

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting20th May 2021

1. Title of Item/Report

Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Fraud Awareness (Personal)

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the Crime & Disorder Select Committee review of Fraud Awareness (Personal).

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) Representation is made to Action Fraud encouraging the sharing of relevant fraud information with the Local Authority (reflective of this review and in support of the National Trading Standards position);
- 2) Cleveland Police consider the existing resources it has in place to tackle fraud, with a view to facilitating the disruption and prevention of fraud being committed in the first place, in addition to the investigation and prosecution of such crime;
- 3) Cleveland Police maximise the Neighbourhood Policing model to aid in identifying and supporting vulnerable residents, providing regular updates on the latest fraud-related activity and how residents can protect themselves (e.g. utilising the new Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland monthly e-newsletter);
- 4) All local partners continue sharing and disseminating key anti-fraud messages, emerging threats, reporting mechanisms and existing fraud-related resources via all available platforms (not just online);
- 5) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council includes a regular fraud-related feature in Stockton News which details the latest scams, reinforces reporting routes, and, where possible, highlights the prevalence of fraud against particular age-groups, including those under 40 years-old.
- 6) Relevant data and key messages for young people around fraud crime

be shared with the Council's Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) initiative to facilitate strengthened awareness-raising with that specific demographic;

7) The feasibility of supporting Age UK Teesside to extend its provision of digital projects (enabling older people to learn about devices / how to use the internet) in Middlesbrough / Redcar and Cleveland to Stockton-on-Tees is further explored.

3. Reasons for the Decision

A scrutiny topic originally submitted by the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) as a review of Action Fraud (the national fraud recording centre), it was recognised early in the planning of this piece of work that the Committee could have very limited direct influence on a resource that is operated in London. As such, the agreed focus for the Committee became two-fold: firstly, to raise awareness of fraud against the person, and secondly, to ascertain the ways in which local victims of this crime are identified and supported. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor McCoy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as she was a member of SDAIS, referred to within the report.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight - Friday 28th May 2021

Proper Officer

24 May 2021