

Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Panel Findings February 2019

In February 2019 the Scrutiny Panels reviewed a sample of Assaults crimed as Actual Bodily Harm, Wounding and lesser aggravated incidents which had been finalised as Out of Court Disposals (Community Resolutions or Cautions / Conditional Cautions).

From a base sample of 666 eligible offences committed within a 12 month period, the panel chairs selected 46 to review. Of these:

- 52% were appropriate on the basis of information provided
- 33% were appropriate with observations by the panel
- 15% were inappropriate / inconsistent with policy

The panels identified the following learning points for the Force:

- As with previous panels, it was felt that decision-making in youth cases could be improved by greater consultation with the Youth Offending Service who may be in a position to provide support to reduce reoffending. Training inputs delivered jointly by WMP and YOS were suggested.
- The panels requested that the victim's view be recorded more systematically on the investigation record. Advice to be issued
- The panels requested that the decision rationale be recorded in every case on the investigation record. Advice to be issued.