



## Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel



Wednesday 21 February 2018

### Attendees

- Will Chakawhata Chair – WC
- Beth Davies Communications and Engagement Officer, OPCC – BD
- Cheryl Flude Deputy Justices' Clerk, HMCTS – CF
- Inspector Lee Fryatt Hampshire Police – LF
- Sarah Gillion – SG Force lead on stalking and harassment - SG
- Kim Goodenough Performance, Dorset Police - KG
- 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
- Paul Kessell Director of Intelligence - PK
- Marion Mackay Dorset Bench - MM
- Anastasia Melkinova OoCD Officer - AM
- Jean Morgan Adult OoCD Officer - JM
- Tom Smith Governance Advisor, OPCC – TS

### Apologies

- Tim Cole Senior District Crown Prosecutor, CPS
- Dave Web Manager, Youth Offending Services

### Summary of Meeting

Introductions were made. TS confirmed that as agreed with the Chair, he had asked Panel members to complete and return their declarations of interest. It was confirmed that all Panel members had done so. Panel members were asked to notify any changes to their interests going forward.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Actions were reviewed and updates provided.

PK gave an update on performance and highlighted that, for Dorset Police, the majority of OoCDs issued in the quarter were Adult Cautions and Community Resolutions. The split according to local authority was as follows: Bridport 50.5%; Purbeck 49.5%; Bournemouth Central 33.5%; and Poole North 30.3%.

A selection of Adult and Youth cases were reviewed based on the chosen theme of harassment cases. Fifteen Adult cases were reviewed and given the following categories; nine 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 at category 2 - appropriate use with observations from the Panel; four 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 five youth cases were reviewed, all of which were agreed to be category 1.

For the category 4 case, the Panel were unable to agree whether the use of an adult caution was appropriate for the type of offence committed and felt that a conditional caution might have been more appropriate had the appropriate diversions been in place.

Of the four category 3 cases: in one of the cases, a conditional caution was felt to have been more appropriate than an AC; in a further case the Panel felt this to be more a case of stalking than harassment without violence and the application of an AC was therefore felt inappropriate. In the third category 3 case, the offender was an alcoholic and had previously disregarded police instructions and it was not felt that the AC issued would achieve the desired solution. In the final case it was felt that the offence was DA related and there was potential further risk to the victim.

For the category 2 case it was felt that this was more akin to stalking than harassment and therefore represented a slightly higher risk to the victim.

The Panel considered the Chair's Annual Report 2017 which had been prepared for the first time to summarise the Panel's activity over the previous 12 months.

The Chair outlined the governance improvements which had been agreed for future meetings with the OPCC taking over the issuing of the agenda and papers to give greater independence from the Force. Additionally the Chair referred to discussions with the PCC regarding the need to recruit additional independent members to join the Panel. It would be helpful if they have a pre-existing knowledge of the CJS. The Chair asked Panel members to let him and TS know if they are aware of any candidates who would be suitable.

The theme for the next meeting was agreed as Drugs offences. The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 23 May.