

Fraud Champion Nomination

NHS Morecambe Bay CCG has nominated its inaugural Fraud Champion. The CCG's Fraud Champion is:



'Fraud costs the NHS an estimated £1.21bn a year according to recent NHS Counter Fraud Authority estimations. We all have a role to play in helping our patients to continue to receive the best quality care available by ensuring that we eradicate incidences of fraud and stop fraudsters continuing to come up with novel ways to exploit the NHS which deprive us all of valuable NHS resources. I see this role as vital in driving this agenda forward and helping build and maintain a culture of vigilance and awareness across the Trust.

Please contact me should you have any fraud worries or suspicions'

Michael Cleary

Senior Finance Manager / Fraud Champion

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The NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) has for a period of time advocated for NHS organisations to nominate new Fraud Champions to join the NHS counter fraud community. It is also a core requirement promoted by the UK Government's Counter Fraud Function which works across all Government departments and agencies. Since nominations to the role of NHS Fraud Champions opened in December 2019, they have received over 200 nominations and appointments so far.

The role and duties of the Fraud Champion include:

- promoting awareness of fraud, bribery and corruption within the CCG;
- understanding the threat posed by fraud, bribery and corruption;
- understanding best practice on counter fraud; and
- committing to promoting a zero-tolerance approach to fraud within the CCG.

Responsibility for investigating allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption, as well as accountability for delivering the organisation's annual anti-fraud plan, remain firmly with the nominated Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS).

The Fraud Champion will work closely with the LCFS to ensure that the CCG remains fully committed to the maintenance of a counter-fraud, bribery and corruption culture, preventing and deterring it wherever possible, and holding to account those who are found to have committed offences, by pursuing the full range of available sanctions against them. A Joint Working Protocol between the LCFS and the Fraud Champion has also been established.

Staff should still report any concerns of fraud, bribery and corruption to either the Local Counter Fraud Specialist or the national Fraud and Corruption Reporting Line on **0800 028 40 60** (online at <https://cfa.nhs.uk/reportfraud>).

The CCG's Local Counter Fraud Specialist is:

Kevin Howells

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For more information on the role of the Fraud Champion, please visit the NHSCFA website at <https://cfa.nhs.uk/fraud-prevention/information-for-fraud-champions>.