

NORTHUMBRIA OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL SCRUTINY PANEL (DISPROPORTIONALITY PANEL) – SUMMARY OF MEETING 25TH FEBRUARY 2020

An out of court disposal (OCD) is a method of resolving an investigation when the offender is known and the offender admits the offence. An OCD can only be used in specific circumstances and enables the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, offending which could more appropriately be resolved without a prosecution at court.

An OCD aims to reduce re-offending by providing reparation or enabling offenders to be directed into rehabilitative or educational services to tackle the causes of their offending behaviour. OCD consist of the following disposals, Community Resolution, Cannabis Warning, Penalty Notice for Disorder, Youth Cautions, Simple Cautions and Conditional Cautions.

The objective of the Scrutiny Panel is to independently review a selection of cases that have been resolved by use of an OCD and determine whether the disposal was appropriate. The Panel provides transparent constructive scrutiny in order to promote best practice and identify any individual or organisation development needs. The Panel also works to ensure the victim is considered and heard throughout the OCD process and provide feedback when this is not the case.

- 12 offenders were considered
- 3 from Southern
- 7 from Central
- 2 from Northern



- 6 were issued with a simple caution
- 1 was issued with a community resolution
- 0 was issued with a first youth caution
- 0 was issued with a youth triage
- 3 were issued with a youth conditional caution
- 2 were issued with a second youth caution



- 7 of these were adult offenders
- 5 were youth offenders

What was the overall assessment for the disposals

5 were deemed appropriate and consistent with relevant organisational policy and procedures

4 was deemed appropriate with with observations

3 were deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with policy or procedure. This in the main was down to an absence to rationale to justify some of the outcomes

There were no cases where the panel failed to reach a conclusion

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