

Agenda Item

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

18th February 2021

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FRAUD AWARENESS (PERSONAL)

Summary

This second evidence-gathering session for the Fraud Awareness (Personal) review is scheduled to receive contributions from representatives of Cleveland Police, the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland.

Detail

1. The Detective Inspector for the Cleveland Police Economic Crime Unit and Cyber Crime will be in attendance to provide a response to the Committee's request for the following information:
 - Awareness of local fraud (personal) issues / concerns (e.g. particular types, victim demographics, problems reporting it or in sourcing victim support).
 - Any involvement with / experience of Action Fraud (e.g. general communication / information-sharing, raising of concerns)?
 - Any Force initiatives to make the public aware of how to report fraud (personal)?
 - Partnership-working with other stakeholders (e.g. OPCC, VCAS and other victim support groups, Local Authority) around this issue.
 - How does the Force highlight this issue and help in reducing the risk of people becoming a victim of fraud (personal) (e.g. anti-fraud campaigns / messages)?
 - How does the Force help support local fraud (personal) victims?
 - Impact of COVID-19 on local cases / types and any effects on support mechanisms available?

In addition to the enclosed presentation, a further document has been included to evidence the type and frequency of press releases issued by the Force in relation to fraud matters. Supplementary information can be found at the following link:

➤ <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

2. The Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) provides free, independent and confidential support for victims and their families throughout the Cleveland and Durham areas, helping them to cope with the immediate impact of a crime and assist in their subsequent recovery.

➤ <https://victimcareandadvice.service.uk/>

The service is managed on behalf of the respective Police and Crime Commissioners by Safe in Tees Valley (a local registered charity), and the Service Manager will address the Committee on the support offer they provide, with a specific focus on victims of personal fraud.

3. The Commissioner's Officer for Consultation and Engagement (who leads on fraud) will provide a verbal submission on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cleveland.
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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