

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

**Meeting date:** 7 June 2024

### **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 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**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the panel were unable to meet on 7 June 2024 to discuss the cases as per usual practice. However, the papers were subsequently provided to the panel so they could be reviewed individually.

## **The Panel findings**

Eight cases were scrutinised: four Norfolk and four Suffolk. These cases were selected at random by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies and included both adult (five) and youth (three) disposals.

No issues were raised by panel members in relation to these cases.

## Performance data

Data was provided on the number of Out of Court Disposals for each force for the period of January 2024 to March 2024. 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	10	7	4	21
Type 2A - Caution Youth - alternate offence.	0	1	0	1
Type 3 - Caution Adult	73	64	88	225
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	8	3	4	15
Adult Caution - conditional	0	1	2	3
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	10	67	29	106
Type 5 - Offender has died	4	4	1	9
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	200	172	164	536
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>916</b>

### Suffolk Constabulary data

Suffolk Constabulary				
Outcome	January	February	March	Total
Type 2 - Caution Youth	6	10	11	27
Type 2A - Caution Youth - alternate offence.	1	0	0	1
Type 3 - Caution Adult	51	44	63	158
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	2	7	1	10
Adult Caution - conditional	1	1	2	4
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	12	20	23	55
Type 5 - Offender has died	1	2	1	4
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	111	102	126	339
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>598</b>

**Next meeting:**

Thursday 5 September 2024.