awareness

Local Counter
Fraud Specialists
(LCFS)



Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Fraud Awareness Newsletter.

We will provide an update on the latest NHS fraud cases, focusing on cases where fraudsters have used bogus companies to divert funds from the NHS. There are also details on Crimestoppers and NHS Protect joining forces to combat fraud, bribery & corruption in the NHS.

While the majority of people who work in or use the NHS are honest, fraud does exist and is a serious issue. Fraud in the NHS, on any scale, diverts resources from patient care and services.

Your LCFS team aims to make people aware that fraud is being tackled. Please see the contact details of the LCFS team overleaf.

In the News....

NHS Senior Commissioner jailed for fraud

A Senior Commissioner who defrauded NHS Bromley CCG of nearly £145,000 has been jailed for over two years. Noel Morrow 47 of Surrey, was convicted of Fraud by Abuse of Position.

The investigation began after Bromley CCG identified a potential fraud through its monthly financial reporting controls, in respect of invoices for its Mental Health and Learning Disability Services. The Finance department had spotted a suspicious invoice and conducted further investigations, establishing that the company was registered to Morrow's home address and a former address. The investigation established that all of the invoices from Choice and Independence Care Solutions Ltd and Blue Gale Ltd were for services that were



Invoices were for services that were never delivered

never delivered, and that £144,986.60 in payments from Bromley CCG were paid into a bank account actually owned by Morrow.

Morrow had a sign off limit of £10,000 and all of the invoices from these two companies were under that amount, so Morrow could authorise them himself.

Sue Frith, Managing Director of NHS Protect, said, "*In this case a Senior Commissioner used his position of power and trust to exploit a vulnerable patient group and divert money meant for their care to his own pocket. But we have recovered £93,000 of that.*" **October 2016**

Fraud conspirators must compensate NHS

Two NHS managers who masterminded a 5-year procurement fraud against the former North West Strategic Health Authority have been ordered to pay every penny of their realisable assets to the NHS in compensation.

NHS Protect carried out the fraud investigation of John Leigh, 56 and Deborah Hancox, 46, which saw them both receive prison sentences in November

2014 for conspiracy to defraud. After sentencing, NHS Protect started a financial investigation to recover any traceable assets.

Now resident in Greater Manchester, the couple were arrested in December 2013 in Cyprus and extradited to the UK, having fled this country in 2009. They eventually pleaded guilty. If Leigh does not pay £177,999.84 within three months, he will face a default jail sentence of six

months. If Hancox does not pay £6,930.34 within three months, her default jail sentence will be two months.

Their fraud took place between 2003 and 2008, when Leigh and Hancox used three companies as a front to disguise their ongoing fraud. These companies sold IT equipment to the Strategic Health Authority at inflated prices – their combined

fraudulent turnover was more than £1million. Leigh and Hancox had links to all of them, but neither made the required declaration of interest to the health authority.

Sue Frith, of NHS Protect, said, "*They cynically diverted money meant for patient care, abusing their positions of trust and authority.*" **October 2016**

Crimestoppers tackling NHS fraud

with launch of dedicated 24 hour reporting line



Health Service Fraud
Eating into valuable resources

If you have any suspicions or concerns, you can call us anonymously on **0800 028 40 60** or search 'NHS Fraud' online for more information.

POWERED BY CRIMESTOPPERS

NHS Protect leads on work to tackle fraud, bribery and corruption affecting the health service.

NHS Protect
Department of Health

Need to Know...

Independent charity Crimestoppers is joining forces with NHS Protect, the national agency leading the NHS fight against crime, to launch a dedicated 24 hour reporting line to tackle fraud, bribery and corruption against the health service in England and Wales.

With fraud considered to be under-reported across the health service, the line allows those working within the NHS and wider health service (as well as the general public) to report known or suspected economic crimes that deplete the public purse and ultimately reduce the quality of care for patients.

NHS Protect Fraud Statistics

As of 31 March 2016, NHS Protect was investigating allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption worth in excess of £25 million. The value of fraud, bribery and corruption identified by NHS Protect and Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFSs) following the successful conclusion of investigations in 2015/16 was £6.5 million. Over £2 million was restrained (frozen) and over £2.4 million confiscated using the Proceeds of Crime Act.

There are some 300 professionally-trained and accredited Local Counter Fraud Specialists in place within health bodies across England and Wales.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers is an independent charity which helps the police to solve crimes, making communities safer. Since Crimestoppers began in 1988, it has received over 1.7 million actionable calls, resulting in more than 138,000 arrests and charges.

Roger Critchell, Director of Operations for Crimestoppers, said: "We are incredibly fortunate to have one of the best health services in the world, so it is staggering that there are people abusing this by defrauding it of money that could be used for care and treatment."

Contact details

Anyone who wishes to give information can call the NHS Fraud and Corruption Reporting Line, powered by Crimestoppers, on 0800 0284060 anonymously at any time. Information can also be given online through NHS Protect's online form at www.reportnhsfraud.nhs.uk

Meet your Local Counter Fraud Team

Contact your Local Counter Fraud Specialists team in absolute confidence.

"Never be afraid to give us a call."



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"We're here to talk about any concerns you may have about fraud and corruption, or just happy to discuss why fraud is a big issue for the NHS."