

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

### Attendees

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Will Chakawhata     | Chair – WC                         |
| • Callum Bremner      | Dorset Justices' Lead – CB         |
| • William Gibbons     | Independent Member – WG            |
| • Anna Giles          | Governance Officer, OPCC – AG      |
| • Jenny Howard        | CMU Supervisor, Dorset Police – JH |
| • Jackie Joyce        | Youth OoCD Co-ordinator – JJ       |
| • Paul Kessell        | Director of Intelligence – PK      |
| • Tara Lock           | Drug Link – TL                     |
| • Anastasia Melnikova | OoCD Officer - AM                  |
| • Glen Mansfield      | Youth Offending Service – GM       |
| • Tom Smith           | Governance Advisor, OPCC – TS      |
| • Jackie Wilson       | Restorative Dorset – JW            |

### Apologies

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Cheryl Flude    | Deputy Justices' Clerk, HMCTS |
| • Insp Lee Fryatt | Hants Police                  |
| • Louise Holmes   | Crown Prosecution Service     |
| • Steve Houston   | Youth Justice, Dorset Police  |
| • Jean Morgan     | Adult OoCD Officer            |
| • Yvonne Surman   | Youth Services, Dorset Police |

### Summary of Meeting

Introductions were made and apologies were noted. The minutes were agreed and the actions were reviewed and updates provided.

PK 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 split according to local authority was as follows: Bridport 50.6%; Purbeck 35.7%; Bournemouth Central 26.2%; and Poole North 30%.

The panel were provided with some background into the use of out of court disposals for drug offences; this included information on the current escalatory framework (a three tier system) for Cannabis possession and the proposed changes to this (a two tier system). The panel were asked to give their opinion on the proposed changes. The panel unanimously agreed with the changes. They believed this would support offenders better and allow for officer discretion.

A selection of Adult and Youth cases were reviewed based on the chosen theme of drug offences. 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; two were agreed at category 2 - appropriate use with observations from the Panel; and two were agreed at category 3 - inappropriate use of out of court disposal. In addition five youth cases were reviewed, four of which were agreed to be category 1 and one of which was not dealt with by police and therefore no decision was required by the panel.

Of the two category 2 cases, for one it was noted that this was the second use of a Cannabis Warning which is in breach of the escalatory framework. For the other, the panel felt the officers should give further consideration to the risk of Drug Driving.

Of the two category 3 cases, for one the panel decided that the use of out of court disposal was inappropriate due to concerns around intent to supply and an additional offence of having an offensive weapon; it was noted that the panel would have liked further investigation on this matter. The second category 3 case referred to an offender who was subject to a conditional discharge by the courts, the panel noted that while on a conditional discharge any further offending should trigger a court appearance.

The panel considered a covering paper together with the report by Transforming Justice. It was noted that the report showed a decline in the use of out of court disposals nationally and in turn the ratio of out of court disposals to convictions. It was also noted that the changes in the system, the move towards a two tier approach, was in response to the inefficiencies of the current process and the panel believed that the two tier system would allow for victims views to be more widely considered.

The theme for the next meeting was agreed as Assault and Knife Crime. The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 12 September 2018.