

# **Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023**

---

**Winner Bio's**

# Outstanding Achievement Winners

# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Outstanding Achievement

### Nick Jennings

Nick has worked within local government for over 30 years. Since the 1990's he has worked in the anti-fraud arena, and has experience of managing teams at district, London and county councils. These teams have often worked as partnerships with the other law enforcement agencies including DWP, HMRC, UKBA and Police.

Currently employed as the Head of the Hertfordshire Shared Anti-Fraud Service (SAFS), Nick manages a team of 25 officers dealing with all aspects of fraud, corruption, bribery and anti-money laundering for a number of public sector bodies across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire with combined annual budgets in excess of £3.5bn.

Nick sits on the **National Anti-Fraud Network Executive Board** and is regional rep for **the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Board**. He acted as a Local Government Association representative to the DWP *Security Operations Group*, and the DWP *Joint Working Group* advising Ministers on joint working between the Department and local government and was part of the Cabinet Office *Counter Fraud Profession Taskforce (Local Government)* assisting in the development of the Government Counter Fraud Profession and local government access to the profession.

Nick has been an influential member of the FFCL Regional Operational Group since its inception, supporting on consultations and meetings. Nick expertise is well known, he is always willing to step up and never afraid to contribute. If you want to know something about counter fraud – go to Nick! He is a great collaborator and his team have been very successful with case studies in all three strategies. During the research for all three Strategies, he was an active player, hosting workshops and promoting the research and his contribution is rightly recognised today.



# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023 Outstanding Achievement

## Andy Hyatt

Andy is the Shared Service Head of Fraud for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Council and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. He heads up the Corporate Anti-Fraud Service across all three authorities, responsible for fraud prevention, detection, and deterrent.

Andy has worked in the fraud arena for 30 years. He is a board member of the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) as well as an executive member and former Chair of the London Borough Fraud Investigators Group (LBFIG). Andy has also provided expertise in subject matter for television, including BBC's Panorama, Inside Out and ITN News.

Andy was part of the original Fighting Fraud Locally Board and remained active on the Board until 2023. When the go ahead was given to develop the first Strategy Rachael asked Andy to be an advisor and he was brilliant! During the research for the first FFCL Andy was incredibly engaged and took part in the first pilot on SPD and also hosted events such as the one below. He visited potential private sector pilots with Rachael, helping assess strengths and how they would make our Strategy effective. He helped me set up the first CEO and S151 FFL Champions network. He helped make FFL a success against the backdrop of SFIS and many other changes.

That was the beginning of this journey, and it could not have happened without his support. Andy is immensely respected in our industry; he is always the voice of reason. The Board would like to place on record their thanks to him for his long-term contribution, we are very sorry to lose him.



### Fighting Fraud Locally Awareness campaign pilot

'Fighting fraud will help local government protect front line services and ensure taxpayers' money is not wasted'

In April 2012, the National Fraud Authority together with Local Authority partners launched Fighting Fraud Locally, which addresses the need for greater fraud prevention and smarter enforcement in Local Government. One of its recommendations was for the NFA to assist Councils in setting up publicity campaigns to increase fraud awareness.

The London Tri-borough Councils (Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster) collaborated in November 2012 to conduct a month-long Fraud awareness campaign, running a series of anti-fraud operations, as well as pilot several awareness toolkits, developed by the NFA.

A successful launch event for the campaign was held on 8 November, where key speakers included Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, Stephen Harrison, Chief Executive NFA and Ian O'Donnell, Chairman of the Fighting Fraud Locally Board.

During their campaign, the three councils worked together on proactive operations, workshops and data sharing, focusing on frauds such as housing benefit fraud, blue badge fraud, council tax fraud and tenancy fraud. Fraud investigators also worked with the Peabody Housing Association to increase awareness of tenancy fraud. During the pilot, the three councils made use of the Action

Fraud hotline, passing on information to the NFA. This is the first time that local authorities have used the Action Fraud hotline and the NFA in this way.

This is the first of several campaign pilots to test toolkits which will be rolled out nationally to all Councils. The toolkits comprise of both public-facing and internal awareness

materials, including free posters, case studies, project plans and templates, which will assist fraud or audit managers to conduct successful fraud awareness campaigns.

If you would like more information on the awareness campaign toolkits for Local Government, please contact [sarah.weekes@nfa.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.weekes@nfa.gov.uk).



# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Outstanding Achievement

### Rachael Tiffen

Rachael has a longstanding and impressive history of playing a leading role in counter fraud initiatives across local authorities, central government and the wider public sector.

She was instrumental in starting and chaired the CIPFA Fraud Advisory Panel from 2006 to 2018, and for over two decades has chaired and coordinated the London Public Sector Partnership.

At the National Fraud Authority, Home Office in 2010, as the Head of Public Sector Fraud she researched and drafted the first local government counter fraud strategy - Fighting Fraud Locally (FFL) and created pilot data hubs using partnerships.

For over 13 years, she has supported and hosted the secretariat for FFCL -but has done much much more than bringing the Board together. She was highly active and led the research for compiling the FFCL strategy document and the appendices. She continues to support and contribute to FFCL - more recently, organising this conference (and previous conferences) and is the true energy behind these awards.

Her achievements don't just stop there, not only, is she the Director of Learning & Public Sector with Cifas, she is an independent member with two local authorities, she sits on Boards, she is a Trustee and a Mentor - not sure where she gets the time from!

She is hugely respected, which is reflected in the quote below - from our previous chair - Charlie Adan:

*"During my time as Chair of the FFCL Board Rachael worked tirelessly in support of our aims and helped bring us all together using her vast network of connections and her thorough knowledge and experience in her field. She started this work many years ago and it continues - without Rachael's dedication and support. I am certain such progress would not have been made. Her support to me personally was second to none - thank you Rachael"*

I echo's Charlie's words and would also like to thank Rachael for her support - which is invaluable and without her continued professional steer and commitment both the Board and the sector - would be at a loss. She is inspirational and joy to work with!

*Presented by Suki Binjal, FFCL Chair 2023*

Fighting  
Fraud &  
Corruption  
LOCALLY



# Special Recognition Winners

Fighting  
Fraud &  
Corruption  
LOCALLY

# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Special Recognition

### Paula Clowes

Paula is Head of Assurance at Essex County Council. She has had many roles in Counter Fraud in local authorities and wider. Her long-term commitment to tackling fraud is commendable.

Paula has been on the FFCL Board since 2018 and since then she has organised awards, shortlisted, judged on four occasions. She has supported the last two conferences rolling her sleeves up and getting it done. She always puts her hand up to help! Much of the activity over the past five years would not have happened without her support. The Board wish to recognise this contribution.



# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Special Recognition

### Carol Owen

Carol is the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Team Manager at London Borough of Lewisham at the London Borough of Lewisham. She is a well-known and respected expert in the counter fraud arena. Carol was seconded to the Cipfa Counter Fraud Centre in 2015 to help develop FFCL 2016, she undertook workshops, research and wrote narrative.

In 2022 Carol stood as Chair of the FFCL Regional Operational Group, her efforts there have been significant, pulling the group together to produce joined up responses, horizon scanning, and she has moved this work to a robust responsive collaboration. Carol joined the FFCL SAB in 2022 and has made an active contribution and helping make this conference happen today.



# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Special Recognition

### Simon Bleckly

Simon is the Head of Internal Audit, Risk & Insurance, Warrington Borough Council, Head of Internal Audit, Salford City Council. Simon played an active role in the development on FFCL2020, he supported the setting up of the governance around the FFCL Regional Operational Group and then became the first chair of the group.

Simon has been a member of the FFCL Board since 2018 and has been actively involved in all the working groups as well as promoting collaboration, running the conferences, and as a Judge on the FFCL Awards. Simon has recently resigned as the Chair of the FFCL Regional Group, and the board would like to mark their appreciation and thanks with this Award.



## Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023 Special Recognition

### James Flannery

James has been at Kent County Council for the past 10 years more recently as Counter Fraud Manager. He plays a leading role in the Kent Intelligence Network. KIN is a collaboration of the 13 local authorities in Kent to tackle fraud and error risks. KCC provide project management support via a project manager and funding to district and borough councils to address fraud and error within Council Tax and Business Rates.

James has been influential in the FFCL Regional Operational Group since it began, active in responding to legislation consultations, attendance at meetings to support other LAs; he is always knowledgeable and his expertise in the area of counter fraud is well known. During the research of FFCL 2020 he was extremely supportive hosting workshops and also coming up with innovative ideas for pilots to make the Strategy collaborative and support a change in culture.



# Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Awards 2023

## Special Recognition

### Colin Sharpe

Colin is Head of Finance at Leicester City Council. Colin was an original member of the Fighting Fraud Locally Board, helping develop the original Strategy and the later two FFCL Strategies.

The Board would not be the same without Colin's input; over the past few years he has contributed by promoting FFCL at regional CIPFA events, shortlisting and judging and being actively involved in organising the conferences. His technical knowledge has been of immense value to the Board over the years and this award is to mark his commitment in this area.

