



Report to PCCs on Norfolk & Suffolk's Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Meeting Date: Wednesday 8th December 2021

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 Offending Team, Magistrates and PCC 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 with 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 the 8th December 2021. 13 panel members were present with two apologies.

- The panel discussed all actions from the previous scrutiny meeting prior to moving onto the case files.
- Scrutiny of case files.
- Rationale and file selection.

Panel Findings

Eight cases were scrutinised: 4 x Suffolk and 4 x Norfolk cases. Two Norfolk cases were concluded to be appropriate but had comments added by the panel. Decisions for the remaining two Norfolk cases were not made during the meeting but were confirmed to be appropriate outside of the meeting. All four of the Suffolk cases were concluded to be appropriate but two of these had comments added by the panel.

Suffolk Cases

- Two cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines.
- Case Study S2 was found to be appropriate with comments from the panel. The panel asked for confirmation on the action taken against the co-defendants and if a remorseful letter was written by the defendant. A response was provided during the meeting.
- Case study S4 was found to be appropriate with added comments from the panel. The panel asked for confirmation that the defendant had paid for the repairs. Confirmation was provided at the meeting.

Norfolk Cases

- Two cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines with comments from the panel. The remaining two cases were confirmed to be appropriate outside of the meeting.
- Case study N1 was found to be appropriate with comments from the panel. The panel asked for confirmation that the property was returned, as well as the action taken against the co-defendants. A response was provided during the meeting.
- Case Study N2 was found to be appropriate with added comments from the panel. The panel asked what the previous community resolution were in relation to. The panel requested that feedback was provided to the arresting officer for the use of community resolution and possibility of a Challenge for Change option with the Youth Offending Team.

Next Meeting Date:

- Tuesday 8th March 2022