



# Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

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## Report to the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

<b>Title:</b>	Buckinghamshire and Surrey Joint Trading Standards Service
<b>Committee date:</b>	Tuesday 27 September 2016
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<b>Cabinet Member sign-off:</b>	Cllr Martin Philips

### Purpose of Agenda Item

This report reviews progress of the joint Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service since its implementation in April 2015. The Committee are asked to consider the development of the Service and whether they wish to suggest recommendations or have further information about any aspect of the Service.

### Background

The Committee considered the Business Case for the development of this joint Service in 2014, and requested an update of progress once the Service had been operational for a year.

The Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service is underpinned by a legal "Inter Authority Agreement" which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the partner authorities. This sets the governance structure for the Service (a Joint Committee comprising the relevant Cabinet Member from Buckinghamshire and the relevant Cabinet Member from Surrey), the term of the agreement - a minimum period of 5 years, and the proportions in which all financial matters will be dealt with (contributions and savings etc) as 34% Buckinghamshire, 66% Surrey.

### Summary

Please see Post Implementation Review Report below.



# Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service

## Post Implementation Review

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Post Implementation Review is to determine whether combining Buckinghamshire and Surrey's Trading Standards Services has been successful. It considers whether it has delivered the budget savings as stated in the original business case within the timeframes given. It also considers lessons learned and highlights successes and achievements.

## 2. Objectives

Project Objective	Project Results
<p>Sharing expertise and best practice and creating greater resilience and robustness to cope with unforeseen challenges, such as animal disease outbreaks, large scale investigations, complex frauds, or illness or loss of key officers and their specialist technical knowledge</p>	<p><b>The service has undertaken, and is undertaking, a number of large scale investigations, some case studies of which are given at the end of this report. At times these have drawn on the expertise of officers from both teams, strengthening our overall capability. Fortunately we have not yet had the challenge of an animal disease outbreak, but we remain confident that we could operate well if this were to occur. The shared service is currently working closely with the Emergency Planning teams in both Buckinghamshire and Surrey, and with Defra, and has produced a new animal disease contingency plan. A wider pool of officers is now available to help deal with an animal disease outbreak in either local authority.</b></p>
<p>Sharing resources, including IT and databases, intelligence and specialist financial, legal and other roles that can cover the wider service area more economically.</p>	<p><b>All IT is shared across the service, allowing all officers to read and work on the same document regardless of where they are based. There were significant challenges to IT in the first 3 months of the service, but these have now been overcome and the IT works well. We continue to bring systems together to further increase consistency and to make reporting easier for key performance indicators. Intelligence, prioritisation, financial investigation and legal services are all provided from single teams delivering across the two offices.</b></p>
<p>Eliminating duplication by needing to do things once rather than twice in two different places e.g. Enforcement Policies, Enforcement Concordat, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), Funding Bids etc.</p>	<p><b>This has been done, for example there is now one Enforcement Policy for Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, one animal disease response plan and where external funding is sought this is done as a single joint authority.</b></p>

	<p>It has not been possible to fully eliminate duplication in regard to RIPA as both Local Authorities are legally required to maintain local policies and whilst Trading Standards leads this for SCC it does not for BCC.</p>
<p>Building on the successes and innovation within the current services to maximise the potential benefits e.g. income generation from business services, systems thinking, developing volunteering, maximizing prevention through social media and other means helping to further enhance the local reach and impact of the service.</p>	<p>There has been a sharing of good practice across the service, taking the best of what was in place and implementing it across both areas. The number of Primary Authority Partnerships has grown significantly in the first 16 months leading to an increase in income beyond the requirements of the business case. Our reach through social media is growing and we have successfully increased our volunteer bank who provide a valued contribution to our service. The media teams in both councils have worked well together to maximise the coverage of the work of the service, ensuring that all press releases have a quote from the local Cabinet Member before release. Some examples of the press coverage obtained are given in the case studies at the end of this report.</p>
<p>Reducing costs by operating jointly.</p>	<p>In 2016/17 the Service delivered the savings/ increased income as set out in the business case and had an outturn which was marginally under spent. The Joint Committee agreed in March 2016 to reduce the joint service budget by an additional 1.5% per year for the next 5 years to deliver “marginal efficiency savings”. We are on track to deliver the budget set out in the business case and the new marginal efficiency savings in 2016/17 (the service is currently anticipating under spending in this financial year). The new additional savings will be achieved through on increasing income generation for the shared service.</p> <p>The success of the service to date means that it can look again at income generation to see how it can contribute even more to the savings pressures facing both local authorities without undermining or compromising public protection for local residents and communities.</p> <p>The key to ensuring the success of the partnership has been an agreement from the outset to share the benefits of savings and growth in a clearly defined proportion – based a strong partnership model. Additional savings are not retained by one organisation or partner. The same applies to service pressures.</p>

Creating a significantly larger profile collectively for BCC and SCC TS on the regional and national scene, having greater influence on professional direction and policy making processes, improving opportunities to benefit from funding and developmental initiatives and increasing income generation, particularly through extending Primary Authority Partnerships.

**After engaging with the Local Government Association Review into Trading Standards as it developed, the Service was recognised as an example of a good model for other Services to consider. The Service has been visited as part of the current National Audit Office review into the current Consumer Protection landscape and this has given us an excellent opportunity to input our views and explain the current challenges which we face. (The outcome of this review remains some way off).**

**The service has also been asked to provide advice and assistance to other services as they work together to create a new shared service – the most recent example is Norfolk and Suffolk Trading Standards services.**

**Regionally the Service has a very significant profile, however this is generating an unanticipated downside in that some other services appear worried about what we might do and whether we might ‘take them over’. We are working hard to overcome this concern and to reassure them that our aim is good public protection, not growing without purpose.**

**The Service further raised its profile at the national Chartered Institute of Trading Standards Conference in June by running a stand with some of our partners. The theme of the stand was “Powered by Partnerships”, and was an excellent way to showcase what is possible when you collaborate with other willing partners. The partners who shared our stand included private sector companies and other local authorities who we work closely with.**

**The service has also been recognised by BIS and iESE with a number of awards.**

### 3. Deliverables

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Project Outcomes	Success Criteria achieved
Deliver financial savings of £94,000 in 2015/16 (BCC portion of this £32k)	Procuring systems and resources once	<b>Achieved</b> Service outturn was marginally underspent, having delivered all savings in the Business Case.
Deliver additional income of £35,000 in 2015/16 (BCC portion of this £12k)	Increase income from Primary Authority Partnerships	<b>Achieved</b> Service outturn was marginally underspent, having achieved all additional income in the Business Case.
Deliver additional financial savings of £97,000 in 2015/16 (BCC portion of this £33k)	Reduction of one senior management post in 16/17	<b>Achieved</b> Current predicted service outturn is an underspend, delivering all savings in the Business Case.
Deliver further additional income of £50,000 in 2016/17 (BCC portion of this £17k)	Increase income from Primary Authority Partnerships	<b>Achieved</b> Current predicted service outturn is an underspend, delivering all additional income in the Business Case <b>plus an annual additional 1.5% “marginal efficiency saving”</b> agreed by the Board which will be delivered through additional income.

**Extract from original Business Case** nb these figures relate to the full joint service (the Buckinghamshire proportion of these figures is 34%) and they do not include the new additional 1.5% ‘marginal efficiency savings’ which equate to around £45k per year, agreed for 4 years from 2016/17 onwards:

Cumulative changes to base budget compared to current year				
	Year 1 (2015/16)	Year 2 (2016/17)	Year 3 (2017/18)	Year 4 (2018/19)
<b>Financial Savings</b>	£94,000	£191,000	£221,000	£231,000
<b>Income Generation</b>	£35,000	£85,000	£140,000	£165,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£129,000</b>	<b>£276,000</b>	<b>£361,000</b>	<b>£396,000</b>

### 3.1 Additional Income

The majority of additional income has come from an increase in the number of Primary Authority Partnerships the Service has and the depth of these partnerships. Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards forming a joint service has enabled us to deliver 83 income generating Primary Authority Partnerships and gives us the ability to support 24 “Single Point of Contact” Primary Authority Partnerships which simplify the situation for businesses enabling them to access Trading Standards, Fire safety, Environmental Health and Welsh legislation advice all through our service. For comparison, Buckinghamshire Trading Standards had 6 such partnerships prior to the development of the joint service.

Primary Authority enables a business to be involved in their own regulation by forming a statutory partnership with a local authority. Being in a Primary Authority Partnership helps businesses manage relationships with regulators across the UK, simplify regulatory processes and reduce the cost of compliance. In return the local authority charges the business for time spent on the provision of advice.

The number of staff we can call upon, range of knowledge and experience and the reassurance of a sustainable appropriately resourced service enables us to compete and continue to attract business interest. Our partner businesses include both large and small enterprises who may be located locally or nationally e.g. Coca-Cola Enterprises, Shell, Esso, British Gas, Waitrose and the Association of Convenience Stores.

Encouraging a creative and innovative approach appeals to our business partners and means we engage at their level of need without imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens. It also leads to a diverse and interesting range of services being sourced through us.

Some examples of less traditional activities undertaken are:

- \* Providing the “Eat Out, Eat Well” scheme throughout a national Gym chain.
- \* Induction and customer service training
- \* Mystery shopping
- \* Developing a regulatory module in an e-learning package
- \* Working with Ofcom, ASA and other national regulators to secure a consensus view

As well as delivering the savings required to date the Service is developing its Primary Authority offer to businesses to ensure that it remains attractive and provides services businesses are happy to pay for because they add value and can help it deliver its strategy, including helping the business to grow. The Service is confident that it will be able to deliver the remaining income targets in the Business Case and is aiming to generate income beyond these targets.

### 3.2 Savings

As planned in the Business Case, savings have largely come from procuring things once rather than twice (for example IT systems, support subscriptions etc) and the reduction of senior manager posts within the shared service, as well as some smaller items such as sharing specialist equipment.

## 4. Quality and acceptance

The Service has focused on the needs and experience of residents and businesses throughout the transition and into the new Service. Whilst we were facing extreme IT challenges in the first 3 months of operation we ensured that customers were always able to contact us and that our lack of IT didn't diminish the service that they received. There have been no complaints related to the creation of the joint service and complaint levels overall have not increased. Businesses have responded well, with the number of PA Partnerships with businesses having increased significantly in the first year of operation, and some businesses approaching the service for a partnership on the grounds of the depth of expertise now available.

The change has been challenging for staff, with each partner service bringing a different culture and approach. A consistent concern has been fairness given the different starting points of the two partner organisations and the management team have been working to gradually bring things into a single approach. Bringing these together into a new way of working for everyone is difficult and there have been a range of responses to this, with some officers embracing the changes and finding opportunities, but with others finding it harder. Whilst the Service has previously had a very low turnover, recently there have been a number of staff moving on. In all but one case they have moved to higher paid roles, and the other officer took a change in direction of career to give a more agreeable work life balance. A recruitment programme is currently underway. At the outset Bucks staff were transferred to Surrey CC as the host employer and the majority of staff have since voluntarily transferred to Surrey CC terms and conditions.

## 5. Schedule

*The go-live date for the joint Service was agreed as 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and the service was delivered on this date.*

## 6. Cost benefit analysis

The costs of delivering the Joint Service were largely opportunity costs i.e. the management time required for implementation. External costs were limited to a small IT cost (in the region of £10,000 to provide a suitable fibre broadband link to the Aylesbury office to allow officers to be on a different system than the BCC system) and around £20,000 project management and support costs where the services of iESE were engaged (“improvement & Efficiency Social Enterprise” is a social enterprise with the objective of identifying, fostering and delivering improvements and efficiencies across the public sector, which has a Bucks Member sitting on its Board).

There are no additional ongoing maintenance costs of having a joint Service, and therefore all savings are now benefiting the two partner local authorities.

The original business case projected savings of almost £400,000 for the shared service by 20 / 21 and we are ahead of schedule in getting to that target. The financial success of the shared service has meant that we have been able to identify a further £220,000 of savings (marginal efficiencies) over the next 4 years and these have now been built into the shared service budget plans for future years.

This means that the project will have delivered all its objectives, including financial objectives, plus an additional 6%. In addition any extra benefits or savings created via the partnership will continue to be shared between the partners.

## 7. Lessons learned

Setting up a project board at the early stage of the project enabled our Cabinet Member to have early and regular input into what the service would look like, its priorities, governance etc. This ensured that little time was wasted working on ideas that did not fit the high level direction required and that the Cabinet Member was kept fully apprised of developments throughout the project and were able to add influence where required. There were no surprises.

It was vital to ensure that Cabinet members from both local authorities worked closely together and met regularly and that the focus continued to be to create a successful new partnership. It was important to have ownership of the vision and a commitment to sharing both the benefits and the risks.

The problems with IT hampered the service in the earliest months. In retrospect, ensuring that the order for Fibre Broadband into the Aylesbury office was placed with Open Reach as soon as Cabinet had given their approval to the project would have given us some of the contingency that it turned out was required, and would have reduced the time without a reasonable connection.

Support from other Services was variable, with some services providing excellent support at the time the project needed but others not providing the service or providing it late. In one key support service officer changes meant that 3 different people were assigned to the project over a 12 month period, leading to confusion in what their colleagues had previously agreed.

The governance structure agreed has enabled both partner authorities to retain an equal interest and equal involvement in the service. This has benefited the service and the local authorities by ensuring there are clear links back to each partner's priorities and other teams such as Public Health, Community Safety etc. Where there are underspends / additional income created this is returned directly to the Local Authorities. Where there have been Proceeds of Crime returned to the local authority, some of this money has been allocated to each Council's Community Safety teams to spend on additional work (this will provide an additional £27,000 to Buckinghamshire for community safety related projects this financial year).

Engaging staff before the go-live went well, with clear, consistent and timely messages about what was about to happen which were well received. This included three full joint staff meetings. There were also a number of working groups set up in advance with a range of operational officers, managers and support services. There was variability in the effectiveness of these with some being highly constructive and productive and others less so.

In order to meet the planned go-live date there were a number of operational elements of the service which were not pre-defined as to how they would work once the new service was operational. Whilst this more gradual approach to the change worked for some staff, it did lead to some inconsistencies in approaches which some found challenging to deal with.

With around 60 miles between the two main office bases, a decision was made early on not to co-locate the teams to keep them close to the areas that they service. This has been largely successful. There is occasional need for officers and a regular need for managers (as they are now all managing teams which sit across both sites) to travel between the offices, however where it is possible to make use of technological alternatives (such as video conference calling) we are doing so.

## 8. Achievement and highlights

The Service is focused on protecting vulnerable consumers and has carried out a number of thorough investigations into fraud, money laundering, safety issues, animal welfare, counterfeiting and unfair commercial practices. These have led to convictions and courts imposing prison sentences totalling 13 years, unpaid work orders of 550 hours, fines and proceeds of crime being confiscated from perpetrators. Over £200,000 has been returned to victims (where they were identified) in compensation and other money has been confiscated and returned to the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (a proportion of which is then returned to the Service). In one instance the amount lost by the victim (and then returned from the proceeds of crime) was the entire value of the elderly gentleman's life savings. The impact on victims of receiving compensation was recently highlighted by a thank you letter received into the service:

*“On receipt of my latest bank statement I found, much to my surprise I was richer by £10,447.23. Then I saw the word(s) SE CONFISCATION UN and realised the Trading Standards team, due to their hard work had dealt an even more punishing blow to Mr Bxx than the three and a half years imprisonment. You had submitted full details of cases in respect of Mr Bxxx to the hearing dealing with Proceeds of Crime Act and the judge had agreed with your compensation requests.*

*Thank you very much for all you and your team's hard work in this case, I for one am most grateful with the results you achieved.”*

The Service has developed its offer to businesses and now has 83 Primary Authority Partnerships, generating income beyond the original targets in the business case and is developing its services to continue to increase income.

The Joint Service has been identified as an example of best practice for the future organisation and delivery of trading Standards services – LGA report of the future of Trading Standards. The Service has been given a number of awards including: Regulation Delivery Office “One to Watch 2016” for a Better Business for All Partnership; iESE Silver “Remodelling Local Services 2016”; and iESE Silver “Working Together 2016”. BIS (now the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) – Partnership Award 2016, Highly Commended for our Primary Authority Partnership work with Everyone Active to roll out the “Eat out, Eat Well” scheme across their gyms nationally.

## 9. Recommendations

The Service would welcome the Select Committee's suggestions for recommendations leading from this report.

## Case Study 1 – Money Laundering related to Doorstep Cold Calling

In July 2016 at Aylesbury Crown Court, 55-year-old sole company director was found guilty on 17 counts of money laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act and jailed for three and a half years after two elderly Buckinghamshire residents, having been fleeced by cowboy roofers of around £300,000 for work valued at £577 in 2013, thought their fortunes had changed when Trading Standards officers turned up to say they'd recovered the money. But they were fake officers, believed to be part of the same cowboy roofing gang, who then conned the couple out of another £600,000 in 'up-front fees' to get their money back.

The jury were told the defendant allowed £435,000 to be paid into his business account, which was then quickly paid out in cash amounts of between £10,000 and £60,000.

The court heard that Mr Booker told investigating officers he had been asked by a man, to whom his former business supplied lorries for block paving, whether he could 'stick money through your account' for a big tarmac job. Mr Booker agreed to let him for 15% commission - around £46,000 - so long as 'it was all above board', but said there were no receipts and it was always in cash.

In October confiscation proceedings will begin under the proceeds of crime act. We hope that these will enable the victims to receive some compensation.

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE EXAMINER**  
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**MONGOL RALLY: Ex-cop takes on 10,000 mile challenge... in a rubbish car** PAGE 8

**COUPLE'S DOUBLE CASH CON**  
Fake officers try to get more money out of cowboy victims

by Camilla Goodman  
arts@gamespress.com  
of the Bucks Examiner

AN elderly Amersham couple, fleeced by cowboy roofers of about £300,000 for work valued at £577 in 2013, thought their fortunes had changed when Trading Standards officers turned up to say they had recovered the money. But they were fake officers, believed to be part of the same cowboy roofing gang, who then conned the couple out of another £600,000 in 'up-front fees' to get their money back.

It was not long before real officers from Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards working with Thames Valley Police, uncovered a trail that linked £435,000 of the Amersham couple's payments to the account of a company called Construction Connected.

And at Aylesbury Crown Court on Friday July 8, 55-year-old sole company director Gary Andrew Booker was found guilty on 17 counts of money laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act. He was jailed for three and a half years.

The jury were told Mr Booker, who lives in Queens Avenue, Byfleet, Surrey, allowed £435,000 to be paid into his business account, which was then quickly paid out in cash amounts of between £10,000 and £60,000.

The court heard that Mr Booker told investigating officers he had been asked by a man, to whom his former business supplied lorries for block paving, whether he could 'stick money through your account' for a big tarmac job.

Mr Booker agreed to let him for 15 per cent commission - around £46,000 - so long as 'it was all above board', but said there were no receipts and it was always in cash.

Continued on page three

**PARTYING LIKE THEY'RE IN RIO**  
Carnival queens join in with their Amersham Carnival

FOR MORE ON THIS STORY TURN TO PAGE 8

## Bucks Free Press

COWBOY ROOFING SCAM: Elderly couple conned out of £900k



13 Jul 2016 / Andrew Colley, Chief Reporter / @andrew\_bfp



An elderly couple were conned out of £900,000 after being targeted by cowboy roofers on a job which should have cost just a few hundred pounds.

The Amersham residents, fleeced by the builders in 2013 when they handed over £300,000 for work valued at £577, thought their fortunes had changed when Trading Standards offered to help recover the money - but it was just the next part of the elaborate scam.

The officers were fake, believed to be part of the same cowboy roofing gang, who then conned the couple out of another £600,000 in 'up-front fees' to get their money back.

It was not long before real officers from Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, working with Thames Valley Police, uncovered a trail that linked £435,000 of the Amersham couple's payments to the account of a company called Construction Connected.

And at Aylesbury Crown Court on Friday (July 8), 55-year-old sole company director Gary Andrew Booker was found guilty on 17 counts of money laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

## Case Study 2 – Doorstep Cold Calling – Fraudulent Trading

In December 2015 a serial fraudster was jailed for 20 months for fraudulent trading following an investigation by the Service. He cold called his vulnerable elderly victims in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, charging for unnecessary and vastly overpriced work. Tragically one of the victims who was a witness for the prosecution, and a second person who was a suspected victim, died prior to the trial.

At sentencing the Judge described his behaviour as: “despicable offending, preying on the sick and the elderly, carried on over time.” The Judge also acknowledged that it was clear from his record that the defendant had done this before, referencing three other like convictions for fraud and money laundering involving money taken from elderly victims for work not done. The sentence was given to run consecutively to another prison sentence the defendant is currently serving for an unrelated matter.

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Newslette

# Fraudster jailed after conning two elderly victims out of more than £20,000

13:31, 18 DEC 2015 | UPDATED 13:31, 18 DEC 2015 | BY CAMILLA GOODMAN

Malia took £11,750 from the first victim and £8,500 from the second, and then demanded a further £4,000 which was not handed over.

A man who conned two elderly victims out of more than £20,000 by pretending to fix their roofs has been jailed for 20 months.

Following a joint Thames Valley Police and Trading Standards investigation, Grant Melia, aged 35, of Southwood Road, Dunstable, pleaded guilty at Aylesbury Crown Court on December 7 to one count of participating in a fraudulent business as a sole trader.

He was sentenced at the same court on Tuesday (Dec 15).

Between June 23 and June 26, Melia completed work of no value to the roof of a house in Amersham Road, Hazlemere.

In August 2014, Melia did the same to a victim who lived in High Street, Toddington.

He took £11,750 from the first victim and £8,500 from the second, and then demanded a further £4,000, which was not handed over.

Investigating officer PC Matt Spenceley from Aylesbury CID, seconded to Trading Standards, said: "The victims in this case lost most of their life savings to Melia and suffered sleepless nights as a result of the stress caused. Sadly, one of the victims has since died, and is not here to see Melia sentenced.

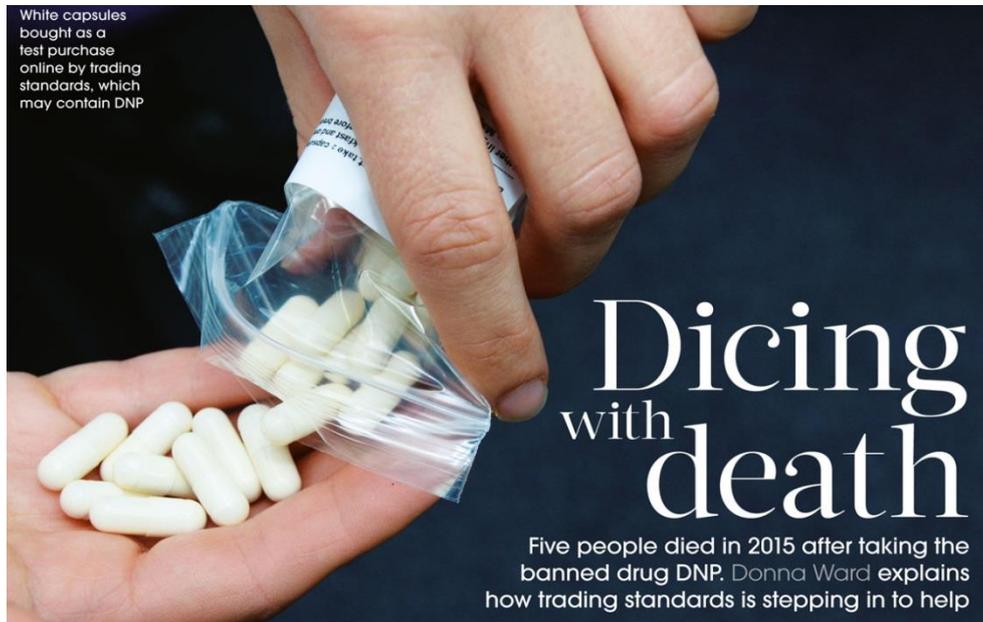
"The offending took place over a sustained period of time, with increasing demands for payment from the victims. This was a pre-planned and relatively sophisticated crime. The judge called this despicable offending, preying on the sick and elderly.

## Most Read in News



Grant Melia, aged 35, of Southwood Road, Dunstable, has been jailed for 20 months after pleading guilty to one count of participating in a fraudulent business as a sole trader.

## Case Study 3 – Campaign to raise awareness of DNP



### A rising number

The Buckinghamshire and Surrey campaign comes after a rise in the number of deaths, nationally, from DNP poisoning in the past five years – up from zero in 2011.

Among them were 28-year-old Sean Cleathero, from High Wycombe, who died in hospital after taking DNP powder in a local gym in October 2012, and Chesham student Sarah Houston, who died a month earlier from a DNP dose while studying at the University of Leeds.

The campaign also follows the death, in 2013, of student Sarmad Alladin, who died from a DNP dose. He attended Surrey's University for the Creative Arts, and was a fitness enthusiast.



## Some examples of the Press coverage of other cases:



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### Man jailed after vulnerable targetted in roofing scam



Money paid to rogue roofers who struck in the Buckingham area found its way into the bank account of Jonathan Barnstable.

And on Tuesday at Aylesbury Crown Court Judge Francis Sheridan jailed him for seven months for his part in a money laundering crime, linked to a roof repairs scam investigated by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards.

His case follows jail sentences by the court in June for Billy Hilden and Colin Packham, found guilty of their parts in laundering money from the scam, and a suspended sentence and supervision order in July for Michelle Edwards who admitted her... [read more](#)

## Video monitor tape saved baby's life after she was choked by 'death trap' cot

19:28, 14 APRIL 2015 | BY RICHARD WHEATSTONE, JOHN JEFFAY

Little Ophelia Conant was left dangling in mid air by her neck - and now the boss of the firm which made her cot has been given a suspended jail term

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15 April 2015 at 1:32pm

### Child's cot deemed unsafe after mother found daughter hanging from neck

Furniture boss Phillip Dickens was given a three-month suspended prison sentence by Aylesbury Crown Court today after his company supplied a cot that trapped a child by the neck.

On behalf of his company, Oxfordshire-based Baumhaus, Mr Dickens had admitted two counts of placing an unsafe product on the market, between January 2010 and July 2013, at an earlier hearing on March 16.

This follows a prosecution by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards.

Judge Karen Holt fined his company £12,000 and suspended Mr Dickens's prison sentence for a year. She also awarded costs of £35,653.94.

The court heard that Buckinghamshire resident Louise Conant bought one of Baumhaus's Nutkin three-drawer cotbeds for her 19-month-old daughter, Ophelia.



## Bucks Free Press

Baby girl from Holmer Green 'left hanging by her head' due to faulty cot supplied by Baumhaus Ltd



# Bucks Free Press

## Conviction for animal carcass dealer at Bourne End farm



7 Sep 2015 / Peter Grant



An animal carcass dealer who failed to tell authorities he had moved his operations from a Bourne End farm has been sentenced to a community order.

David Nutt, from Deanway, Chalfont, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service under a 12 month community order at Wycombe Magistrates Court on September 2, following his conviction for two offences under animal by product legislation on August 5.

Nutt, who ran an animal carcass collection business at Well End Farm, was convicted for failing to notify the appropriate authority that he ceased operations after moving out of the farm in January 2014, to which he pleaded not guilty.

The court heard that he should have told the Animal Health and Laboratory Agency, which keeps all records of businesses supplying food processing plants in the event of contamination and disease outbreak.

He was also convicted for failing to provide documents that prove the traceability of the animals to a trading standards officer when he was under a legal duty to do so. He also pleaded not guilty to this charge.

He was acquitted of a third charge alleging he failed to notify the agency he had started operations on a site in Penn and a fourth charge for failing to produce horse passports, based on the grounds that there was not enough evidence.

Cllr Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, said: "Residents need to have confidence in the safety of the food we eat, which is why our trading standards team takes issues of food safety very seriously."

Nutt was also fined £100 for the breach of a suspended sentence imposed in 2013 for similar offences and was ordered to pay costs of £1,230 and a victim's surcharge of £60.

# Bucks Free Press

## Dodgy motor dealer Paul Anthony Forster jailed for 'clocking' cars and selling them around High Wycombe



Dodgy motor dealer jailed for 'clocking' cars and selling them around High Wycombe

3 Jun 2015



A dodgy car dealer who 'clocked' the mileage on vehicles and peddled them around Wycombe has been jailed.

Paul Anthony Forster, of Fosters Lane, Binfield Heath near Henley, tampered with cars' odometers to make the mileage appear far lower – in one case by nearly 100,000 miles.

He would then advertise the vehicles on sites like Gumtree and Auto Trader, before selling them from locations around the Wycombe area including private houses and outside MOT centres.

One vehicle advertised to unsuspecting buyers with 50,000 miles on the clock had a true odometer reading of almost 142,000.

Judge Sheridan at Aylesbury Crown Court was told that Mr Forster's systematic clocking of used vehicles dated back to 2012.

Martin Phillips, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, said: "Our Trading Standards team do their utmost to protect our residents from rogue traders who are out to rip them off and, what's more, damage legitimate businesses.