Avon and Somerset Constabulary Response

Thank you for your report of the Avon and Somerset Out of Court Disposal (OoCD) Scrutiny Panel, dated 1st June 2021. We welcome the feedback provided which will be discussed at the Tactical Out of Court Disposal Group. These findings are very valuable and will allow for a review of policies and procedures where necessary and to capture learning for the wider organisation. Individual performance concerns will be fed back to the officers concerned and general themes added in to the continual professional development of Supervisors. Identified best practice will also be recognised through feedback and that insight will be shared across the organisation.

Case file scrutiny

A total of 30 cases were made available to the panel.

These 30 cases were then broken down into two specific categories

- 6 Serious Sexual Offences
- 24 Fixed Penalty Notices that were issued for breaches of COVID legislation

Within each of the categories the panel looked at both youth and adult offenders.

Serious Sexual Offences

6 Community Resolutions

1 offence was deemed as appropriate.

5 offences were deemed as appropriate, but with observations

Main learning from the cases where there were observations:-

- Timeliness
- Use of a letter of apology
- Ensuring that behaviour is addressed
- Appropriate safeguarding

These key areas will be reviewed within the next Force Tactical Meeting and learning will be disseminated.

Breach of COVID legislation

25 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

The panel reviewed the approach of the Constabulary to all of the calls for service and specifically examined the "Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce" strategy

All 25 cases were reviewed and deemed as appropriate

It was excellent to obtain this independent scrutiny of the forces performance in an area of new legislation.

It was highlighted that the forces immediate reactive operational model was implemented promptly and effectively. The application of the "4 E's" response and eventual issuing of the fixed penalty notice were deemed as 100% accurate.

The next meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 7th September 2021. The theme for this meeting will be disproportionality.