



Dorset Police Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel



Wednesday 17th June 2020

William Gibbons –WG
Stephen Thorne – ST
Dan Easterbrook - DE
Isobel Why - IW

Independent Chair
Independent member
Independent member
Independent member

Martin Arthur - MA
Kate Greaves - KG
David Webb - DW
Charles Nightingale - CN
Ian Humphreys – IH

Deputy Chairman of Dorset Bench & Family Panel
National Probation Service
Youth Offending Services
Crown Prosecution Service
Youth Panel Chair

Dorset Police

Nicki Philp - NP
Jenny Howard - JH
Jackie Joyce - JJ
Yvette Bessant – YB

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

OPCC

Tom Smith - TS
Adam Harrold – AH
Conrad Astley – CA
Julia Harrison – JMH

Scrutiny Manager, OPCC
Director of Operations, OPCC
Communications & Engagement Officer
PA to SMT, OPCC

Apologies

Yvonne Surman
Callum Bremner
Jan Steadman
Sue Mitchell
Kerry Shelley
Jacqui Wilson

Youth Services Manager, Dorset Police
Chair, Dorset Bench
Director Criminal Justice, Dorset Police
Deputy Chair, Dorset Bench
Youth OoCD Sergeant
Restorative Dorset

Summary of Meeting

Panel members and attendees introduced themselves and apologies were noted. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The actions were reviewed and updates provided.

The panel considered the update on performance for Quarter 4 and agreed that it would be more helpful to have the figures broken down into policing areas rather than the old council areas.

At the request of the PCC, an extraordinary scrutiny regarding the issue of Covid related fixed penalty notices (FPNs) was undertaken by the Director of Operations of the OPCC. The panel reviewed the paper that was presented. Out of 12 cases reviewed, only two were deemed as inappropriate; one was because the individual was under 18. FPNs can only be issued to adults and this was resolved internally by the force before it came to scrutiny.

Following discussion relating to the other case that was considered inappropriate for an FPN, the panel disagreed and deemed that it was appropriate to issue the FPN. This decision would be fed back to the appropriate personnel.

A selection of 10 Adult cases were reviewed by the panel relating to Covid 19 related crimes where FPNs were issued. All of the Adult cases were considered as appropriate for OoCD.

Five Youth cases were reviewed in relation to incidents occurring in the home where the police attended.

Three of the Youth cases were considered appropriate for OoCD, with two being dealt with by Restorative Justice and one being appropriate for a Youth Conditional Caution. However, this case was scored a 2 with observations from the panel.

The panel considered that one of the cases, involving an assault on a police officer, was inappropriate and should have proceeded to court, rather than a Youth Conditional Caution being issued.

The panel agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Constable, via the PCC, congratulating and commending the force for the way they had handled the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices during the crisis in a tactful and patient manner, in respect of the cases that were reviewed.

It was confirmed that, for the next dip sample theme, it would be appropriate to consider cases involving domestic abuse in adults (as agreed at the March meeting) and offences involving violence towards parents for youths. YOS are looking to see if there has been a spike during lockdown.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 9 September 2020.