



## Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020



### Attendees

William Gibbons – WG  
Dan Easterbrook – DE  
Stephen Thorne – ST  
Isobel Why - IW  
Nicola Denny - ND  
Cheryl Flude – CF  
Kate Greaves - KG  
Ian Humphreys – IH  
Charles Nightingale - CN  
Jacqui Wilson - JW

Chair  
Independent Member  
Independent Member  
Independent member  
Youth Offending Services  
Deputy Justice’s Clerk, HMCTS  
National Probation Service  
Youth Panel Chair  
Crown Prosecution Service  
Restorative Dorset

Will Chakawhata - WC

former Panel Chair

### Dorset Police:

Nicki Philp - NP  
Jenny Howard - JH  
Jackie Joyce - JJ  
Kerry Shelley –KS

Criminal Justice Unit Manager, Dorset Police  
Adult Out of Court Disposals Manager  
Youth OoCD Co-ordinator  
Youth OoCD Sergeant

### OPCC

Adam Harrold – AH  
Tom Smith - TS  
Julia Harrison – JMH

Director of Operations, OPCC  
Scrutiny Manager, OPCC  
PA to SMT, OPCC

### Apologies

Yvonne Surman  
Callum Bremner -CB  
Mark Hill – MH  
Sue Mitchell – SM  
Jan Steadman

Youth Services Manager, Dorset Police  
Chair, Dorset Bench  
Youth Offending Services  
Deputy Chair, Dorset Bench  
Director Criminal Justice, Dorset Police

## Summary of Meeting

Panel members and attendees introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

The Panel considered the update on performance for quarter three.

A paper on use of OoCDs across the force was considered; as part of this the team had undertaken a dip sample review of crimes with a No Further Action (NFA) outcome in the second quarter 2019. From a detailed review by the Performance Team of a dip sample of 50 disposals, there were only two occurrences where it was felt the police should possibly have considered an OoCD.

The minutes were agreed and the actions were reviewed and updates provided.

A paper was considered which addressed the view that OoCDs are unlikely to be appropriate for assaults against emergency workers and a more robust stance should be taken when dealing with offenders.

Reference was made to a new Joint Working Agreement signed on behalf of the emergency services aimed at ensuring more effective investigation and prosecution of cases where emergency workers are victims of crime. Reference was also made to the 8 Point Plan to deal with assaults against emergency workers.

As agreed at the last meeting, a selection of Adult and Youth cases selected from the more rural areas with typically a higher volume of OoCDs were reviewed. Five youth cases were reviewed and all were agreed as category 1 – appropriate use and consistent with Dorset Police policies, the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Victim Code.

Ten adult cases were reviewed: 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 case was agreed at category 3 - inappropriate use of out of court disposal.

The observations regarding the category 3 adult case were that the disposal decision was inappropriate and the CPS should have been consulted in view of the severity of the offence and the risk to other potential victims.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020.