

# Protecting the Public Purse

## Fraud Briefing 2014

South Hams District Council



# Purpose of Fraud Briefing



Provide an information source to support councillors in considering their council's fraud detection activities



Extend an opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities



Give focus to discussing local and national fraud risks, reflect on local priorities and the proportionate responses needed



Be a catalyst for reviewing the council's current strategy, resources and capability for tackling fraud

# Understanding the bar charts

Outcomes for the first measure for your council are highlighted in yellow in the bar charts. The results of your comparator authorities are shown in the green bars.



Outcomes for the second measure for your council are highlighted as a green symbols above each bar. The results of your comparator authorities are shown in the white triangles.



A '\*' symbol has been used on the horizontal axis to indicate your council.

All data are drawn from council submissions on the Audit Commission's annual fraud and corruption survey for the financial year 2013/14.

In some cases, council report they have detected fraud and do not report the number of cases and/or the value. For the purposes of this fraud briefing these 'Not Recorded' records are shown as Nil.

# Comparator group

Chichester  
Cotswold  
Craven  
Derbyshire Dales  
East Devon  
Exeter  
Hambleton  
Lewes  
Malvern Hills  
Mid Devon  
North Devon  
Purbeck  
South Hams  
South Lakeland  
Suffolk Coastal  
Teignbridge  
Tewkesbury  
Torrige  
Wealden  
West Devon  
West Dorset

# Interpreting fraud detection results



Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results



Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (*Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked*)



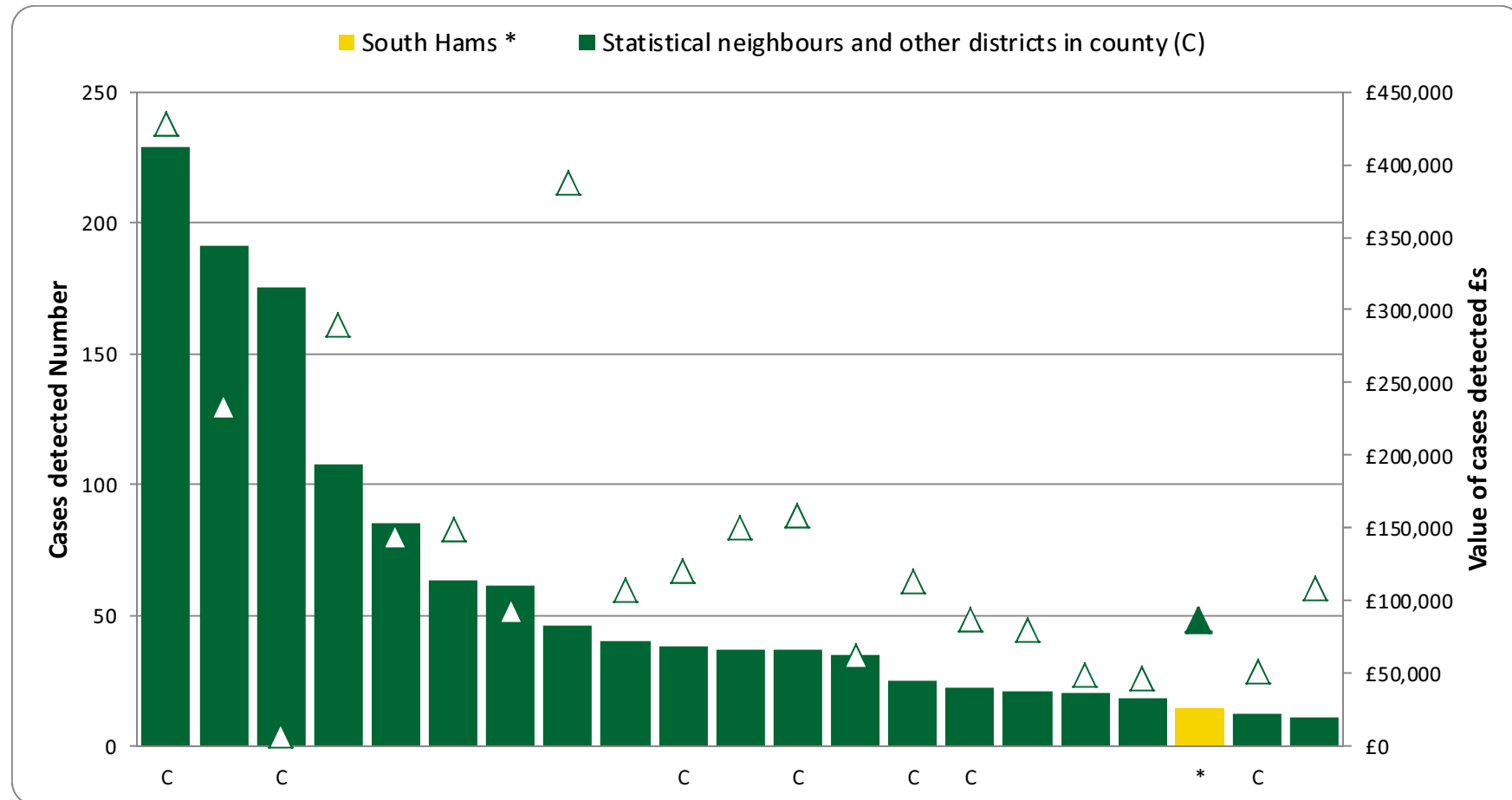
No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (*Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed*)



Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud (*There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early*)

# Total detected cases and value 2013/14 (Excludes Housing tenancy fraud)

## South Hams



South Hams detected 14 cases of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £86,388.

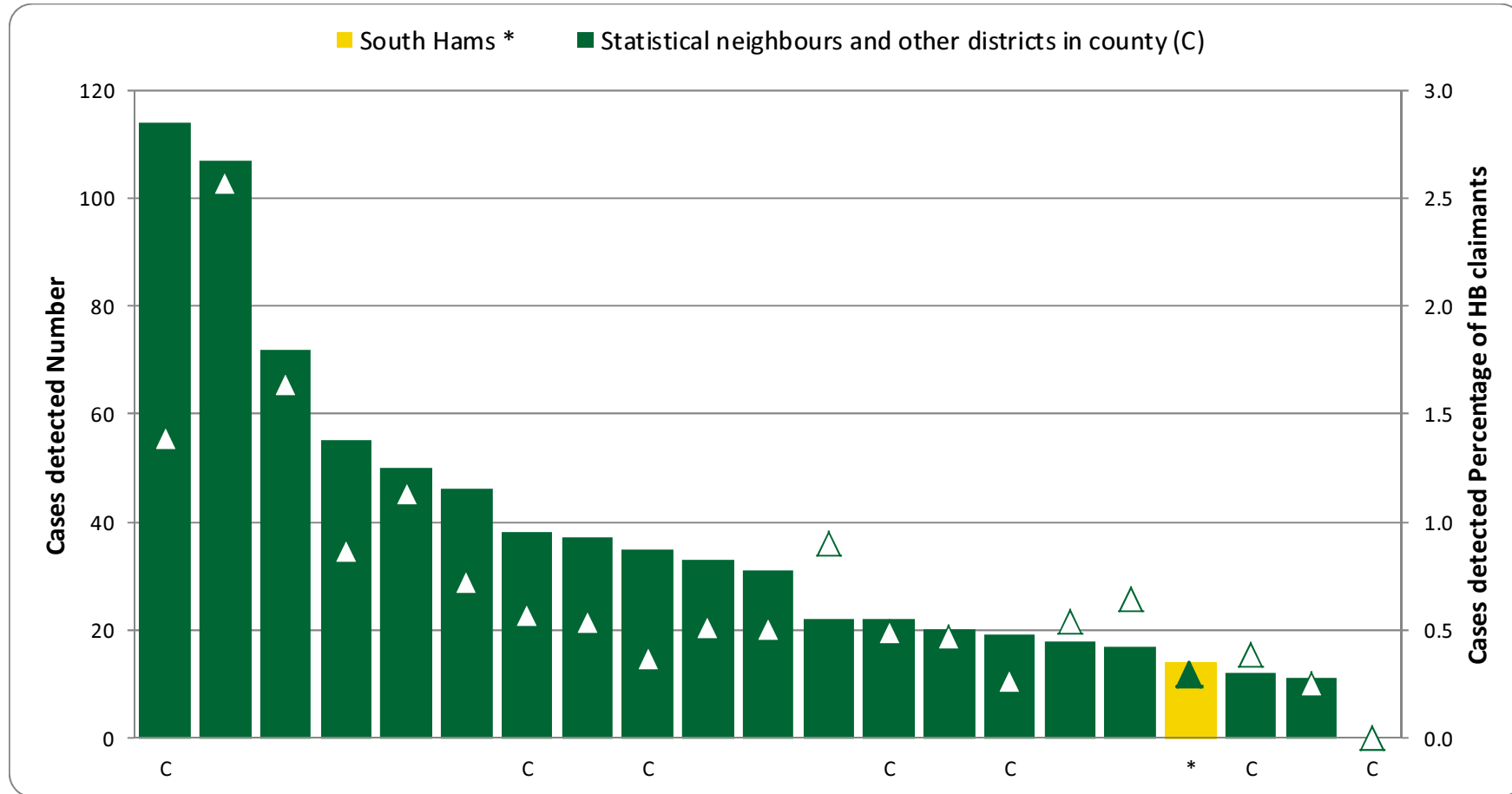
Average for statistical neighbours and county: 64 cases, valued at £143,449



# Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) 2013/14

## Total detected cases, and as a proportion of housing benefit caseload

### South Hams



South Hams detected 14 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £86,388.

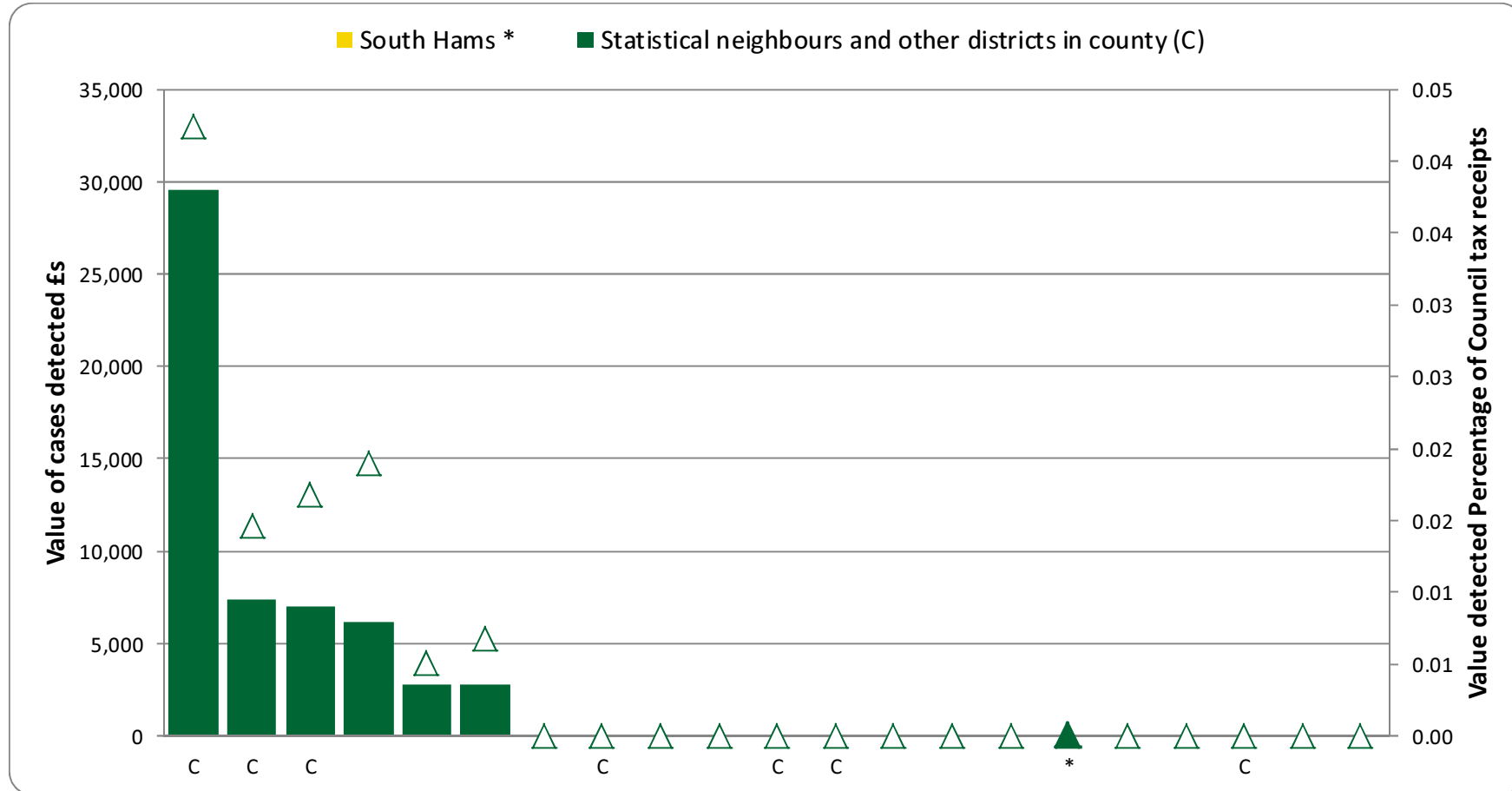
Average for statistical neighbours and county: 38 cases, valued at £139,727



# Council tax discount fraud 2013/14

Total detected cases, and value as a proportion of council tax income

## South Hams



South Hams did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.  
Average for statistical neighbours and county: 9 cases, valued at £2,784





## Councils without housing stock 2013/14

### Housing tenancy fraud

4 per cent of social housing stock in London and 2 per cent outside London is subject to tenancy fraud

Second largest fraud loss to local government, £845 million

The Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013: criminalises tenancy fraud

Combined with housing associations the total loss in England, £1.8 billion

Councils have powers to investigate and prosecute tenancy fraudsters on behalf of housing associations

Should you be using this legislation and powers to work in partnership with local housing associations?

## Other frauds 2013/14

### South Hams

Procurement: South Hams did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.  
Total for statistical neighbours and county: 0 cases

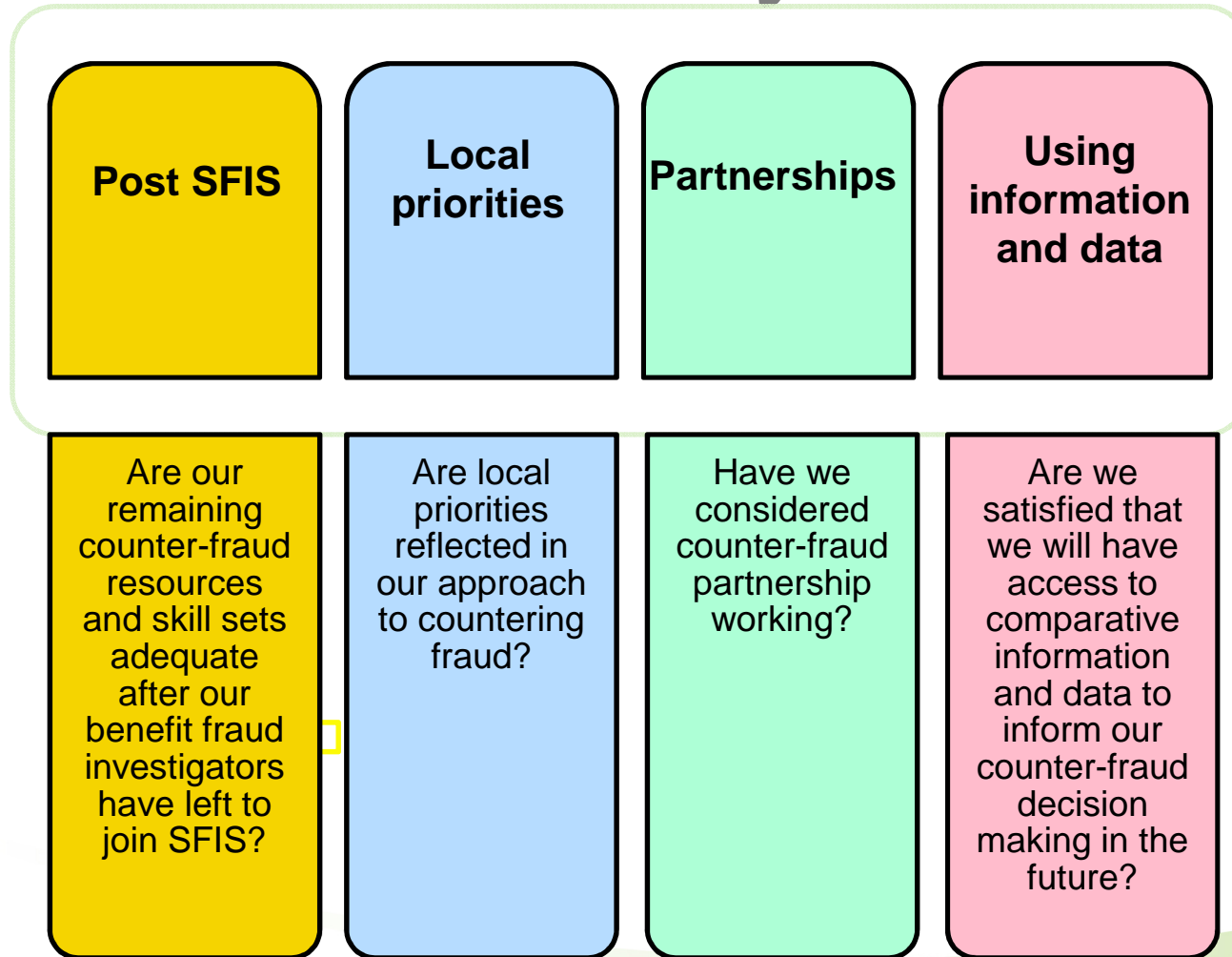
Insurance: South Hams did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.  
Total for statistical neighbours and county: 0 cases

Economic and third sector: South Hams did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.  
Total for statistical neighbours and county: 0 cases

Internal: South Hams did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.  
Total for statistical neighbours and county: 10 cases, valued at £8,958

*Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk.  
It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case*

# Questions elected members and decision makers may wish to ask



# Any questions?

