



## Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel



Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Attendees

- Will Chakawhata Chair
- Steve Bartlett - SB CMU Supervisor
- CI Richard Bell - RB Alliance Prevention Department
- Callum Bremner - CB Dorset Bench
- William Gibbons - WG Independent Member
- Kim Goodenough - KG Performance, Dorset Police
- Mark Hill – MH Youth Offending Services
- Jenny Howard - JH Adult Out of Court Disposals Manager
- Jackie Joyce - JJ Youth OoCD Co-ordinator, Dorset Police
- Sgt Steve Lemon -SL Youth OoCD, Dorset Police
- Kate Lewis - KL District Crown Prosecutor, West Wessex Magistrates Court Team
- Anastasia Melnikova -AM OoCD Officer
- Jean Morgan – JM Adult OoCD Officer
- Tom Smith – TS Scrutiny Manager, OPCC
- Jackie Wilson - JW Restorative Justice

### Apologies

- Tim Cole Senior District Crown Prosecutor, CPS
- Cheryl Flude Deputy Justices' Clerk, HMCTS
- Insp Lee Fryatt Hants Police
- Kate Greaves Senior Probation Officer, Dorset Local Delivery Unit,  
National Probation Service
- Supt Paul Kessell Director of Intelligence
- Yvonne Surman Youth Services Manager, Community Safety
- Dave Webb Manager, Youth Offending Services

### Summary of Meeting

Panel members and attendees introduced themselves and apologies were noted. The minutes were agreed and the actions were reviewed and updates provided.

KG gave an update on performance and highlighted that, for Dorset Police, the majority of out of court disposals for this quarter are Adult Cautions or Community Resolutions. The breakdown showed that Bridport 48.3% and Purbeck 44.7% accounted for most of the OoCDs, as compared with the Force average of 34.7%.

A selection of Adult and Youth cases were reviewed based on the chosen theme of assault and knife crime. Fifteen Adult cases were reviewed and given the following categories; eleven were agreed by

the Panel at category 1 – appropriate use and consistent with Dorset Police policies, the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Victim Code; one was agreed at category 2 - appropriate use with observations from the Panel; two were agreed at category 3 - inappropriate use of out of court disposal; in one case the Panel were unable to reach agreement so this was agreed as a Category 4. In addition five youth cases were reviewed, all of which were agreed to be category 1 - appropriate.

In the one category 2 case, the Panel felt consideration should have been given to No Further Action by the police as the victim in this case had a previous conviction for assault. The decision to apply a Caution in this case was based on the risk assessment as it was a domestic situation.

For one of the category 3 cases, under the national caution guidelines, a caution for knife possession can be given for cases such as this but the reasons must be fully explained. In this case, this had not happened. Furthermore the caution had been wrongly authorised by a sergeant who had acted outside of these authority limits.

For the second category 3 case, there were two separate offences; there was therefore a victim of an assault, plus a victim or victims of a section 4 Public Order offence; statements were taken but no victim view had been provided.

In the category 4 case which concerned an assault, the Panel were unable to agree as it was felt that a conditional caution with a possible anger management course might have been a more appropriate remedy than two Adult Cautions received.

The panel discussed a summary report on “Dummy” Victim Awareness Course which had been arranged in June 2018 and which some members had attended.

The updated panel Terms of Reference were noted.

The theme for the next meeting was agreed as a mix of two themes – sexual offences (including indecent images and sexting) and Public Order section 4 and 4A (including Youth Child and Parent violence and DA cases).

Reference was made to the deferred prosecution pilot being trialled by Devon and Cornwall, Durham and W Midlands Forces.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12 December 2018.