

Gwent Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel Minutes and Actions

20th July 2023

1. Attendees

Head of Strategy, Office of Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent
Out of Court Disposals Diversion Hub Officer, Gwent Police
Offender Services Manager, Gwent Police
Policy Officer, Office of Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent
Force Crime Registrar, Gwent Police
Legal Team Manager, HMCTS Gwent
Deputy Chair Youth Panel
District Crown Prosecutor, CPS Gwent
Team Manager, Newport Youth Justice Service
Executive Support Assistant, Gwent Police

2. Apologies

OM Wisdom & YOS Sgt, Gwent Police
Bench
Service Manager, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent YOS
YOS
Chair of the Independent Advisory Group

3. Panel Cases for Consideration

- 22 cases were selected for scrutiny of which 11 were identified as youth cases.
- Of the 22 cases scrutinised, the panel agreed that the action taken in 18 of the cases were appropriate.
- Scrutiny panel members agreed that action taken in 1 case was inappropriate with better options available.
- Members of the scrutiny panel agreed that action taken in 3 of the cases were inconclusive due to the lack of information presented.

- The findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel will be shared to both the Youth Offending Service and Newport Youth Bureau.

4. Cases Overview and Outcomes					
Case No	Case Type	Offence	Disposal	Outcome	Comments
1	Adult	Harassment	Adult Simple Caution	Appropriate	None.
2	Adult	Drugs / Abstract Electricity	Adult Conditional Caution	Appropriate	It was noted that there was some information missing such as the gravity score and more detailed information around the rationale for the decision. As the cannabis was for personal use, the majority of the panel were in agreement.
3	Adult	Miscellaneous / Weapons / Drugs	Adult Conditional Caution	Inconclusive	The panel were unable to make a decision due to the lack of information.
4	Adult	Drunk & Disorderly	Adult Conditional Caution	Appropriate	Despite the panel in agreement, it was noted that more information would have been helpful.
5	Adult	Owner / person in charge of dog dangerously out of control causing injury	Adult Conditional Caution	Appropriate	Comments from the panel were contradictory regarding the temperament of the dog from the victim and owners' perspective. The panel agreed on the outcome based on the willingness of the owner to make adjustments to their property.
6	Adult	Burglary	Community Resolution	Appropriate	The panel required more information although it was decided that Court would probably not have been helpful for this individual.
7	Adult	Attempted importation of	Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.

		Weapon (Sword/Curved Blade) from France via post, address in Newport			
8	Adult	Hate Crime Remarks	Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.
9	Adult	Malicious Communications	Community Resolution	Inappropriate	The panel felt that it was inappropriate because from the information it appears that the wrong offence was used. The panel felt that 'wasting police time' would have been more appropriate.
10	Adult	Dog on Dog Attack	Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.
11	Adult	Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 - ill-treatment or wilful neglect by a care worker	Community Resolution	Inappropriate	The panel were in agreement that the form lacked information around the circumstances and what safeguarding procedures were followed and so could not agree an outcome. This case has now been reopened.
12	Youth	Possession of Bladed Article	Youth Conditional Caution	Appropriate	The form stated that there was no PPN submitted. It has since been confirmed that a PPN was submitted.
13	Youth	Theft by Employee	Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.
14	Youth	Theft and Handling	Youth Restorative Justice	Appropriate	Regarding the process of this case, it was questioned whether it is a YRJ or Reach Referral, YOS are missing paperwork on this.
15	Youth	Indecent Images	Youth Restorative Justice	Appropriate	None.

16	Youth	Sexual Assault on a Female	Youth Restorative Justice	Appropriate	None.
17	Youth	Having an article/blade in a public place	Youth Restorative Justice	Split View	Some members did not think the disposal was appropriate, concerns around people carrying knives for their own protection. Action: New youth gravity score to be issued.
18	Youth	Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent	Youth Community Resolution	Appropriate	It was confirmed that this case was dealt with as S47 ABH not GBH with intent.
19	Youth	Malicious Wounding – no intent	Community Resolution	Appropriate	It was noted that the write up focussed too much on the victim and instead of the offender.
20	Youth	Assault with injury – on a constable	Youth Restorative Disposal	Appropriate	No further comments other than incidents involving electric bikes and scooters are becoming more prevalent with perhaps a lack of understanding about what is legal and what is not.
21	Youth	Sending communication (Cyber) with intent to cause distress	Youth Restorative Justice - Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.
22	Youth	Assault causing no injury of Constable	Youth Restorative Justice - Community Resolution	Appropriate	None.