

**Norfolk County Council Trading Standards
Scams Awareness Month February 2012**

Mass marketed scams are a problem in the UK. They take the form of bogus and fraudulent offers sent by post, telephone or email.

Fake lottery and prize draw wins, Online Dating, PC Support, bogus psychic predictions, get-rich-quick investment cons and 'miracle' health cures are just some of the tricks used by scammers.

Nearly half of the UK adult population has been targeted by a scam. More than three million adults – one in 15 people – fall victim to scams, losing a total of £3.5 billion every year. Scams are often targeted specifically at vulnerable or disadvantaged consumers, such as those already in debt.

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards are holding scams surgeries during February at various locations throughout Norfolk. The surgeries are an opportunity for people to talk to Trading Standards about scams, learn more about how they can protect themselves and others from common scams or drop in to discuss scams they have received.

Our Top Tips

- If it sounds too good to be true, it's probably a scam!
- Don't send money upfront because your name will go on a "suckers list" and you'll be bombarded with more scams.
- Don't give personal or bank details to anyone unless you've checked them out.
- Pass on warnings. Tell your friends and family if you discover a scam.
- Take extra care with documents and paperwork - shred anything with your personal details on it.
- For further advice contact Consumer Direct on **08454 04 05 06** or visit **www.direct.gov.uk/consumer**
- Sign up to Norfolk County Council Trading Standards Scam Alert system at **www.norfolk.gov.uk/scams**

Scams Surgeries

Venue	Date
Norwich and West Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau St Vedast House 5 - 7 St Vedast Street Norwich NR1 1BT.	Wednesday 1 February 12:00 - 4pm

<p>Co-op Store Mere Street Diss</p>	<p>Friday 3 February 9:30 – 11:30</p>
<p>West Norfolk Council Information Centre Kings Court Chapel Street King's Lynn PE30 1EX</p>	<p>Monday 6 February 10:00 – 12:30pm</p>
<p>Gt Yarmouth Library Tolhouse Street Great Yarmouth NR30 2SH</p>	<p>Thursday 9 February 10:00 – 12:30pm</p>
<p>North Norfolk Information Centre Louden Road, Cromer NR27 9EF</p>	<p>Friday 10 February 10:30 – 2:00pm</p>
<p>Roundwell Medical Practice Longwater Lane Costessey</p>	<p>Monday 13 February 10:30 – 12:30pm</p>
<p>Loddon Country Market The Hollies High Street Loddon</p>	<p>Tuesday 14 February 9.15 – 10.45am</p>
<p>Co-op Store High Street Watton</p>	<p>Wednesday 15 February 9:30 – 11:30am</p>
<p>The Millennium Library The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW</p>	<p>Saturday 18 February 10:00 – 12:30pm</p>
<p>Hanover Gardens Cuckoofield Lane Mulbarton</p>	<p>Monday 20 February 10.30 – 11.30am</p>
<p>Online Surgery visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/scams for more information</p>	<p>Tuesday 21 February 12:30 – 4:30pm</p>

<p>Acle Children's Centre/Library Bridewell Lane Acle NR13 3RA</p>	<p>Thursday 23 February 9:30 – 11:30am</p>
<p>Upwell Village Hall 6 New Road Upwell Wisbech PE14 9AB</p>	<p>Friday 24 February 2:00 – 4pm</p>
<p>Herbie's Community Drop In Centre The Salvation Army Tolhouse Street Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 2SQ</p>	<p>Monday 27 February 9:30 – 11:30am</p>
<p>The Millennium Library The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW</p>	<p>Tuesday 28 February 10:00 - 2pm</p>



Norfolk County Council
at your service