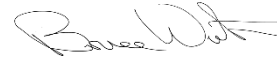


To all members of the Children & Young Adults Committee

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Children and Young Adults Committee is to be held on THURSDAY 4th June 2026 at 19.30 at the School Green Centre.



Bruce Winton
Parish Clerk
29th May 2026

Members: Cllrs Bowler, Matic, Montgomery, A Pollock & Rance

Agenda

17. Election of Chair of the Children and Young Adults Committee

- 17.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** nominations for the election of Chair of the Committee for 2026/27
- 17.2 To **ELECT** the Chair for 2026/27
- 17.3 To **SIGN A DECLARATION** of acceptance of office as Chair of the Children and Young Adults Committee

18. Election of Vice-Chair of the Children and Young Adults Committee

- 18.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2026/27
- 18.2 To **ELECT** the Vice-Chair for 2026/27
- 18.3 To **SIGN A DECLARATION** of acceptance of office as Vice-Chair of the Children and Young Adults Committee

19. Public Questions

- 19.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** public questions

20. Apologies and declarations of members' interests

- 20.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** approval of apologies for absence
- 20.2 To **RECEIVE** any updates to members' declarations of pecuniary interest, and any related person interest in respect of the agenda

21. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 21.1 To **RECEIVE** and **APPROVE** the minutes of 2nd April 2026 as a correct record of the meeting and to authorise the Chairman to sign the same*
- 21.2 To **CONSIDER** matters arising from the minutes

22. Education

- 22.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** any Education related issues
- 22.2 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** scheduling next Education Working Party

23. Youth Matters

- 23.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** any updates on Youth Club activities
- 23.2 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** potential for a Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

24. Anti-Social Behaviour

- 24.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** a verbal update on current Anti-Social Behaviour issues within the parish

25. Review Terms of Reference

- 25.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** a verbal update on current Anti-Social Behaviour issues within the parish

26. Correspondence

- 26.1 To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Annual Report from the Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board

27. Date of Next Meeting

- 27.1 To **NOTE** the next meeting of the Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 1st October 2026 at 19:30

* Report attached ** Report to follow

Minutes of a meeting of
Children and Young Adults Committee
Held on Thursday 2nd April 2026
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Bowler, Matic, Montgomery (Chair) and Rance

Attending: B Winton, Clerk

[Cllr Montgomery welcomed Cllr Rance to the Committee](#)

26/CYA/9

Public Questions

- 9.1 There were no public questions.

26/CYA/10

Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

- 10.1 Approval of apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Johnson

- 10.2 Members' declarations of pecuniary interest

Cllr Rance advised that she was also a Borough Councillor

Cllr Matic advised that he had children of school age

- There were no other declarations of members' pecuniary interests.
- There were no other declarations of members related interest in respect of the agenda

26/CYA/11

Minutes of the previous meeting

- 11.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2026 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Matic
Seconded: Cllr Rance
Approved: Unanimously

11.2 Matters arising from the minutes

26/CYA/3.1 ➤ Clerk to apply to the Police and Crime Commissioner Grant Scheme

On the agenda at Item 15.1

➤ Clerk to source an iPad for Youth Club

We have a redundant iPad which we will trial for the Youth Club

➤ Clerk to discuss additional training for Youth Club team

The Clerk has had an initial discussion with the Youth Club and will follow up after Easter to firm up training plans

26/CYA/3.2 Clerk to investigate what equipment for the Youth Club might be possible

There is a potential list of equipment that would benefit the members of the Youth Club, but the primary issue is one of storage within the building.

26/CYA/3.3 Clerk to place the Development of a Youth Council on the Agenda for the meeting on 26th November 2026

The referral to November was to allow the discussion to include the Community Engagement & Events Officer and the Teenage Youth Worker.

26/CYA/3.4 Clerk to continue to investigate options for delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

This was on the agenda – see minute 26/CYA/13.3

26/CYA/3.5 Clerk to include youth mentoring in the role profile for youth workers

This will be included in their role profile.

26/CYA/3.6 Clerk to develop overall brief for working party to establish an alliance between schools, museums, Shinfield Studios and other organisations

This was on the agenda – see minute 26/CYA/13.2

26/CYA/4 24/CYA/37.3 Clerk to request the Youth Club to design posters aimed at directing young people to websites relevant to them

This has been requested but the children have been focussed on other activities so far.

24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to arrange installation of the touchscreen device for the café

The second screen had been used to replace the one on Reception which had been damaged.

24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to add “user-friendly” agenda discussion to the agenda for the 26th November 2026 committee meeting

This will be done.

25/CYA/13.1 Clerk to add capital equipment to agenda of Finance & General Purposes Committee in February 2026

This had been done and approved. Installation was being arranged for July which was the earliest available date suitable for installers and to work around existing bookings.

25/CYA/15.1 Clerk to add “Beating of the Bounds” style event to the agenda for the ACE Meeting in March 2026

This had been done. The decision was to defer until 2027.

25/CYA/15.2 Chair of the Committee and the Clerk to report back to members on the meeting with the Headteacher of Oakbank Secondary School arranged for 12th February

This was on the agenda – see minute 25/CYA/12.2

26/CYA/12

Education

12.1 An update on the planned primary school for Spencer’s Wood

BCllr Prue Bray had informed the Wokingham Borough Council meeting on the 25th March that:

- Expect to start to start the build in Autumn 2026
- Expect the new school to open to students in September 2028
- Will be a “lift and shift” where an existing school elsewhere in the borough moves into the buildings and ceases their operation elsewhere
- The panel selecting the school will include someone from Shinfield “probably from the Parish Council”.

BCllr Bray had since confirmed that SPC would be asked for a representative. Members were asked to give consideration as to who might represent the council on the selection panel.

12.2 Oakbank School

The Chair reported back on his visit to Oakbank School with the Clerk on 12th February 2026:

- Grants – Oakbank have since submitted a capital grant request for £9,800 for 5 Table tennis tables and outdoor gym equipment
- Offers of quiet space and meeting rooms at School Green Centre
- Cinema facility
- Sports facilities
- Relationships with BM, NHM, Kew, Studio, UoR etc,
- Governing Body
- Attitudes of pupils, uniforms, SEND – bad behaviour and how it is dealt with in the first instance
- Forming a Youth Council – To be held over until the start of a new school year in September 2026

It was discussed that it would benefit all members of the committee to have the opportunity to visit the school.

ACTION - Clerk to arrange a meeting with Oakbank School and Cllrs Rance, Bowler and Pollock

12.3 Education Working Party

There have been no further meetings of the Education Working Party. It was agreed that it may be beneficial to invite BCllr Bray to an informal discussion with members of the committee.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a meeting with BCllr Bray and members of the Children and Young Adults Committee

26/CYA/13

Youth Matters

13.1 Youth Club activities

The Clerk advised that he had been in discussions with Shinfield Rangers Football Club and there may be scope for working with them on a number of planned initiatives e.g. after school sports once the Teenage Youth Workers were in post.

13.2 Draft brief for a youth education and employment alliance

Members consider the draft circulated by the Clerk. It was agreed to follow this up further initially in discussion with Natural History Museum as they were also looking at a similar concept. AWE should be considered a potential future partner as well.

ACTION – Clerk to raise the youth education and employment alliance with Natural History Museum

13.3 Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Cllr Matic advised the committee of the discussion he had held with WBC officers regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. It appeared possible that SPC could make use of WBC existing licence to see if this was a viable approach for SPC.

Members were keen to pursue the idea.

ACTION – Cllr Matic to make a more formal approach to WBC regarding SPC involvement I Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

26/CYA/14

Anti-Social Behaviour

14.1 Update on Anti-Social behaviour within the Parish

No ASB had been reported to SPC. Cllr Bowler advised of ASB around the pond off Lailey Path including damage to the fence around the pond.

26/CYA/15

Correspondence

15.1 Police and Crime Commissioner Community Fund grant application decision

The Clerk advised that the SPC application had been unsuccessful (only 47 out of 287 applications had received funding). He would resubmit We will be able to try again in the next round later in the year.

15.2 Wokingham Youth Future Focus Survey.

The Clerk advised that he had received some findings from this survey earlier in the day and shared them with members.

The responses were consistent with SPC's own experiences.

The lack of engagement with local councils, lack of arts and culture opportunities and cost of activities were issues for younger people.

The three most important things for young people in the survey were provision of online activities/gaming, Sports Groups/clubs and Parks (SPC was planning a youth shelter at Spencers Wood Recreation Ground).

ACTION – Clerk to follow up with WBC to see what scope there was for partnership working

15.3 Thames Valley Police ASB Action Plan

The Clerk advised that TVP had recently announced their ASB Action Plan which had seven Key Themes

- Understand ASB Better
- Engage with communities
- Use data smarter
- Focus on prevention and problem solving
- Improve support for victims
- Communicate clearly
- Be transparent and accountable

Member **noted** the Action Plan

26/CYA/16

Date of Next Meeting

16.1 The date of the next Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be 4th June 2026

The meeting ended at 20.50

List of Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible
26/CYA/12.2	Clerk to arrange a meeting with Oakbank School and Cllrs Rance, Bowler and Pollock	Clerk
26/CYA/12.3	Arrange a meeting with BCllr Bray and members of the Children and Young Adults Committee.	Clerk
26/CYA/13.2	Raise the youth education and employment alliance with Natural History Museum.	Clerk
26/CYA/13.3	Make a more formal approach to WBC regarding SPC involvement in Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.	Cllr Matic
26/CYA/15.2	Follow up with WBC to see what scope there was for partnership working.	Clerk

Shinfield Parish Council
Children and Young Adults Committee
Terms of Reference

Status

- This is a standing committee of Shinfield Parish Council

Purpose

- The Children and Young Adults (CYA) Committee is responsible for considering and reflecting the needs of children and young adults in the council's activities and planning.

Membership

- The Committee shall have at least four members
- The quorum for the committee is three members
- The committee will elect a Chair and one Vice-Chair annually at the first meeting of the committee held after the Annual Council Meeting in May each year
 - The Clerk shall invite nominations while issuing the papers for this meeting but nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair may also be made at the meeting itself
- The Clerk shall attend these meetings as clerk to the committee and produce minutes
 - The Clerk sets the agenda for the meeting in discussion with the Chair of the Committee

Meetings

- The committee will normally meet every other month and will meet at least FIVE times per annum
- Meetings for 2026/27 are scheduled as follows:
 - 4th June 2026
 - 1st October 2026
 - 26th November 2026
 - 4th February 2027
 - 8th April 2027
 - 3rd June 2027

Aims and Objectives

- Monitoring the education provision for those under the age of 18 - attempting to ensure that children who live in the parish have
 - Equality of access to education (including 6th form and 16-18 educational opportunities)
 - The quality of education is to a high standard
 - Opportunities to access after school activities
 - These would involve liaising with WBC and local schools as appropriate
- Monitoring occurrences of youth related Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and promoting measures to tackle this including working with/supporting relevant agencies to help achieve this
- Establish and develop a Youth Councillor Sub-Committee
- Ensuring that CYA works with Full Council and other committees to ensure that children and young adults' issues are fully considered in council activities.

Delegated powers

- The committee has the following delegated powers:
 - Delegation of work to the Clerk
 - Delegation of work to a Sub-Committee
 - To set the following (within the terms of the planning assumptions advised by Finance & General Purposes Committee)
 - Charges for relevant activities organised for Children and Young Adults
 - Managing income streams delegated to the committee e.g. Community funding from Spencers Wood Solar Farm when this comes online
 - Budget setting (in conjunction with the Finance and General Purposes Committee) including
 - Fees & Charges Income for the committee's area of responsibility
 - Expenditure requirements for the committee's area of responsibility
 - The Committee has the power to spend within its budget
 - Budget may be reassigned against individual line items
 - Any proposal to exceed the total expenditure budget limit must be approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee prior to that expenditure being committed or incurred
 - Where income is projected to be greater than budget target then this should be "surrendered" to Finance and General Purposes Committee to be used most effectively across the council

Reporting on the activities of the Committee

- The following reporting shall take place
 - The DRAFT minutes of each meeting of the committee will be tabled at the next Full Council meeting
 - The Chair and the Clerk shall provide additional information on the committee's activities as requested by members

Training Recommendations

- There are currently no **recommended** training courses for members of this committee

Review

- The Committee shall review these terms of reference annually at the first meeting after the annual meeting of the council
- If necessary additional reviews of these terms of reference may take place at any other time of the year
- Any amendments to these Terms of Reference are subject to ratification by Full Council

Children & young person's Out of Court Resolution scrutiny panel

Annual Report 2025/2026



Working in partnership to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system

Introduction

This report has been produced because of an action from the Thames Valley Children & Young person's (CYP) Out of Court resolution (OoCR) Scrutiny Panel

There are obvious advantages to the use of OoCRs:

- They can help reduce demand by diverting lower-level offenders away from prosecution and court.
- They can be quicker and more cost effective than prosecutions,
- Success depends on appropriate and consistent use, availability of supporting interventions and effective oversight,
- Reductions in reoffending or demand are most evident where robust structures and support services are in place.
- Qualitative evidence highlights the need for strong partnership working, dedicated teams, and data collection to ensure OoCR effectiveness.
- Using out of court resolutions to divert children to the right services cuts reoffending. Acting quickly to connect children with effective support makes all the difference.
- Diverting children away from the formal criminal justice system minimises stigma.
- Diversion contributes to better outcomes for children and consequently reduced crime and creates safer communities.

Police legitimacy, public trust and confidence are fundamental for the effectiveness of the police. The purpose of the CYP OoCR Panel is to independently review a selection of cases resolved by way of OoCR to facilitate continuous learning, improvement of services and identification of good practice.

The purpose of this Panel is to:

- Independently and objectively review a selection of criminal cases that have been resolved by use of an out of court resolution or no further action that is not subject to charging advice.
- Ensure alignment to national policies/ adherence to legislation.
- Determine whether the application is considered appropriate, based on the information and evidence available to the decision maker at the time.
- Examine disproportionality, notably on grounds of protected characteristics.
- Recognise and promote good practice and robustly challenge areas for improvement so that the public can be assured and confident in their local criminal justice system.
- Make observations and recommendations to all Criminal Justice Partners (CJS) to drive change and improvements in Thames Valley Police (TVP) policies and processes and strategic decision-making.
- Increase public understanding, confidence and trust in the use of Out of Court Resolutions as a method of case disposal.

The group is aligned to the TVP Values: We treat everyone with fairness and respect, we are courageous and do the right thing, we strive to improve every day, and we are proud to be TVP.

Types of Out of Court Resolution

Out of Court Resolutions currently available for young people are Community Resolutions (CR's), Youth Cautions (YC's), Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC's) and Youth Diversion program (YDP).

Community Resolution

A community resolution is an informal outcome; the agreed conditions are not enforceable by the police. If a child has no prior disposals a first time CR decision can be made. Generally, these are low level offences and for first time offending. A second CR may be used in certain circumstance but must be submitted to YJU for consideration, (E.G. time between offences, different crime types). To issue a CR it must be clear that a crime has occurred and there should be reasonable suspicion that the offender is responsible. The offender must have accepted responsibility for it and be able to understand the situation and processes.

Youth Caution

A caution is a formal out of court resolution. A Youth Caution may be given for any summary or either Way offence where the offender makes a clear and unambiguous, PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) compliant admission to the offence, there is sufficient evidence to prosecute, but where it is not in the public interest to do this. Voluntary conditions can be imposed, but there is no sanction for failure to complete.

Youth Conditional Caution

A conditional caution is a formal out of court resolution where failure to adhere to the agreed conditions may result in a formal prosecution for the original matter and the same eligibility rules apply as a Caution. The victim will be asked their opinion on which options they think would be most appropriate to the offender in the incident. The police and youth justice service will make the final decision as to what is appropriate ensuring it is proportionate to the offence committed and will have a positive impact for you, as the victim, and the offender. If the young person does not complete the program, it may amount to a breach, and a decision will be made whether to prosecute for the original offence at court.

Youth Diversion Program

The Diversion scheme is intended to provide young persons a 'chance to change' and better life chances. The scheme is a diversionary intervention. It gives an individual accused of an offence, where there is sufficient evidence to charge, the opportunity to complete an intervention over a 12-week period whilst the decision to prosecute or consider other OoCR is put on hold. There is no requirement of an admission as in a YC/YCC, but there must be no denial, silence can also qualify. A pilot went live in TVP in April 2025, and a review is currently underway. It is based on evaluation, including randomised control trials that lead to a statistically significant reduction of reoffending.

How does it work? Participants meet with a youth justice service worker who undertake an assessment to identify what bespoke support is needed to reduce the likelihood of the young person re-offending. Support is provided by a commissioned partnership and lasts up to a maximum of 12 weeks.

What happens next? If the intervention is successfully completed, the original offence is recorded as no further action, with an intervention provided. This does not appear on a criminal record, though may still be disclosed for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) check to protect vulnerable groups under safeguarding requirements. If they fail to complete the YDP, all OOC options and charge are considered (although with no comment interview, YC/ YCC may not be an option).

Eligibility:

- Aged up to 18 years old
- No more than three court convictions in last year
- Eligible if admitted, partially admitted or 'No Comment'
- NOT eligible if denied offence or raised a defence.
- Knife possession offences only (public place or on school premises) - only available of U16s who have had no previous 'violent' or 'weapon' related history, no aggravating factors exist in the circumstances of the offence and where truly exceptional circumstances exist as defined by TVP.

The Out of Court Resolution Scrutiny Panel aims and objectives

The role of the Panel is to scrutinise compliance independently and objectively on the decision making and delivery of OoCR in line with TVP policy and the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The intention is to determine whether the method used is considered appropriate, increasing transparency and public confidence and to contribute to TVP strategic planning process through the identification of themes and policy improvement.

The panel will:

- Make critical observations and examine appropriate data and information to consider whether the OoCR was consistent with policy.
- Provide constructive feedback to promote best practice, identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the force or other agencies and track progress.
- Encourage and support the use of professional discretion and the use of appropriate and consistent language across the criminal justice system.
- Support thematic reviews of OoCR.
- Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of OoCR on reducing reoffending by reviewing data and advocate effective scrutiny practice.
- Recognise positive work and provide feedback as appropriate to line managers.
- Publish regular updates and an annual impact report detailing the panel's activities, findings and recommendations to the community and wider policing area to raise awareness, confidence and trust in the use of Out of Court Resolutions as a method of case disposal.

The panel

Core members:

- Independent Chairperson
- LCJB Programme Manager (panel administrator)
- HMCTS Magistrate (Youth bench member)
- National Probation Service representative (child/youth lead)
- Crown Prosecution Service (child/youth lead)
- Defence solicitor
- Senior Justice Gateway representative
- Youth Justice Service Manager/Team representative
- Youth Justice Board Representative
- Liaison & Diversion Team representative
- Appropriate Adult service representative
- Victim Services Representative (children's victim services provider)

Optional:

- TVP Inclusion Superintendent
- Other Department leads/ Police area Performance Inspector or delegated representative or subject matter experts for specific agenda items.
- Community, Agency, OPCC, representatives advisory & scrutiny governance levels and workforce observers

Panel Meeting Frequency/location – Held virtually/Quarterly for a period of 3 hours. The Thames Valley region has nine local authority Youth Justice Services (YJS). Each quarterly meeting focuses on two YJS areas. This ensures that over a 12-month period each YJS will be scrutinised at least once.

Case Sample selection:

- It is important that there is a balance of cases chosen. There needs to be a selection of cases where there is learning to be had alongside examples of good decision making. All examples will promote conversation and board members will have their own opinions on the circumstance of the case being scrutinised.
- The cases we scrutinise are a very small percentage of the overall number of cases dealt with. There will be a higher percentage of complex examples, where there may be disagreement and differing opinions between the board members.
- The panel will formulate an annual programme of scrutiny.
- The panel administrator will identify a pre-agreed number of selected cases that concluded with an OoCR within the preceding quarter.
- Cases will be anonymised, allocated a unique panel reference to assist identification.
- The case development manager will then produce summaries of the anonymised cases to be sent to Chair and panel members for assessment prior to the meeting.
- Panels should be mindful of potential confirmation bias in decision making and for this reason consideration should be given to removing references to ethnicity/gender from event summaries/material prepared to support assessments.

Both qualitative analysis and quantitative information are provided quarterly to panels relating to each type of out-of-court resolution.

The Case Development Manager provides details of the occurrence, previous antecedence history of the offender and the disposal decision. The feedback is recorded in the minutes of the meeting and will include the rationale for the decision of the panel.

The panels link into the wider criminal justice system through reporting into the Local Criminal Justice Board governance structure.

2025/2026 Performance Overview

The Youth Diversion Programme pilot is a diversionary intervention for young people as an alternative to a formal outcome, with the goal to reduce reoffending and protect victims by reducing the criminalisation of children. This pilot has run from April 2025 to March 2026. It is currently being evaluated.

During the last year between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026 there have been 2407 CYP OoCR outcomes across Thames Valley. The figures here represent the number of offences and not the number of children. A child may have several offences attributed to their case.

Outcome	Cases	Percentage %
Community resolution	1789	74.3
Simple caution	85	3.5
Conditional caution	133	5.5
Diversion Program	400	16.7
Total	2407	100

Numbers over the last 5 years

Historical								
	2024/25		2023/24		2022/23		2021/22	
Outcome	Cases	%	Cases	%	Cases	%	Cases	%
Community resolution	1777	65	1871	63	1818	65	1829	69
Simple caution	142	5	204	7	177	6	153	6
Conditional caution	156	6	180	6	229	8	184	7
Diversion Program	643	24	724	24	563	20	470	18
Total	2718		2979		2787		2636	

Disposal by crime type

Crime type	Community resolution	Simple caution	Conditional caution	Diversion Program
Violence Against Person	652	42	48	116
Drug offences	474	4	11	42
Criminal damage/arson	237	4	11	20
Public order	57	4	6	18
Poss of weapon offences	33	8	30	5
Misc. crimes against society	28	1	3	101
Theft offences	292	20	16	29
Sexual offences	10	2	5	68
Robbery	6	0	3	1

Case Scrutiny

An analysis of the cases scrutinised throughout the year to date.

Summary of cases scrutinised

Outcome	Cases	Percentage %
Community resolution	8	27.5
Simple caution	2	7
Conditional caution	12	41.5
Diversion Program	7	24
Total	29	100

Criteria

The Panel discuss whether the method of disposal is considered appropriate, based on a review of the information/evidence available to the decision maker at the time, and agree a categorisation against four options:

GREEN: Appropriate and consistent with police policies/ the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors

BLUE: Appropriate but with observations from the Panel

RED: Inappropriate and inconsistent with policy

Panel fails to agree and more information is required

The Panel *cannot* change the outcome of the case but can make observations and give feedback on the case reviewed. Feedback is provided to individual officers and supervisors on cases considered inappropriate. Observations are used to identify training needs, inform development of policies and interventions and promote good practice.

Panel Decisions

Disposal type	Offence	Panel Decision
Community Resolution		
Community Resolution	Battery	Appropriate with observations
Community Resolution	Assault and affray	Inappropriate *
Community Resolution	Possession of cannabis	Appropriate
Community Resolution	Assault by beating	Inappropriate *
Community Resolution	Assault emergency worker	Appropriate with observations
Community Resolution	Criminal damage x 3	Appropriate with observations
Community Resolution	Possession of indecent images/extreme pornography	Appropriate with observations
Community Resolution	Theft from a shop	Appropriate with observations
Simple Caution		
Simple caution	Motoring offences	Appropriate
Simple caution	Battery x 3	Inappropriate *
Conditional Caution		
Conditional Caution	Battery	Appropriate
Conditional Caution	Possession of class B drugs	Appropriate
Conditional Caution	Possession of bladed article	Appropriate with observations
Conditional Caution	Common assault/Intentional strangulation	Inappropriate *
Conditional Caution	Burglary – non dwelling	Inappropriate *
Conditional Caution	Possession of bladed article on school premises	Inappropriate *
Conditional Caution	Possession of bladed article	Appropriate
Conditional caution	Possession of bladed article on school premises	Appropriate
Conditional caution	Possession of knife in school	The Panel Members fail to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made
Conditional caution	Possession of offensive weapon in a public place	Appropriate with observations
Conditional caution	Harassment – put in fear of violence	Inappropriate *
Conditional caution	Aggravated vehicle taking, No insurance, DOTAWL	Inappropriate *

Youth Diversion		
Diversion Program	Criminal damage	Appropriate
Diversion Program	Assault emergency worker	The Panel Members fail to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made
Diversion Program	Criminal damage	Appropriate with observations
Diversion Program	Assault by beating	Appropriate
Diversion Program	Assault without injury	Appropriate with observations
Diversion Program	Possession of indecent images	Appropriate
Diversion Program	Burglary – non dwelling	Appropriate with observations

Summary of decisions		
Decision	Cases	Percentage %
Appropriate	9	31
Appropriate with observations	10	34.5
Inappropriate*	8	27.5
The Panel Members fail to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made	2	7
Total	29	100

Summary of decisions against outcome type				
Disposal type	Inappropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate with observations	The panel members fail to agree on the appropriateness of the decision made
Community resolution	2	1	5	-
Simple caution	1	1	-	-
Conditional Caution	5	4	1	1
Diversion Program	-	3	3	1

Inappropriate decisions

Inappropriate * - A summary of cases considered inappropriate can be found below.

Case 1: The Panel considered use of a Community Resolution inappropriate in a case involving Assault and affray. Board felt the offence was of sufficient seriousness to justify either a conditional caution or gone to CPS for a decision. In making the decision to opt for a community resolution the views of the mother of the victim were considered but the views of the victim were not obtained. Response; Feedback to decision makers.

Case 2: The Panel considered use of a Community Resolution inappropriate in a case involving Assault by beating. Board felt this should have been Youth Diversion Program. Whilst the child had had an earlier community resolution this incident was very soon after that. Response: Feedback to decision makers. Referred to turnaround project focussing on offending behaviours.

Case 3: The Panel considered use of a caution inappropriate in a case involving Battery x 3. They felt that this should have been dealt with under the school's policy. The case should not have come to the attention of the Police. Response: Feedback to decision makers. TVP developing a new school's strategy to have the confidence to deal with appropriate cases within the school policy and not automatically refer to Police.

Case 4: The Panel considered use of a Conditional Caution inappropriate in a case involving common assault amended to intentional strangulation. Board considered the circumstances around the change from the initial crime category (common assault) to intentional strangulation. They decided that the offence category was too high and should have been common assault and dealt with under the school's policy. The case should not have come to the attention of the Police. Response: Feedback to decision makers. TVP developing a new school's strategy to enable the schools to have the confidence to deal with appropriate cases within the school policy and not automatically refer to Police. Referred to sessions designed to manage their behaviour, anger and emotions.

Case 5: The Panel considered use of a Conditional Caution inappropriate in a case involving Burglary non-dwelling. Board felt it should have been a community resolution or simple caution. Response: Feedback to decision makers. Referred to sessions designed to manage their victim awareness, consequence of further offending and drug and alcohol solutions.

Case 6: The Panel considered use of a Conditional Caution inappropriate in a case involving Possession of bladed article on school premises. Board felt this should have been a Youth Diversion Program. Board questioned whether the mental health of the child had been assessed and whether this should have come to the attention of the police. Given that an YDP would have been a more appropriate outcome. Response: Feedback to decision makers and further meeting to discuss the wider mental health of the child.

Case 7: The Panel considered use of a Conditional Caution inappropriate in a case involving harassment – put in fear of violence. Board felt this should have been a Community Resolution. There were concerns over the classification of the offence and the timeliness of the case going through the criminal justice system. Response – timeliness of delay in investigation due to change of officer investigating and timeliness of CPS decision making.

Case 8: The Panel considered use of a Conditional Caution inappropriate in a case involving Aggravated vehicle taking, No insurance, DOTAWL. Board felt it should have been a youth Diversion Program. There was a view that YJS need to provide clear summary of their decision making in respect of gravity score. Response; Feedback to decision makers and youth Justice service managers.

The main areas of non-acceptance

1. Disagree with decision on type of OoCR used.
2. Should have been dealt with under the school's policy and not reported to Police.
3. View of the victim was not obtained (often the view of the parent was only considered)
4. Should have gone to CPS for a decision.
5. Should have gone to court.
6. Police use of powers
7. Timeliness of process

Actions to address the findings

To address the causes of inappropriate decision making the following steps have been put into place:

1. One on one officer feedback
2. One on one decision maker feedback
3. Timeliness of investigations – work being done to ensure greater visibility of investigations to supervisors and crime managers
4. Policy reinforcement
 - Officers setting conditions as part of a community resolution
 - Improved information should be captured on formal documents to justify decision making.
5. Consistency – process being developed to ensure there is a consistent approach to decision making across the force.
6. To better understand the reasons that cases are returned from court for an OoCR to be considered.

It should be noted that to date there has been no need to escalate action in respect of individual officers.

Conclusion

Decision making in children's cases is a complex process. OoCRs are intended to divert children from formal prosecution to prevent unnecessary criminalisation and reduce reoffending. There are multiple resolution options. Each option has different implications for the child - criminal records, disclosure, and intervention requirements. Choosing the right one depends on offence gravity, prior history, and child vulnerability.

The process requires multi-agency involvement: Police, Youth Justice Services, CPS, Courts and the victim's voice. All the decisions are carefully considered with key influencing factors:

- **Child's circumstances:** Age, maturity, neurodiversity, care experience, exploitation risk.
- **Nature of offence:** Knife crime, sexual offences, repeat offending can complicate decisions.
- **Public interest and victim views:** Balancing justice with community safety.
- **Risk and protective factors:** Family stability, peer influence, school engagement.

The scrutiny of these cases is essential to ensure consistency and fairness across the Thames Valley. This is more relevant given that the region has nine individual Youth Justice Services within its footprint.

The panel identified eight cases that had an inappropriate outcome. Of these:

- Seven cases were considered to have had an outcome that was too high.
- One case was considered to have had an outcome that was too low.

The panel this year has identified areas of learning and process improvements that are needed. (Listed under actions to address findings above)

As a region all agencies are working hard to ensure all OoCR for children are fair and reflective of the offending whilst ensuring the views of the victim are considered and that interventions adopt a 'Child First' approach.

The level of trust between the participants of this process is high and supports the goal of this process which is to increase the confidence of and reassure the public regarding the out of court resolution process.