



Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 17th May 2017

Attendees:

- Will Chakawata
- Gary Smart-Stead
- Colin Pipe
- Helen Fletcher
- Jenny Howard
- Tom Smith
- Peter Little
- Steve Houston
- Steve Bell
- Jackie Joyce
- Tim Cole
- Colin Weston
- Nancy Playle
- Kate Greaves
- Claire Williams
- Steve Houston
- Chairperson - WC
- Admin Services Officer, Dorset Police (Minutes)
- Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, - CW
- Restorative Justice Project Manager, Office of the PCC – HF
- CMU Supervisor
- Governance Advisor, Office of the PCC - TS
- Performance Det Chief Inspector- PL
- Observer pending Youth Justice Sergeant role SH
- Youth Offending Service – SB
- Youth OoCD Co-ordinator, Dorset Police - JJ
- Senior District Crown Prosecutor, CPS - TC
- Dorset Bench Chairman CW
- OoCD Detective Sergeant - NP
- Probation Service KG
- Observer (Dorset police) CW
- Observer – pending Youth Justice Sergeant role SH

Apologies:

- Insp Lee Fryatt
- Cheryl Flude
- Peter Corbet
- Yvonne Surman
- Billy Bulloch
- Kim Goodenough
- Hants police
- Deputy Justices' Clerk, HMCTS
- Supervisor, Crime Management Unit
- Youth Services
- Deputy Poole South Police Station
- Performance Temp Det Inspector

About the Panel

Dorset Police Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel has been set up to independently scrutinise the use of Out of Court Disposals (OoCD's) in response to national recommendations following concerns about appropriate use. The role of the Panel is to ensure that the use of OoCD's is appropriate and proportionate, consistent with national and local policy and consider the victims' wishes where appropriate. The Panel aims to bring transparency to the use of OoCD's in order to increase understanding and confidence in their use. The Panel also provides a platform to monitor trends in OoCD's e.g. to see if there is an increase or decrease in particular disposal types applied or a change in the nature of associated offences. Findings of the Panel, together with responses to recommendations made, will be reported publicly to support this aim.

How the Panel Operates

The panel review and discuss case files as a group and conclude one of four categories:

1. **Appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines;**
2. **Appropriate with observations from the Panel;**
3. **Inappropriate use of out of court disposal;**
4. **Panel fails to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made.**

Decisions reached by the Panel on each case are recorded, together with observations and recommendations to inform changes in policy or practice. The Panel also consider performance information regarding use of out of court disposals, and changes to legislation and policy.

Findings from the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel will be considered by the Dorset Criminal Justice Board.

Case Selection Process

This Scrutiny Panel looked at cases involving shoplifting. The offences were all committed during the quarter (Oct – Dec 2016) whereby the offender had been dealt with by receiving an out of court disposal. The 20 cases were picked at random by DS Playle.

Panel Findings

- 20 were randomly selected by DS 2068 Playle, and taken to the Panel for scrutiny. Of the cases reviewed.
- 12 were considered appropriate
- 3 were considered appropriate with observations
- 5 were considered inappropriate
- 0 the panel failed to agree on the appropriateness

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ref	Disposal	Offence Type	Panel Decision
	12/17	Community Resolution	Shoplifting	1
	13/17	Community Resolution Community Resolution	Shoplifting Bilking 6 months later	1 3
	14/17	Community Resolution	Shoplifting	3
	15/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	3
	16/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	2
	17/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	1
	18/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	1
	19/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	3
	20/17	Community Resolution	Shoplifting	1
	21/17	Community Resolution	Shoplifting	1
	22/17	Community Resolution Community Resolution	Shoplifting Theft 3 months later	2 3
	23/17	Community Resolution	Shoplifting	1
	24/17	Adult Simple Caution	Shoplifting	1
	25/17	Youth Restorative Disposal	Shoplifting	1
	26/17	Youth Restorative Disposal	Shoplifting	1
	27/17	Youth Conditional Caution	Shoplifting	1
	28/17	Youth Restorative Disposal	Shoplifting	2
	29/17	Youth Caution	Shoplifting	1

Summary of the cases scrutinised:

Simple Caution = 6

Community Resolution = 9

Youth Caution = 1

Youth Conditional Caution = 1

Youth Restorative Disposal = 3

Recommendations and Observations:

- The Panel requested clarification around what the different Youth Disposals mean .
- HF requested that a decision making matrix contained within the Terms of Reference be incorporated into the case summaries to assist panel members reaching their decisions.
- SB requested that the Youth Cases be heard first at the next scrutiny panel
- PL will obtain data for the next meeting with a split between adult and youth cases and provide a dataset detailing repeat offending rates against OoCD. The data will also include sectional trends over the last 2 – 3 years

It was agreed that the theme for the next meeting would be a mixture of Sexual Offences / Harassment & Malicious Communications

10 to 15 Adult cases for discussion

5 Youth cases for discussion

Next Scrutiny Panel Wednesday 16th August 2017