

CHARTER AGAINST SCAMS

Being scammed or targeted by fraud can have a devastating impact on some of the most vulnerable people on the Isle of Wight.

We believe the Isle of Wight can provide a united front against scams and make itself a hostile county to scammers.

1 RAISING AWARENESS AND DESTIGMATISING SCAMS

We will:

- improve public awareness of scams and fraud and increase knowledge about the steps people can take to protect themselves;
- remove stigma and embarrassment about being a victim of scams and ensure those victims are supported as victims of other crimes;
- share consistent messaging to the public and media.

2 PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

We will:

- increase the protection everyone, and especially vulnerable people, have against scams and fraud;
- take steps to make it more difficult for people to be targeted by scammers;
- introduce stronger barriers and safeguards on the mechanisms used by perpetrators to reach their victims.

3 IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING

We will:

- improve the identification of victims of scams and fraud and ensure they are offered appropriate support and access to justice;
- introduce consistent definitions and recording of scams to aid understanding of the true scale of their impact;
- develop improved joint-working and referral pathways between organisations and common support pathways for victims.

4 ENFORCEMENT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RESTORATION

We will:

- ensure appropriate remedies and ongoing support is provided to victims of scams, including appropriate financial support to those who have lost money;
- seek to prosecute perpetrators and achieve justice for victims;
- enforce effective punishments and deterrents against perpetrators, including cancelling of contracts, fines and seizing of assets;
- seek to restore a sense of wellbeing and confidence to victims.