



Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel



Wednesday 6th March 2019

Attendees

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| • Will Chakawhata | Chair |
| • Conrad Astley – CA | Comms & Engagement Officer, OPCC |
| • Joe Deeprise – JD | CMU Supervisor |
| • Dan Easterbrook – DE | Independent Member |
| • Denize Flynn – DF | Victim Support Charity |
| • William Gibbons – WG | Independent Member |
| • Anna Giles – AG | Governance Officer, OPCC |
| • Kate Greaves – KG | Senior Probation Officer, Court and Assessment Team |
| • Mark Hill – MH | Youth Offending Services |
| • Jenny Howard – JH | Adult Out of Court Disposals Manager |
| • Jackie Joyce – JJ | Youth OoCD Co-ordinator, Dorset Police |
| • Anastasia Melnikova – AM | OoCD Officer |
| • Sue Mitchell – SM | Deputy Chair, Dorset Bench |
| • Jane Moir – JM | Independent Member |
| • DCI Neil Phillips – NP | Performance DCI (<i>Item 2 only</i>) |
| • Sgt Kerry Shelley – KS | Youth Out of Court Disposals Sergeant |
| • Tom Smith – TS | Scrutiny Manager, OPCC |
| • Lee Turner – LT | Crown Prosecution Service |
| • Jacqui Wilson – JW | Restorative Dorset |

Apologies

- Martyn Underhill
- Cheryl Flude
- Stuart Baker
- Kate Lewis

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.

NP provided the Panel with an update on performance for quarter three, stating 683 OoCDs had been issued over this period. The average percentage of OoCDs issued out of total disposals was 31.5%. The corresponding figures for the rural areas were: Bridport 46.2%, Dorchester 41.8%, East Dorset 42.1%, North Dorset 41.7% and Purbeck 39.5%. By comparison, the figures for the conurbations were Bournemouth Central 27%, Bournemouth East 26.5%, Bournemouth North 24.9%, Poole 29.7% and Weymouth and Portland 30.0%. The panel expressed concerns around the difference between rural and conurbation areas and requested further information on this. The force agreed to provide this.

A selection of Adult and Youth cases were reviewed based on the chosen theme of theft. Fifteen Adult cases were reviewed and given the following categories: 10 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; four were agreed at category 3 - inappropriate use of out of court disposal. In addition, five Youth cases were reviewed, four were agreed as category 1 – appropriate use and consistent with Dorset Police policies, the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Victim Code and one was agreed at category 2 - appropriate use with observations from the Panel.

The category 2 Adult case related to a community resolution and the Panel questioned whether the same leniency would have been shown had the offender not been in a position to pay for the stolen item(s). It was also noted that this was outside of Force policy, however CPS agreed with this approach. The observations regarding the category 2 Youth case were around safeguarding concerns as a guardian had been present at the time of the offence.

Of the category 3 cases, one was deemed inappropriate due to the pattern of behaviour displayed and the breach of trust involved in the offence. Another was considered inappropriate due to the offender's previous convictions for similar offences. The third was deemed inappropriate due to the timescales for OoCD not being adhered to, in that it was offered after the compliance window had lapsed. The final category 3 case was deemed inappropriate as the victims' views had not been sought, but rather the company on the premises where the theft had occurred. The Panel were concerned around the motives of the company and the safeguarding of the victims.

The Panel discussed its current format and agreed to reduce the amount of Adult cases reviewed to 10 to allow for more in-depth discussion. The Panel were provided with an updated terms of reference which was agreed.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 19th June.