

OFFICIAL
March 2025

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT



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Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Scrutiny Panel

Dip Sampling Exercise

Knife Crime

Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Youth cases

March 2025

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1.0 Overview

On the 19th of March 2025, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 6 adult and 6 youth cases involving a knife crime offence which had been dealt with by way of an OoCR. This report will focus on the panel's findings in relation to the youth cases.

This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

2.0 Background, purpose, and methodology

The purpose of the OoCR panel is to independently assess, scrutinise and quality control the use of OoCR by Dyfed-Powys Police. The panel can make recommendations, feedback on individual cases to officers, communicate findings, promote best practice, and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the force or other agencies involved. The panel cannot change the original outcome of the case.

The panel membership consists of partners from within the Criminal Justice System which include, but not limited to, members from Dyfed-Powys Police, the OPCC, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Team and Magistrates bench.

The panel members collectively agree an area of focus for each meeting. They receive relevant case files two weeks prior to each meeting which have been randomly selected by the Panel Chair. The Panel then meets to discuss each case and where possible reach a conclusion as to the appropriateness of the disposal. In deciding this, the Panel considers the following criteria:

- The views and feedback from the victim and the offender.
- Compliance with force policy.
- Rationale for the decision and outcome.
- Potential community impact.
- Circumstances and seriousness of the offence.
- Potential alternative options that may have been available.

The Panel discuss each case and categorise them as one of the following:

- Appropriate use consistent with policy.
- Appropriate use with Panel Members' reservations.
- Inappropriate use or inconsistent with policy.
- Panel fails to reach a conclusion.

3.0 Approval by Panel Chair

I Carys Morgans (print name) can confirm that I have read the report, and that it fully represents the views expressed by the Panel during our dip sampling exercise dated 19th of March 2025.

Signed: 

Date: 18.06.2025

4.0 Actions taken following previous panel meeting

As a result of the OoCR scrutiny panel's work, the following actions have been completed since the last meeting:

- Feedback provided to officers

5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes (youth cases)

The following areas for improvement & rearing themes were identified during the review of the youth cases:

- Concerning to read that all youth cases occurred within a school setting. Although the panel noted the proactive work currently ongoing with the Youth Offending Team's (YOT's) and Dyfed Powys Police to develop a protocol for knife incidences in school's.
- Inconsistencies of OoCR's being issued across Dyfed Powys.

6.0 Consideration of Youth cases

Panel members reviewed six Youth cases. Of those five cases were issued with a diversionary, educational or intervention activity (outcome 22) and one through a youth community resolution (YCR).

Members' assessments were as follows:

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	5
Inappropriate	1

Case 1

It was noted that the AO had no previous incidents with the Police or the YOT but suffered from severe neurodiversity. The panel noted the proactive engagement that the YOT had carried out with the AO to deal with the incident in question but also his wider concerns. It was therefore deemed that the outcome 22 issued was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 2

The panel discussed that the AO had given a full admission to the offence and had not been previously known to the police or the YOT's. It was also noted that the incident in question was wider than the possession of the knife and it was deemed that an OoCR was appropriate to address these.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 3

During this case the panel acknowledged the childhood adverse experiences the AO was facing along with his neurodiversity. The panel noted the extensive support that was placed for the AO and agreed that the outcome 22 issued was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 4

The panel raised their concerns that the correct process had not been adhered to as this incident was initially issued with a Youth Restorative Disposal but then changed to an outcome 22. The panel noted the inconsistencies of OoCR's being issued across Dyfed Powys and agreed that due to the lack of information and adherence to the policies that this was an inappropriate use of the OoCR.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 5

Within the case the panel noted that the bureau report provided contained a detailed plan which was pleasing to read. It was acknowledged that the AO had wider concerns ongoing and therefore a YCR was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 6

The panel noted that the AO had given a full admission to the offence and displayed extensive amounts of remorse. It was also noted that this was the first offence for the AO, therefore it was considered that the outcome 22 issued was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 7

Extensive discussions were held in relation to this case where the Panel questioned whether the AO should have been dealt with as an adult or a youth. It was determined that the AO was a youth at the time of the incident and therefore the case was considered in relation to the other youth cases reviewed by the Panel. The panel noted the extensive detail contained within the reports provided and agreed that it was difficult to fully understand the circumstances. It was also noted that the possession of a bladed article charge was dropped for the AO. Due to the difficulty in understanding the contents and the confusion as to whether the AO was an adult or a youth it was determined that the panel were unable to determine whether the OoCR was appropriate. The panel agreed that it would be beneficial to view the Bureau reports from the Youth Offending Team to give further information.

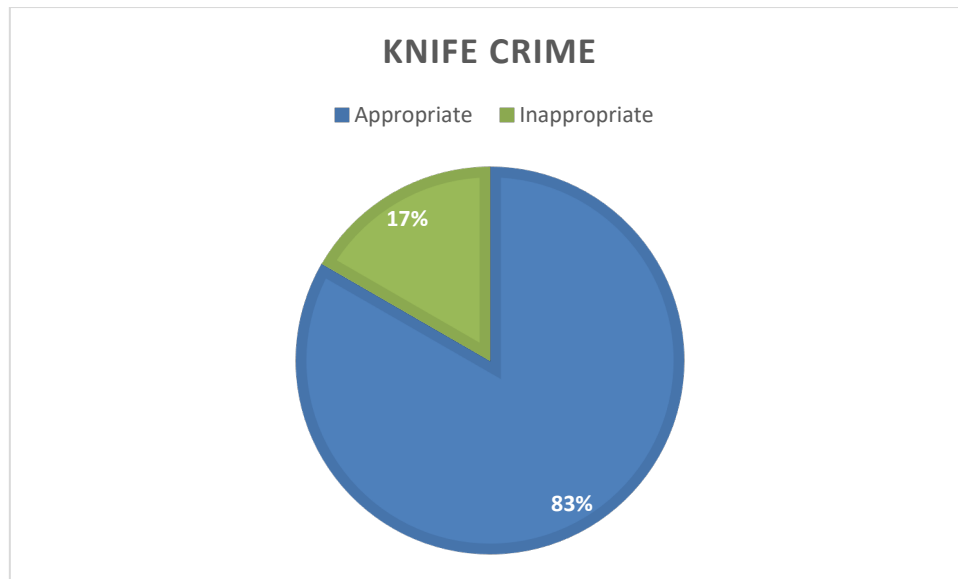
Panel's Assessment: Failed to reach a conclusion

Action 1

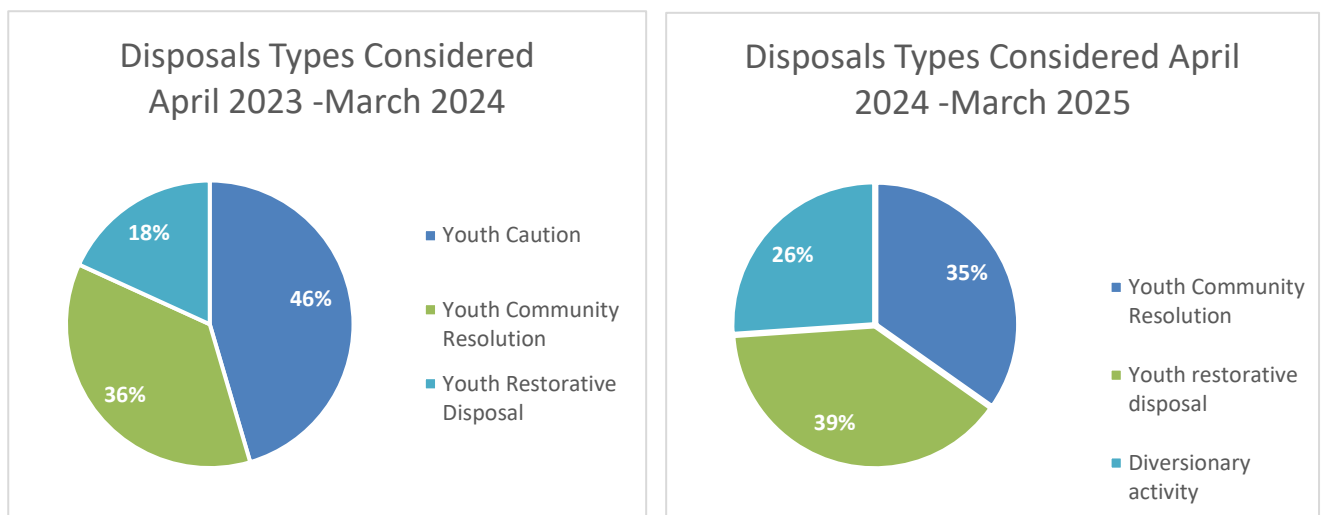
YoT Bureau reports for case 4 to be circulated to the panel for members to review and the case to be revisited at the next meeting.

7.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of youth cases of knife crime cases considered at the most recent meeting:



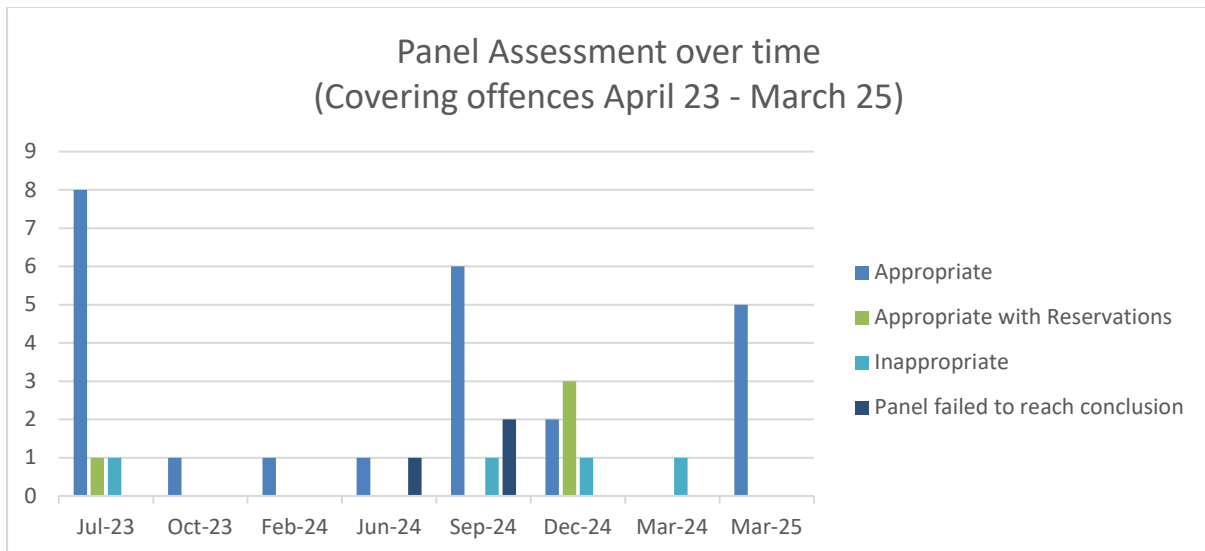
Panel have considered a range of disposals. Displayed in the graph below is a comparison of the disposals considered from April 2023 – March 24 to April 2024 – March 25.



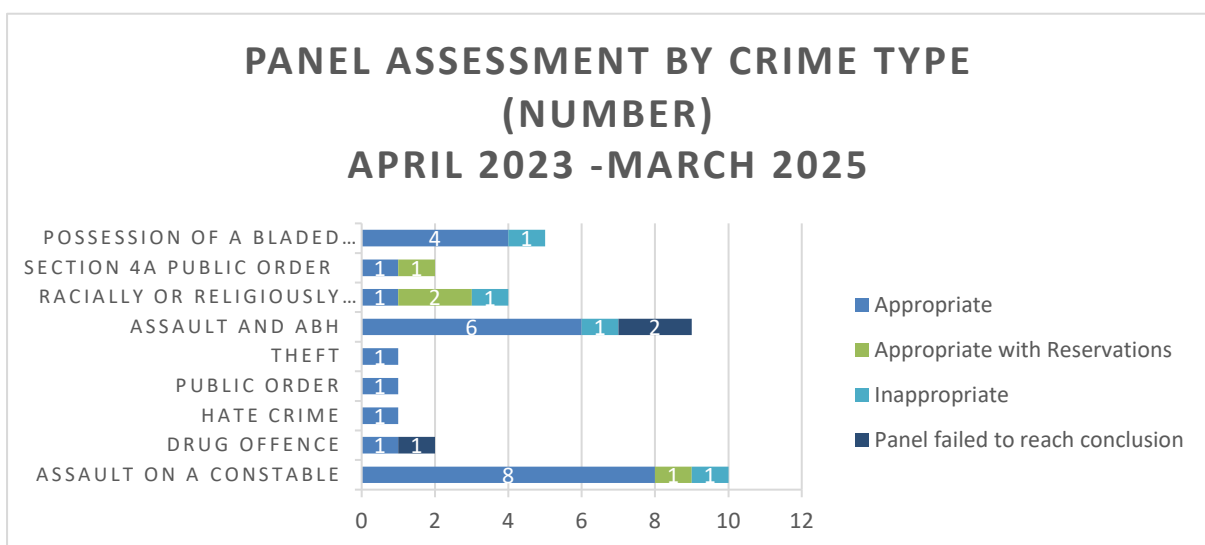
Of the 13 youth cases examined between April 2023 and March 2024, 80% were assessed as appropriate, 9% as inappropriate, and 11% as appropriate with reservations.

Of the 32 youth cases examined between April 2024 and March 2025, 61% were assessed as appropriate, 22% as inappropriate, 13% as appropriate with reservations and the Panel failed to reach a conclusion in 4% of cases.

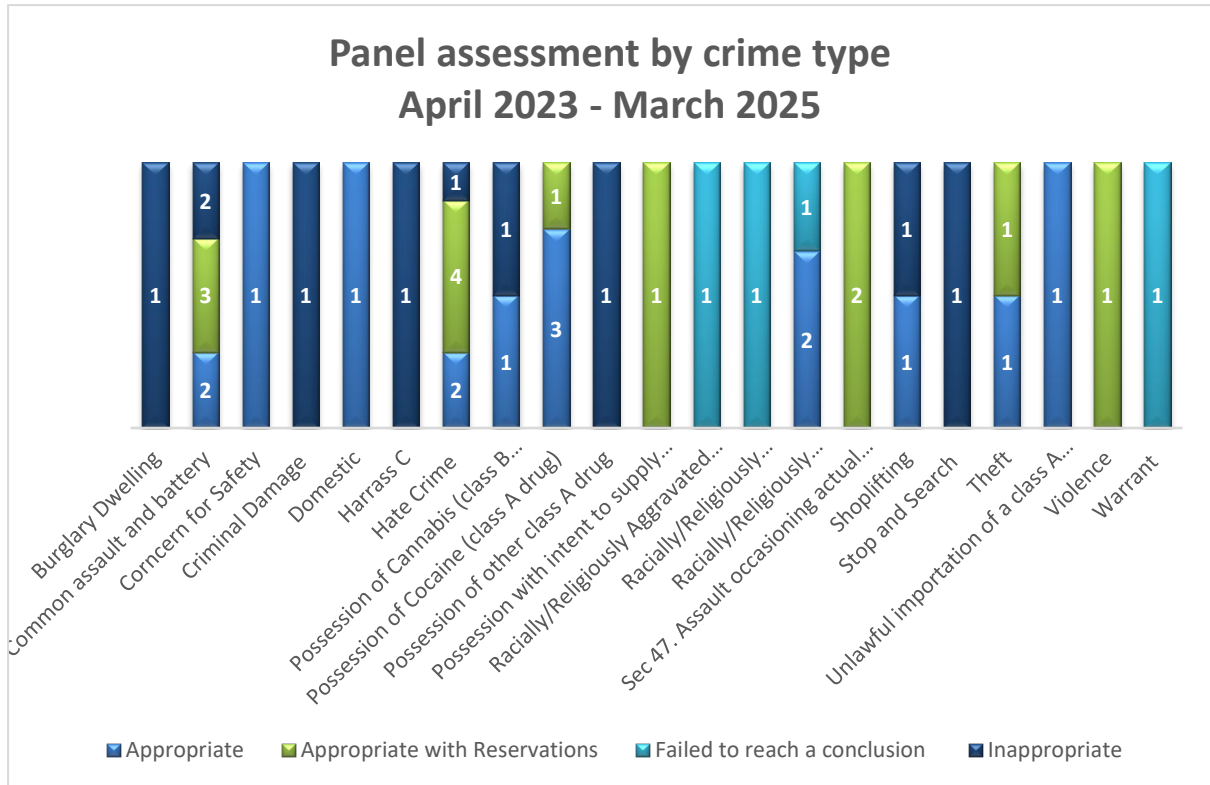
The change in conclusions reached over both periods can be seen in the graph below:



The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between April 2023 and March 2025.

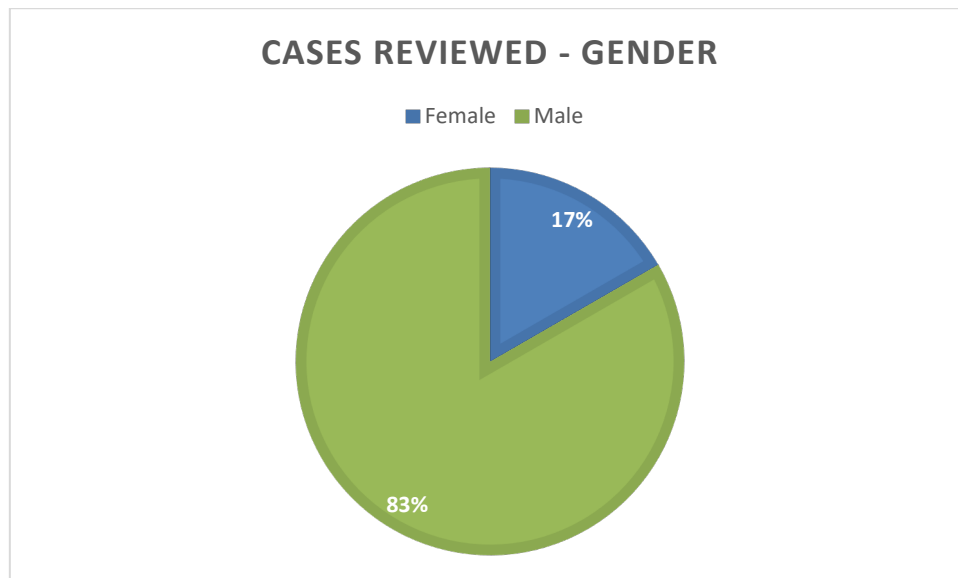


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and March 2025.



8.0 Ethnicity and Gender

The following chart shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of their gender:



The following table shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of ethnicity.

Ethnicity Noted	Suspect's Self - Assessment	Officer's Assessment
White British	6	0
White – North European	0	6
White-Irish	0	0
White-Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0
Unknown	0	0

There were no race or gender equality issues identified as part of the Panel's review.

9.0 Future Panel focus

Following a discussion, it was decided by the Panel that they would like to focus on criminal damage and public order charges at the next meeting.

10.0 Actions

Meeting date	Action no	Summary	Person responsible
19.03.2025	OOCR – 157	YoT Bureau reports for Adult case 4 to be circulated to the panel.	OPCC