



## Report to Police and Crime Commissioners on Norfolk and Suffolk's Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

**Meeting date:** 4 June 2026

### About the Panel

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary's Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel has been set up to independently scrutinise the use of Out of Court Disposals in response to national recommendations, following concerns about their appropriate use.

The role of the panel is to ensure that the use of Out of Court Disposals is appropriate and proportionate, consistent with national and local policy, and considers the victims' wishes where appropriate.

The panel membership comprises a range of criminal justice services professionals including representatives from the police, Criminal Justice Service, Youth Justice Service, Magistrates and Police and Crime Commissioner offices who aim to bring transparency to the use of Out of Court Disposals to increase public understanding and confidence in their use. Findings of the panel, together with responses to recommendations made, are to be reported publicly by the two Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners to support this aim.

### How the Panel operates

The panel independently review and discuss a selection of anonymised case files that have been resolved by use of an Out of Court Disposal within Norfolk or Suffolk and conclude whether the method of disposal fits one of three categories:

- Appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines
- Appropriate but with comments/observations from the panel
- Inappropriate use of Out of Court Disposal

Decisions reached by the panel on each case file are recorded, together with observations and recommendations, to inform changes of policy or practice. The panel also consider performance information regarding levels and use of Out of Court Disposals, changes to legislation, and policies and practice to support them in their role. The panel cannot endorse, resend or alter individual decisions already made.

## **Panel business**

The panel met on 4 June 2026. 11 panel members were present. The panel discussed:

- Scrutiny of case files
- Rationale and file selection

## **The Panel findings**

Twelve cases were scrutinised: six Norfolk and six Suffolk cases. These cases were selected at random and included both adult (eight) and youth (four) disposals. No individual group of people were specifically selected based solely on characteristics (such as perceived race) on this occasion, however the cases scrutinised represented a wide range of members of our communities.

### **Norfolk cases**

The six Norfolk cases scrutinised by the panel were deemed to have met the evidential standard and were concluded to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines. However further explanation was sought in relation to two cases.

Further discussion took place regarding an Adult Conditional Caution where the condition was for the victim to be financially reimbursed for the damage caused. It was confirmed that the agreed amount was linked to a professional estimate with the invoice on police systems so it could be evidenced as an accurate compensation figure.

Further discussions took place regarding an Adult Community Resolution where the offender had involved children within a theft incident. In view of the low-level value of the items taken, which were subsequently paid for by the offender, it was agreed that the disposal was appropriate.

The panel did however seek confirmation that the appropriate safeguarding procedures were completed for the children involved.

### **Suffolk cases**

The six Suffolk cases scrutinised by the panel were also deemed to have met the evidential standard and were concluded to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines. However further explanation was sought in relation to two cases.

Further discussion took place when it was noticed that a Norfolk service provider was stated on a Suffolk Conditional Caution which could have led to the offender not being eligible for support. It was noted that this could have been an administrative error, and it was noted that the offender also completed a drug offender course as a result of this disposal.

Reference was given to a further administrative error where an Adult Conditional Caution was incorrectly recorded on police systems as a Community Resolution. It was however

confirmed by the panel that the disposal was appropriately and correctly handled by the police as an Adult Conditional Caution.

## Performance data

Data was provided by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the number of Out of Court Disposals for each force for the Period of January 2026 to March 2026. Please see the data broken down by type of Out of Court Disposals for each force below:

### Norfolk Constabulary data

Norfolk Constabulary				
Outcome	January	February	March	Total
Type 2 - Caution Youth	4	8	4	16
Type 3 - Caution Adult	69	45	48	162
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	3	3	3	9
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	46	33	68	147
Type 5 - Offender has died	4	1	2	7
Type 7 - Cannabis/Khat Warning	0	0	1	1
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	199	198	229	626
Type 22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.	22	24	10	56
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>1024</b>

## Suffolk Constabulary data

Suffolk Constabulary				
Outcome	January	February	March	Total
Type 2 - Caution Youth	1	2	3	6
Type 2A - Caution Youth - alternate offence.			2	2
Type 3 - Caution Adult	25	29	25	79
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	2	1	1	4
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	18	41		59
Type 5 - Offender has died	1	1	2	4
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	155	126	158	439
Type 22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.	18	14	25	57
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>650</b>

### Next meeting:

Thursday 10 September 2026.