

Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel

Panel Findings October 2018

In October 2018 the Scrutiny Panels reviewed a sample of Sexual and Harassment offences which had been finalised as Out of Court Disposals (Community Resolutions or Cautions / Conditional Cautions)

From a base sample of 181 eligible offences committed within a 12 month period, the panel chairs randomly selected 46 to review. Of these:

- 67% were appropriate on the basis of information provided
- 22% were appropriate with observations by the panel
- 11% were inappropriate and inconsistent with policy
- There were no cases where the panel failed to reach agreement

The panels identified the following learning points for the Force:

- 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. An action was set for Youth Crime Officers to market their services to the Sexual Offences Teams.
- Several of the cases examined on this occasion were quite complex and the Panels felt some of the offenders would have benefitted from an assessment by Probation Officers. This resulted in an action to advise Investigation Officers re the recognition of complex offenders who might require a higher level of intervention than the Force could offer through OOCs
- The Panels noted that West Midlands Police are to start a trial of Conditional Cautions for Domestic Abuse Offenders in December 2018.