

WEST YORKSHIRE OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL SCRUTINY GROUP – SUMMARY OF MEETING 19th January 2017

An out of court disposal (OCD) is a method of resolving an investigation when the offender is known and when that offender admits the offence. An OCD can only be used in limited circumstances and it should reduce re-offending by enabling restorative and reparative justice. Nationally, there are a number of methods for dealing with offenders in this way. These are universal and include community resolutions, conditional cautioning, simple cautions, cannabis warnings and Penalty Notices for Disorder.

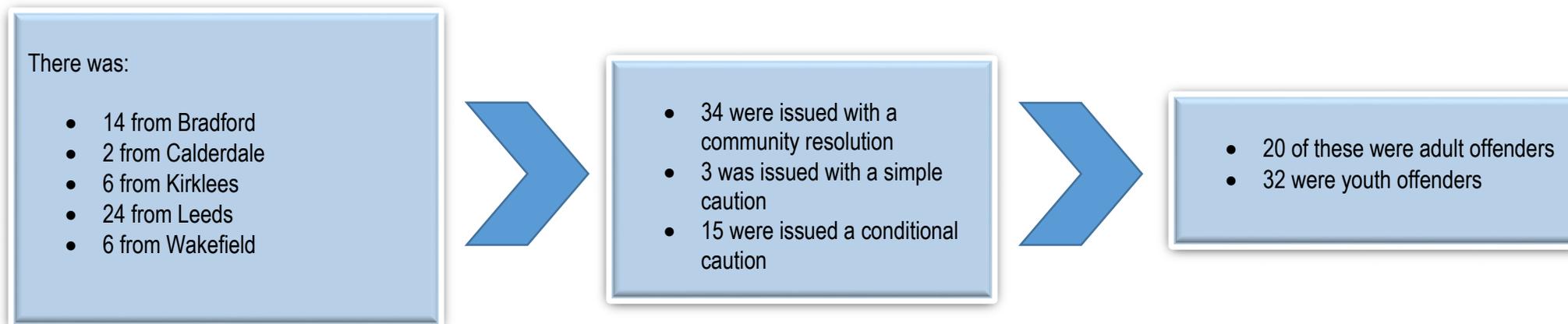
On 24 November 2014 West Yorkshire Police partially commenced implementation of a new simplified, two-tier model; the pilot only permits the use of conditional cautions and community resolutions.

The intention of the scrutiny panel is to provide transparency and accountability and an increase in public understanding, confidence and trust in how West Yorkshire Police use out of court disposals with

particular focus on the delivery of appropriate and proportionate justice and ensuring redress for victims of crime as well as addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

The scrutiny panel has no referral or appeals capability and is not intended to re-judge cases. It will assess the relevant processes, interactions and decisions to identify any continuous organisational learning.

How many offenders were considered?



What was the overall assessment of the disposals for offenders?

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

23 were deemed appropriate with observations

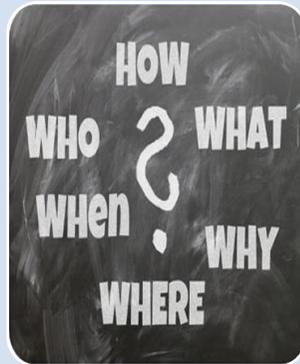
8 were deemed inappropriate and/or inconsistent with policy and procedures

There was 2 offenders where the panel failed to reach a conclusion, and further relevant information is requested.

Contact us

If you have questions about out of court disposals, how the scrutiny panel works or any feedback on the content and format of this document please contact the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office on contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

What were the key themes from the meeting?



Restorative Justice. In most cases there is no referral to restorative justice which may provide improved outcomes for victims and aid a potential reduction in reoffending.

Completion dates

It is crucial that dates are added to the disposals to determine the date by which the compliance must be completed. Without this, the disposal cannot be complete or brought to court to ensure compliance

A lack of or no rationale written on the case log giving reasons for a particular disposal or to indicate if restorative justice has been considered. This rationale is required, to provide an audit trail for an outcome and a detailed explanation leading to the final decision. The panel found that where a detailed rationale was given, they could follow the decision making process.

Where the rationale was found to be good positive feedback is given to the officers.

DASH Forms
The DASH form continues to be problematic in identifying a consistent risk factor for many victims.

Previous offending history.

It is noted that knowledge of an offenders previous offending history may well have brought about a different outcome.

Disparity across the county.

The services available to each YOT and police district differ significantly creating a postcode lottery. One example is the retail diversion in Kirklees is not available elsewhere.

Out of court disposals for low level shop theft that have a store ban or civil recovery as the conditions is not considered appropriate by the panel.

Also, dont commit 'x' offence for 'x' days is not an appropriate response either.