

June 17, 2011

Benefit cheat given curfew

A benefit cheat has been given a six month community order and a three month curfew after admitting six counts of benefit fraud at Hinckley Magistrates Court on June 10.

Melanie Ann Preston of Red Hill Avenue, Narborough, was told she must wear an electronic tag and stay in from 8pm – 6am after telling the court she could not do community work while pregnant.

She was also ordered to pay £100 legal costs.

The 41-year-old failed to declare monthly earnings from her father's company which led to her falsely claiming £13,850 in housing and council tax benefit from 2004 – 2009.

Councillor John Hudson, portfolio holder for finance and efficiency at Blaby District Council said: "The Council is committed to ensuring that everyone who is entitled to benefits receives them. However, we will take firm action against anyone found to have deliberately withheld information relevant to their claim."

The public can report benefit fraud by calling the Council's confidential hotline on 0116 272 7733 or by visiting www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud.