

Report to Police and Crime Commissioners on Norfolk and Suffolk's Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Meeting date: Thursday 5 March 2026

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 Justice Service, Magistrates and Police and Crime Commissioner 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 by the two Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners 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 within 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, rescind, or alter individual decisions already made.

Panel business

The panel met on 5 March 2026, and nine panel members were present. The panel discussed:

- Scrutiny of case files
- Rationale and file selection

The Panel findings

Twelve cases were scrutinised: six Norfolk and six Suffolk cases. These cases were selected at random and included both adult (eight) and youth (four) disposals. 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 members of our communities.

Norfolk cases

The six Norfolk cases scrutinised by the panel were deemed to have met the evidential standard and were concluded to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines. However, further explanation was sought in relation to three cases.

An additional explanation was provided in relation to an adult disposal which was recorded as a conditional caution relating to a Domestic Violence incident. Additional commentary was provided to the panel which clarified that the disposal was given under the CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) project which is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk and allows Norfolk Constabulary to offer this type of resolution for standard and medium risk Domestic Violence incidents.

An additional explanation was provided in relation to a Type 22 Disposal which concerned a Fraud/Blackmail incident. Further commentary was provided as this was a tailored approach which led to the offender having to complete the 'Cyber Choices' course, which is a National Crime Agency product. The product aims to identify the offender's cyber skillset and divert that towards more positive, productive uses.

An additional explanation was provided in relation to a Youth Conditional Caution. It was confirmed that this was incorrectly recorded and should have instead been a Youth Caution. Further commentary was provided which detailed how the offender is well known to Youth Justice Services as the offender is at risk of exploitation. The offender, however, is engaging well with the service being provided to them.

Suffolk cases

The six Suffolk cases scrutinised by the panel were also deemed to have met the evidential standard and were concluded to be appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines. However, further explanation was sought in relation to two cases.

An additional explanation was provided in relation to a Type 22 Disposal. This disposal concerned a complex youth with a plethora of needs and vulnerabilities. They are currently being supported in a number of ways in order to try and prevent re-offending as they have a

history of offending. Progress is being made in relation to engaging with a speech therapist, developing positive relationships, and engaging with an educational tutor.

An additional explanation was offered in relation to a Type 22 Disposal. It was confirmed that the matter should have been recorded as 'No Further Action' for Action 15 as there was a lack of evidence. Work has commenced to rectify this.

Performance data

Data was provided by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the number of Out of Court Disposals for each force for the Period of October 2025 to December 2025. Please see the data broken down by type of Out of Court Disposals for each force below:

Norfolk Constabulary data

Norfolk Constabulary				
Outcome	October	November	December	Total
Type 2 - Caution Youth	4	3	5	12
Type 2A – Caution Youth – alternate offence.	1	0	0	1
Type 3 - Caution Adult	53	70	83	206
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	4	4	10	18
Adult Caution - conditional	0	2	8	10
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	29	97	66	192
Type 5 – Offender has died	1	0	0	1
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	257	257	233	747
Type 22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.	26	38	36	100
Grand Total	375	471	441	1,287

Suffolk Constabulary data

Suffolk Constabulary				
Outcome	October	November	December	Total
Type 2 - Caution Youth	2	2	3	7
Type 3 - Caution Adult	41	30	39	110
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	2	2	3	7
Adult Caution - conditional	1	5	7	13
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	14	30	19	63
Type 5 – Offender has died	1	0	2	3
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	135	141	135	411
Type 22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.	25	13	13	51
Grand Total	221	223	221	665

Next meeting:

Thursday 4 June 2026