



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Evidencing of Arson Task Force work in support of National Indicators
Title	ATF National Indicator Evidence Gathering
Organisation	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Date	2009

Issue

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service wanted the contribution of their Arson Task Forces to be properly logged and recognised.

To do this links were made with all Local Authority call centres across West Yorkshire.

Background Information

NI 33 & NI 49 are the primary national indicators for the Fire Service.

However, the Arson Task Force also makes significant contributions towards the achievement of other national indicators within the 188 set as a partner agency.

These include:

- NI 5 Overall / General satisfaction with local area,
- NI 195 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting) and
- NI 196 Improved street and environmental cleanliness (fly –tipping).

Arson Task Forces have been actively involved in making contributions towards this agenda through its core activities, such as; environmental audits to identify combustible waste; multi-agency crime and grime initiatives and reporting findings through various mechanisms to have rubbish removed and reduce risk.

However, quantifying this involvement and the contribution made was difficult. This identified a need for an auditable system to be established, logging referrals made and detailing outcomes. This would enable Arson Task Force work to be recognised, especially in relation to NI 5 and the work undertaken by the team to improve areas and residents satisfaction levels in communities.

Actions Taken

Protocols were put in place whereby accounts were created for the Arson Task Forces with each districts call centre.

In addition it was agreed for all referrals made by the team to be prioritised for the removal of flammable fly-tipping material.

Each referral is given a unique reference number enabling both Fire Service and Local Authority to follow actions taken for its removal.

Summary of Benefits

Call centres now produce a monthly report evidencing all referrals from the Arson Task Force's and summarising action taken to for its removal i.e. how long it took and whether it was referred to another agency.

Call centres were also found to be a source of other information of value to the Arson Task Force's as they were receiving calls from residents for replacement wheelie bins. A new question was devised by the call centres to establish if the owner's previous wheelie bin had been destroyed by fire.

As a result a monthly report is sent to the Fire Service of addresses where wheelie bins have been fire damaged.

This enables the Arson Task Force to cross reference fire calls to wheelie bins with addresses where wheelie bin fires are not reported to the Fire Service. By sharing information on wheelie bin fires with interested partners, mutually beneficial initiatives to reduce wheelie bin fires can be instigated.

Contact

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

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