

Wednesday 15 November 2017

Attendees

- Will Chakawhata Chair – WC
- Beth Davies Communications and Engagement Officer, OPCC – BD
- Joe Deeprise CMU Supervisor - JD
- Cheryl Flude Deputy Justices' Clerk, HMCTS – CF
- Inspector Lee Fryatt Hampshire Police – LF
- Kate Greaves Courts Manager and Deputy Justice Clerk, North Devon & Dorset, National Probation Service – KG
- Mark Hill Youth Offending Services – MH
- Louise Holmes Crown Prosecution Service – LH
- Steve Houston Youth Justice, Dorset Police – SH
- Jenny Howard Adult Out of Court Disposals Manager – JH
- Jackie Joyce Youth OoCD Co-ordinator, Dorset Police – JJ
- Pete Little Director of Intelligence – PL
- Chrissie Loader CMCU Supervisor – CL
- Jean Morgan Adult OoCD Officer – JM
- Tom Smith Governance Advisor, OPCC – TS
- Colin Weston Dorset Bench Chairman – CW

Apologies

- Steve Bell Youth Offending Service
- Billy Bulloch Deputy Poole South Police Station
- Tim Cole Senior District Crown Prosecutor, CPS
- Kim Goodenough Performance, Dorset Police
- Paul Kessell Director of Investigations, Dorset Police
- Tim Smith HMCTS
- Yvonne Surman Youth Services, Dorset Police
- Dave Web Manager, Youth Offending Services

Summary of Meeting

Introductions were made, members made their declarations of Interest and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Actions were reviewed and updates provided. PL gave an update on performance and highlighted that, for Dorset Police, It was noted that 'disposal by charge' had remained static at 50% and in the same period, there had been a slight decline in non-charge outcomes from just under 40% to 33.3%. The local authority figures were as follow; Bridport 45%;

North Dorset 56%; Purbeck 52%; Bournemouth East 24%; and Poole South 27%. Based on these figures LF noted the proximity to the custody block is a factor which drives operational decision making meaning OoCD's are more likely to be used in rural areas. PL confirmed he had asked the performance team to look into whether there are any particular trends

A selection of Adult and Youth OoCD's were reviewed. Fourteen Adult Cautions were reviewed and given the following categories; six at category 1 – appropriate use and consistent with Dorset Police policies, the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Victim Code; four at category 2 - appropriate use with observations from the Panel; three at category 3 - inappropriate use of out of court disposal; and one at category 4 - panel fails to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made. In addition six youth cases were reviewed, all of which fell into category 1. The category 4 case it was not agreed whether the use of a caution was appropriate for the type of offence committed, however this was a complex case with many contributing factors therefore the panel were not able to reach a unanimous decision. Of the three category 3 cases, all of which were charges of ABH, one was deemed inappropriate as the victim was not informed about compensation available if progressed via another route. Another was deemed inappropriate because it was an adult who had offended against a child and the final because the offence was DA related and there was further risk to the victim. Of the four category 2 cases the observations included; a DA case with male victim and male offended which was question if it would have been handled differently if the victim were female; a community resolution where the panel felt more consideration could have been given to an adult caution; an incorrect offence which meant the inappropriate use of a PND; and for not using a caution on a subsequent offence.

A comparison was made between the Dorset's Out of Court Disposal Panel and its Hampshire equivalent and it was noted that these were similar in nature. Improvements were suggested which included reviewing more detailed case summaries and more contentious cases. The theme for the next meeting was agreed as Harassment. It was agreed that an annual report covering the findings of the panel would be produced and provided at the next meeting for discussion and approval. The meeting dates for 2018 were confirmed as Wednesday 21 February, Wednesday 23 May, Wednesday 12 September and Wednesday 12 December, with the next meeting being Wednesday 21 February.