

BENEFIT FRAUD

BENEFIT FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY OBJECTIVES UNDER A COMPLIANCE REGIME

The new funding regime since April 2006 has emphasised compliance over prosecution driven remedial action. This will lead to fundamental changes in local authority policy regarding sanctions and overpayment recovery. Now that compliance is guiding the agenda local authorities will need to define the line between criminal and compliance action as well as increasing the focus on overpayment recovery.

This one day conference examines the use of recovery within a compliance framework. The conference will examine compliance models and look in-depth at the expectations of central government, the DWP and the Auditors towards recovery of overpayments and additional punitive measures under the new regime. The conference will assist local authorities in drawing up policies regarding recovery, compliance and sanctions.

Date: Monday 17th July 2006

Venue: Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1

Who should attend: Treasurers
Revenue Managers
Benefit Managers
Benefit Fraud Managers and Officers
Overpayment Officers
Auditors

PSS

Public Sector Strategies has been facilitating and producing conferences for the public sector since 1994, often in partnership with local government and central government agencies and departments. For a list of forthcoming events please visit www.PSSstrategies.co.uk

Conference Objectives

- To examine post-fraud action, including overpayment recovery, and the role of these actions within the new funding regime and performance indicators
- To focus on overpayments and recovery and their role within the new compliance regime
- To provide an understanding of the relationship between the DWP compliance and fraud teams and local authorities
- To provide appropriate and balanced models of recovery and action
- To provide a practical guide to BFI expectations of recovery

Speakers include:

- Frank Newton, Advisor to the Local Government Association
- Peter Meehan, Benefits Advisor, COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)
- Jason Roach, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Huddersfield
- Chris Bull, Director, Benefit Fraud Inspectorate
- Malcolm Gardner, Counter Fraud Group
- Mike Jenner, Client Partner, Business Recovery Services, The Vantis Group
- Stephen King, Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

Further Information

For further information on this, or other Public Sector Strategy (PSS) conferences, please telephone PSS on **0118 933 2636** or email info@PSSstrategies.co.uk

For booking queries please contact Benedict Business Resources on 01483 203536

BENEFIT FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY OBJECTIVES UNDER A COMPLIANCE REGIME

Monday 17th July 2006

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1

THE MORNING PROGRAMME

- 10.00 **Registration and Refreshments**
- 10.30 **Chair's Opening Remarks**
Sharon Jones, Revenues Benefits Manager, Anglia Revenues Partnership
- 10.35 **Balancing Overpayment Recovery – The Local Authority View**
Frank Newton, Advisor to the Local Government Association
This address provides a view from a local authority perspective on how authorities should balance punishment and recovery with sensible expectations taking account of the new performance indicators and funding regime.
- 11.05 **Practical Recovery – The Expectation of the BFI**
Stephen King, Benefit Fraud inspectorate
This presentation will focus on the BFIs advice on maximising recovery of overpayment. The focus will be on practical solutions to recovery.
- 11.35 **Questions**
- 11.50 **The role of Asset Recovery in the recuperation of Overpayment**
Mike Jenner, Client Partner, Business Recovery Services, The Vantis Group
This presentation provides an insight into the tracing of funds for recovery purposes and how identified assets can be recovered. The address will provide practical examples of asset recovery in relation to overpayments of local authority benefits.
- 12.20 **Questions**
- 12.30 **Understanding Criminality and Re-Offending**
Jason Roach, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Huddersfield
In order to work within the compliance regime local authorities will need to define high level fraud and criminality that cannot be dealt with through compliance and recovery. This presentation provides an examination of criminality and in particular looks at re-offending and if compliance measures can reduce criminal re-offending.
- 1.00 **Questions to the panel**
- 1.15 **Lunch**

THE AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 2.00 **The Compliance Regime within the Crime and Disorder Agenda**
Peter Meehan, Benefits Advisor, COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)
The end of the previous funding regime for fraud action frees local authorities to look at benefit fraud within the local authority crime and disorder agenda. With the cessation of sanction based funding a move to include benefit fraud within a whole-authority approach to crime and disorder is possible. This approach is being explored by some Scottish authorities. This address examines the links across the authority and looks at how this can inform a compliance model.
- 2.30 **Questions**
- 2.40 **A Housing Benefit Compliance Model**
Chris Bull, Director, Benefit Fraud Inspectorate
Malcolm Gardner, Counter Fraud Group
This presentation presents a compliance model for local authorities. It examines measures that have proven successful and looks at an appropriate and balanced model for investigation, recovery and remedial action.
- 3.10 **The Local Authority Relationship with the DWP Compliance Model**
to be confirmed
This presentation provides a practical model for the relationship between the DWP and local authorities under the new regime. It looks at the local authority relationship with the DWP compliance team and how decisions regarding action are made prior to investigation.
- 3.40 **Questions & Panel Discussion**
- 3.55 **Chairs Closing Remarks**
Sharon Jones, Revenues Benefits Manager, Anglia Revenues Partnership
- 4.00 **Conference Close**