



Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:

HMICFRS inspection into the effectiveness of diverting children from the criminal justice system: meeting needs, ensuring safety, and preventing reoffending

I welcome this joint inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. I am in support of recommendations seeking stronger national frameworks, clearer guidance, improved data systems, and more effective multi-agency collaboration to ensure children have access to the right support, from the right agencies, at the right time.

There is one recommendation for Chief Constables outlined in this report, and in my capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner, I will monitor the Force's progress in implementing the changes required. The Force's response to this inspection was discussed at a meeting of my Policing Board on 26th November 2025. This is the forum at which I hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing services across the Dyfed-Powys area.

I am pleased to say that work has already begun in Wales. As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Wales lead for children and young people, and as co-chair of the Out of Court Resolutions for Children All Wales Steering Group, this report echoes some of the findings already highlighted as areas for our services to improve on, especially around consistency in guidance, processes and approaches.

I set out below my thoughts and reassurances I have received from the Chief Constable in relation to the recommendation within the report. Please note that while the report references "out-of-court disposals (OoCDs)", my response will refer to "out-of-court resolutions (OoCRs)."

Recommendation: Chief Constables should improve how out-of-court disposals are managed by:

- **working with YJSs to establish formal data-sharing arrangements to ensure timely and consistent access to information on all types of out-of-court disposal**
- **ensuring decisions about the use of crime Outcomes 20 and 21 are consistent and appropriate and reflect revised NPCC guidance**



- **ensuring that police always use the NPCC child gravity matrix guidance when making decisions relating to outcomes for children and that the rationales for those decisions are always recorded.**
- **ensuring that joint decisions with the youth justice service about out-of-court disposals are made at the appropriate level of seniority.**
- **ensuring that children's legal rights are met before issuing a community resolution; this includes the need to caution and make sure that an appropriate adult is present.**
- **ensuring that safeguarding referrals are made when appropriate.**

Following a review earlier this year, Dyfed-Powys Police now has a strategic lead (Chief Superintendent) for both the child-centred policing and youth justice portfolios. While the Force acknowledges that there is a need for improvement (as outlined in this joint inspection), I am assured that there are plans in place to ensure a better policing service for the children of Dyfed-Powys Police area.

The Chief Constable assured me that work is underway to strengthen data sharing with partners, and embed clear internal processes for monitoring data, data analysis and escalation.

My Out of Court Resolution (OoCR) Scrutiny Panel independently reviews and quality assures the use of OoCRs issued by the police. The Panel assesses compliance with policy, victim and offender views, rationale for decision-making, proportionality, seriousness, community impact, and consideration of alternative options. I publish the findings of the Panel on my website for transparency. Through raising this matter at Policing Board, the Chief Constable outlined that more could be done to internally scrutinise OoCR cases involving children, and that this will be considered when reconsidering the governance structures, which will introduce clear internal routes for monitoring, evaluation, and escalation.

I am excited to hear that some of the progress is already underway - a dedicated Children and Young Persons Analyst post has been approved and will be advertised imminently. This resource will significantly enhance the Force's ability to track reoffending and analyse trends, including demographic factors.



I have been assured that work is ongoing to ensure stronger governance, consistent monitoring and decision-making at appropriate levels of seniority. My office is monitoring the progress of the Force following the internal review carried out earlier this year, as well as following the progress against this inspection report and our wider all-Wales work.

I am grateful for the publication of this report and its recommendation. My team and I will continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys Police representatives, as well as our partners across Wales. I am passionate about ensuring all relevant learning from this report is acted upon to improve the experience of children coming into contact with the police and our partners in a child-centred, fair and consistent manner.