
TITLE: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) newsletter

Committee: Operational Services Committee

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[W30]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To consider the Council becoming an official supporter of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) and to consider individual Member sign-up.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Note the benefits of the Council becoming a CAPASP Supporter
- (ii) Note the benefits of Members becoming a CAPASP supporter and details of how to sign up individually
- (iii) Agree for the Council to become an official supporter of CAPASP

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 CAPASP, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) is a county-wide partnership of public, private and voluntary sector organisations committed to taking a stand against scams. It was launched in December 2018 and aims to make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough a scam-free county. East Cambs Community Safety Partnership (ECCSP) joined as a Partner and a Member of the Board in 2018 and has been involved in the Action Planning from the start. Together with the Partnership, and through delivery of Eyes and Ears, the ECCSP want to help residents identify the signs of a potential scam so that they can look out for their neighbours in the community and make East Cambridgeshire a safer place to work and live.

3.2 Scams are fraud and fraud is crime. Being a victim of this crime can have a devastating impact. These crimes are often targeted at people in communities that are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including poverty, isolation, frailty, disability, cognitive impairment, and by the very nature of them being specifically targeted. The internet is a delivery channel for 84% of identity fraud with only 5% of scams being reported.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/OPTIONS

4.1 ECDC and/or individual ECDC Members would become an official 'supporter' of CAPASP.

4.2 A CAPASP supporter is someone who passes on communications from the partnership to others in the local community to help keep people safe.

4.3 The benefits of ECDC becoming an official CAPASP supporter are:

- ECDC would be listed as an official supporter on the CAPASP website.
- ECDC will receive useful information from CAPASP to share with the community. This includes information on the latest scams, or new funding opportunities, for example.
- ECDC will have access to resources such as posters and leaflets. These include general information on scams and details of local support which can also be shared with staff.

4.4 The benefits of individual Council Members becoming official CAPASP supporter are:

- Members can be listed as a Supporter on the CAPASP website.
- Members will receive useful information including newsletter, latest scams from CAPASP directly to their email rather than through a third party. This will allow Members to share directly with their community, friends and family.
- Members will have access to resources such as posters and leaflets. These include general information on scams and details of local support which can also be shared within their Parish.

4.5 Members are encouraged to share the CAPASP newsletter and alerts onwards (and follow as many of the "5 Simple Steps" as they are able) and make their involvement official by registering as a supporter.

4.6 Here are five quick-win steps you could take to increase the resilience of local residents to scams and fraud.

1. Print and display scams awareness posters on parish noticeboards and in key locations such as your village or town hall, schools, churches, pubs and post office.
2. As many councillors as possible to become a 'Friend Against Scams' by completing the 20 minute 'express' online training at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/Cambridgeshire
3. Promote the easy online Friends Against Scams training across your community by including the link on your parish council website, community Facebook page and in your local newsletters.
4. Ideally identify a local SCAMchampion or champions to spread the word on how to spot a scam. This could include having a display of information, running their own

Friends Against Scams training session, holding a drop-in advice session or anything else that you can think of.

5. Distribute scams awareness materials to the most vulnerable members of your community and those who cannot access the internet. Perhaps your Friends Against Scams could hand deliver leaflets, hand out information at coffee mornings or give it to the organisers of local community groups and local churches to share with their members.

- 4.7 CAPASP list supporters on the website and celebrate great things they are doing in their newsletters.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Information about local scams and sources of support can make a real positive impact on people. There will also be an opportunity as a supporter to celebrate events and awareness raising the CAPASP website and other social media therefore it is recommended that the Council becomes a supporter of CAPASC for the reasons outlined at 4.3 and that individual Members consider signing up as supporters for the reasons outlined at 4.4.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Signing up as a CAPASP supporter is free of charge.

- 6.2 No CIA/EIA required

7.0 APPENDICES

- 7.1 'Friend Against Scams' 20 minute 'express' online training
www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/Cambridgeshire

Background Documents

Location

Room
F008, The
Grange

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