



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

**Meeting Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022. 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.

## **The Panel Findings**

Eight cases were scrutinised: 4 x Norfolk and 4 x Suffolk cases which included 2 x Adult and 2 x Youth cases each. 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 those in our communities. All four of the Norfolk cases scrutinised were deemed to have met the evidential standard and were concluded to be appropriate and consistent with the national and local guidelines. All four of the Suffolk cases were concluded to be appropriate, with one having additional comments added by the panel.

### **Norfolk Cases**

- All four cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines.

### **Suffolk Cases**

- All four cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines.
- Suffolk Case Study 2 was found to be appropriate with comments from the Panel. Discussions were held around whether a caution potentially should have been considered due to the level of injury sustained and context on an ongoing neighbourhood dispute. A sufficient response was provided within the meeting.

## **Performance Data**

Following on from an action request from the previous Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel meeting, data was provided on the number of Out of Court Disposals for each force over 12 months ending April 2022. Please see the numbers broken down by type of Out of Court Disposals and by force they took place below.

Norfolk had a grand total of 2,798 Out of Court Disposals. This is broken down below:

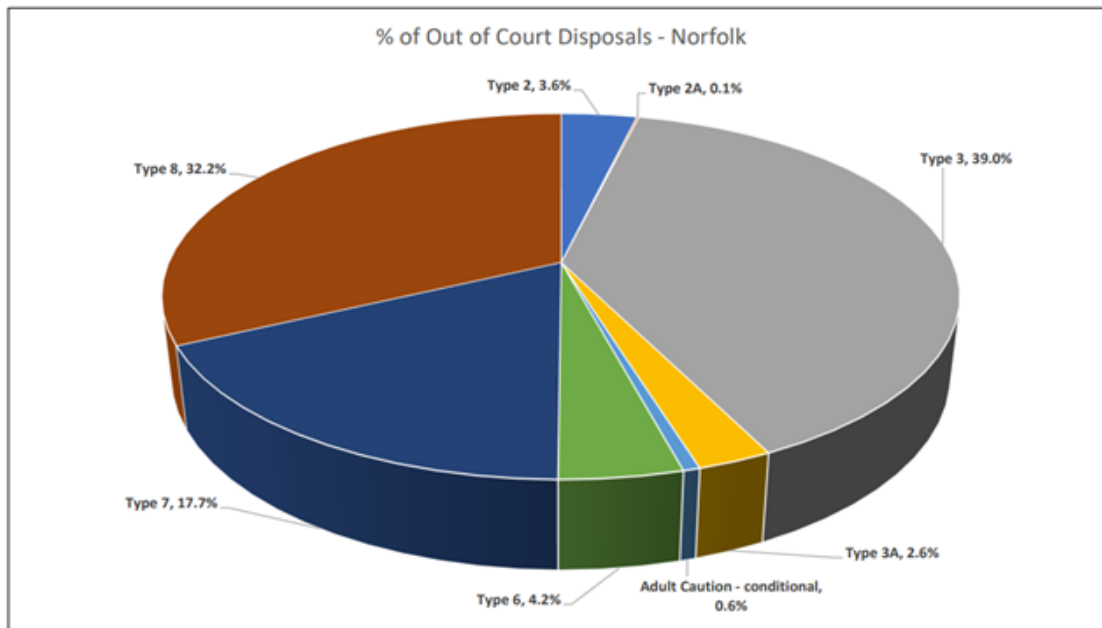
- Type 2 - Youth Cautions (including Type 2A alternative offence) = 105
- Type 3 - Adult Cautions (including Type 3A alternative offence) = 1,163
- Adult Conditional Cautions = 16
- Type 6 - Penalty Notices for Disorder = 118
- Type 7 - Cannabis/Khat warnings = 496
- Type 8 - Community Resolutions (crime) = 900

Suffolk had a grand total of 2,293 Out of Court Disposals. This is broken down below:

- Type 2 - Youth Cautions (including Type 2A alternative offences) = 136
- Youth Conditional Cautions = 2
- Type 3 - Adult Cautions (including Type 3A alternative offences) = 737
- Adult Conditional Cautions = 10
- Type 6 - Penalty Notices for Disorder = 86
- Type 7 - Cannabis/Khat warning = 404
- Type 8 - Community Resolutions (crime) = 918

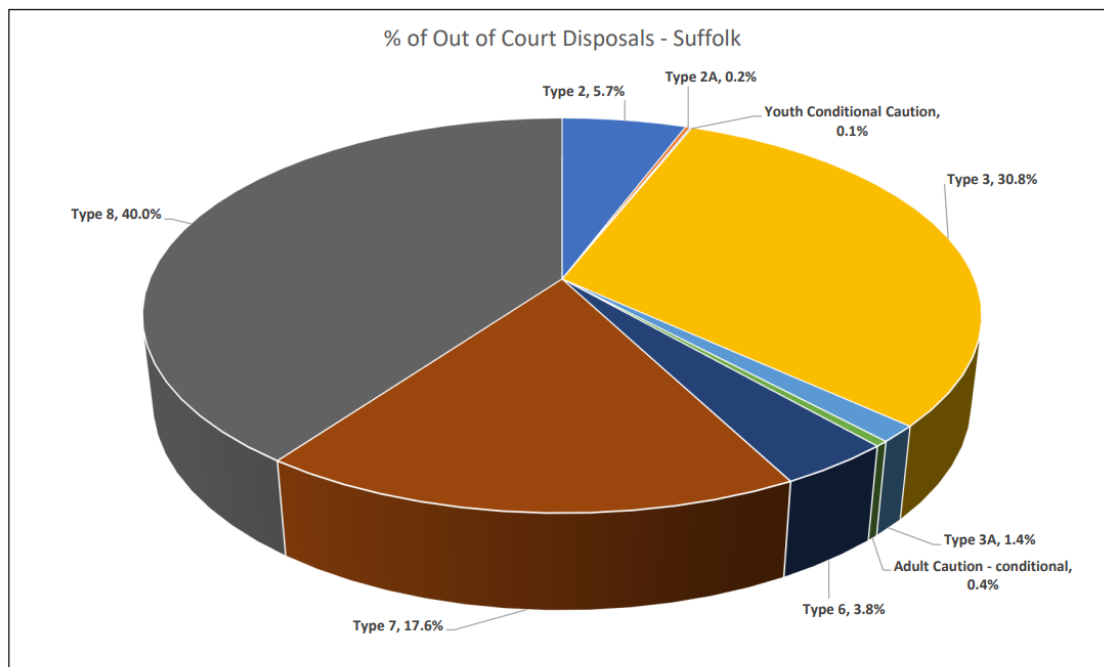
## Norfolk Performance Data

Out of Court Disposals – 12 months ending April 2022



## Suffolk Performance Data

Out of Court Disposals – 12 months ending April 2022



## Next Meeting Date:

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022