

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

### **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 aims to bring transparency to the use of out of court disposals in order to increase 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 review and discuss case files as a group and conclude one of three categories:

- Appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines;
- Appropriate with 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.

### **Report**

The panel met on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Twelve panel members were present with three apologies.

### **Panel Business**

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

The panel had requested a completely random selection of cases with no specific theme disposed of by means of out of court disposal in Suffolk and Norfolk for this meeting.

### **Panel Findings**

12 cases were scrutinised: 6 x Suffolk and 6 x Norfolk cases.

5x Suffolk cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines; 1x Suffolk case was found to be an inappropriate use of an out of court disposal.

5x Norfolk cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines; 1x Norfolk case was found to be an inappropriate use of an out of court disposal.

### **Suffolk**

- 5 cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines.
- Case Study S5 was found to be an inappropriate use of an out of court disposal on the basis that a youth caution was issued but a youth conditional caution would have been the correct disposal as this would have enabled intervention by the Youth Offending Service.

### **Norfolk**

- 5 cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines.
- Case Study N1 was found to be an inappropriate use of an out of court disposal on the basis that there was no admission of intent, intent could not be proven, and only one of the two individuals involved received a disposal.