

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 1st May 2019. Eleven panel members were present with four 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 focus upon random cases 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.

All cases from both counties were concluded to be an appropriate use of an out of court disposal. One Suffolk case and one Norfolk case were considered appropriate but had comments added from the panel.

Suffolk

- 5 cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with local and national guidelines.
- 1 case was found to be appropriate with comments that there was some learning to be taken away from this case around decision making and recording of an assault which was linked to the case.

Norfolk

- 5 cases were found to be appropriate and consistent with local and national guidelines.
- 1 case was found to be appropriate with comments that the requirement on a community resolution form for the 11 year old offender to repay the £1,100 he spent on his mother's and grandmother's bank cards was disproportionate.

Key Issues

- There were no key issues identified in this meeting.