



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Firehouse
Organisation	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service
Date	16.04.09

Issue

To tackle fire related anti social behaviour amongst 12 - 14 year olds in high fire areas. These types of fires comprise approximately 66% of all deliberate fires attended.

Research indicates that for this group firesetting is usually unplanned, arising from bravado and peer pressure and is just one of many forms of anti social behaviour that they are likely to be involved in. They act with the knowledge that they are unlikely to be apprehended but without full knowledge of the consequences of their behaviour.

Actions Taken

Firehouse is a 10 week consequences based educational programme involving up to 10 young people between the ages of 12 – 14. There were 10 sessions delivered once a week during a school day and involved a youth worker with a team of up to 4 Firefighters with basic training in youth work. Schools also provided staff to assist with behaviour management during the sessions and there was ongoing support provided by partner agencies.

The programme involved a combination of activities designed to build positive personal and social characteristics within a supportive environment. The activities involved informal education and role play on the consequences of engaging in anti social and criminal behaviour. There were also team building exercises to develop relationships amongst the group and Firefighters.

Summary of Benefits Realised

At the time of writing the programme is being evaluated with the use of clinical psychological assessments. These assessments have been used to identify whether there has been any change in the risk and protective factors which can bring about behavioural change. Such factors include self esteem, delinquent beliefs and attitudes and positive social behaviour. The assessments have been completed by both participants and teachers.

Contact

If you require any further details about the points raised in this case study, please contact:

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