

## OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL (OoCD) SCRUTINY PANELS 2022-23 Q4 SUMMARY REPORT

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is to independently review a random selection of anonymised cases that have been resolved by use of an out of court disposal. Its aim is to determine whether the method of disposal is considered appropriate, based on a review of the information/evidence available to the decision maker at the time.

In reviewing a case, the Panel will discuss and agree a categorisation against three options:

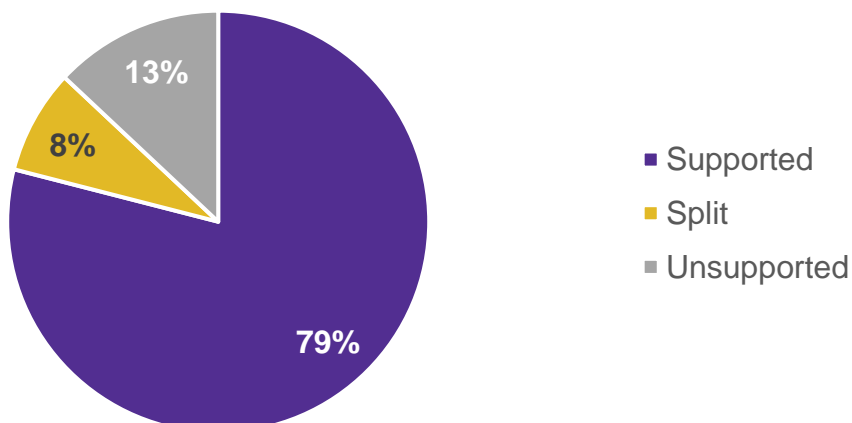
1. Appropriate and consistent with police policies/the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors.
2. Appropriate with observations
3. Inappropriate and inconsistent with policy.

### GENERAL SUMMARY

The table and graph below provide a breakdown of the total number of cases reviewed and outcomes from each Scrutiny Panel:

	Cases reviewed	Supported cases*	Split decision	Unsupported cases
<b>Eastern Panel</b>	20	16	0	4
<b>Northern Panel</b>	19	14	1	4
<b>Western Panel</b>	17	14	2	1
<b>Youth Panel</b>	20	16	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

\*Includes cases fully supported by the panel both with and without observations.



## **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CASES BEING CATEGORISED AS UNSUPPORTED**

The following factors have been identified as contributing to a Panel's decision of not supporting the application of an OoCD:

- The severity of the offence and level of offending.
- Inappropriate use of disposals on offenders with a previous offending history.
- Insufficient intervention action (of a rehabilitative and/or educational nature) taken by the Officers.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Greater utilisation of Restorative Justice**

- Better understanding and awareness of the options available to Officers through restorative services.
- More effective use of 'Remedi' as part of disposal option.
- Maximising referrals to perpetrator/victim intervention programmes.

### **2. More effective & efficient application of disposal type**

Ensuring that disposal types are a) applied adequately in consideration of severity of offence and level of offending; b) aim to utilise meaningful conditions that would address root cause of behaviour causing offending and be of restorative and/or educational nature.