

Firesetter Intervention Programme

**DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE**

**Community Safety – Prevention
Children & Young People
Service Policy Document**

Document Purpose:-

The purpose of this document is to provide policy and guidance for all aspects of the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programme. It will support the delivery of the programme by providing clear and safe parameters within which to work.

Document Status:-

Ownership:	Children and Young People's Manager – Community Safety
Originating Date:	May 2008
Review Date:	3 yearly
Last Review or Amendment:	
Key Consultees:	EMB, SMT, GC's, FBU, FOA, RFU, Unison, Fire Control (Devon and Somerset)

Further Information:-

Head of Community Safety - Area Manager
Community Safety (Projects) Manager - Group Manager
Children & Young People's Manager – Station Manager
Children & Young People's Co-ordinators - Firesetters

Cross-References:-

Child Protection
Criminal Records Bureau checks
CSAT Policy
CS Prevention Training Strategy
DSFRS CYP Strategy
National Framework Document

Firesetter Intervention Programme

POLICY STATEMENT

The policy outlines the aims and objectives of the Firesetter Intervention Programme which provides a specialist team of advisors who will work with young people to address any firesetting behaviour, which can greatly reduce the chances of firesetting behaviour re-occurring. This should reduce the risk to both the child/young people, other members of the household and help provide safer local communities.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Service will not discriminate against any persons in the application of this policy or any subordinate procedures.

This policy document has undergone an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening and it has been agreed that any potential negative impact identified is not sufficiently adverse to warrant a full impact assessment on this occasion. An electronic copy of the initial screening is lodged with the policy and with the Equality & Diversity Unit and is available for inspection. The policy and EIA are due for review in May 2011.

This policy is OPEN under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Firesetter Intervention Programme

KEY INFORMATION

This policy will support the DSFRS Firesetter Intervention Programme and is an integral part of the Children and Young Peoples Strategy.

The Firesetter Intervention Programme aims to prevent and reduce fire crime and firesetting by children and young people up to the age of 18.

The scheme is managed by the Children & Young People's Manager and administered on a daily basis by the Children & Young People's Co-ordinators.

It is intended to provide fire education in partnership with the parent/guardian. The objective of the scheme is to achieve a "fire safe" person and environment. This should reduce firesetter re-occurrence rates and reduce the risk to both the child and other members of the household.

Firesetter Intervention Programme

CONTENTS

Section	Title	Page
1	Introduction	4
2	Legislation and Guidance Documents	4
3	Management and Support	5
4	Staff	5
5	Remuneration	5
6	Delivery Format	6
7	Marketing	6
8	Referral Process	6
9	Uniform	7
10	Roles and Responsibilities	7
11	Exit Strategy	10
12	Transport	10
13	Venues	11
14	Safety Event Reporting	11
15	Financial Considerations	11
16	Audit and Evaluation	12
17	Useful Contacts	13

1. INTRODUCTION

The programme aims to assist those children and young people at risk, to offer advice and support to them about the potential dangers of Firesetting. It recognises the diverse needs of this select group and will be accessible to all in a fair and equitable way.

A team of advisors, both uniformed and non-uniformed will operate throughout Devon and Somerset to assist parents and partner agencies in dealing with children and young people who have a fire curiosity/setting problem.

Interventions will be carried out by teams consisting of 2 trained staff, 1 of which will be a uniformed member of staff.

The scheme will be co-ordinated and managed from SHQ and each area will have a team of advisors who will be responsible for local delivery and co-ordination of referrals.

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004
National Framework Document
DSFRS Corporate Plan

Firesetter Intervention Programme

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as revised)
Children Act 2004
Every Child Matters

3. MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

The Firesetter Intervention Programme will be based at Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service headquarters and will be managed, monitored and audited by the Children & Young People's Manager.

The Children & Young People's Team (SHQ) will provide resources, guidance and support to managers and staff involved in the delivery of the scheme.

4. STAFF

DSFRS recognises the need for staff working with Children and Young People ("CYP") to be safe, competent and professional. The CYP Team (SHQ) will ensure, through the Community Safety Training Strategy, that development opportunities are made available to equip these staff for their roles.

As a minimum, all staff working with CYP must be vetted through the Criminal Records Bureau and cleared for CYP work by the Human Resources Department.

Additionally, as a minimum, at least one member of the accompanying DSFRS staff (for every intervention) must, and, where practicable, all other members of the accompanying DSFRS staff should, have completed Child Protection Introduction training, as recommended by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and CYP Team-approved 'Working with Young People' training and Firesetter Intervention Training.

For every intervention, there should be a minimum of two accompanying DSFRS staff with the requisite skills for the Activity.

These staffing ratios may be increased on a risk-assessed basis in circumstances where the CYP are likely to present moderate to intensive behavioural challenges.

5. REMUNERATION

Staff wishing to be involved in the scheme should do so under the terms and conditions of their secondary contract and in accordance with this SPD. Where this is not practicable, Line Managers should consider allowing staff to adjust their work pattern to enable them to be involved. Where adjustment of the work pattern is not practicable, staff will be able to work within the [CSAT service policy document](#) and claim remuneration at 'CYP Lead Worker', or 'Worker' rate as appropriate.

Firesetter Intervention Programme

6. DELIVERY FORMAT

After receiving the referral and allocating a team of advisors the delivery aims of the scheme are to;

- identify and initiate contact with identified Firesetters using competent DSFRS staff.
- have an impact on the habits of Firesetters through education and support to reduce the incidence of firesetting.
- ensure Firesetters are made aware of the effect their actions can have on themselves and others.
- promote fire safety awareness to family/carers and friends.
- assist in the rehabilitation of Firesetters and promote responsible citizenship amongst children and young people.
- identify trends within incidents of firesetting and use information to influence future community safety interventions.
- form partnerships with other agencies and set up an effective reporting mechanism with those able to assist in situations outside the expertise and scope of DSFRS employees.
- set up, manage and securely maintain all information used as part of this programme.
- evaluate the programme to ensure it remains best practice.

7. MARKETING

The CYP Team (SHQ) will be responsible for producing marketing materials for the scheme, which may include leaflets, posters, CD-ROMs, DVDs and pages on the DSFRS website.

The CYP Team will use these media to market the scheme to appropriate partners and other local statutory and voluntary providers of children's services.

8. REFERRAL PROCESS

There are a number of different ways in which a referral may be received:

Direct to a Fire Station – Either by person or telephone.

Direct to Children and Young People's Manager – 01392 872372.

Firesetter Intervention Programme

Via the Internet – completion of the electronic form [click here](#).

Direct to Children and Young People's **Co-ordinator** - 01392 872315 / 872357. Either by telephone or letter.

Following an Operational Incident – There are many issues surrounding Firesetting behaviour that are more complex than they first appear. Therefore, where it is apparent that the probable cause of the fire is that of a child playing or experimenting with lighting materials a **Firesetter referral must be made** on return to station. In such instances the parent(s) or carer(s) should be made aware of the scheme and **with their permission**, a referral form submitted via the Internet or on return to station

However the referral is received, it **must** be passed to Children & Young People's Co-ordinator for logging and allocation to advisors.

DSFRS will endeavour to respond to referrals as quickly as possible and respond to ALL referrals within 2 working days of receipt.

The team of advisors should make contact with the individual's parent(s) or carer(s) to arrange the first meeting within 5 working days from the initial referral.

It is intended that the advisors, with the consent of the occupants, will complete a HFSV as part of their first meeting. In cases where an appointment is not made within 5 days of an initial referral a HFSV will be arranged by the CYP co-ordinator responsible for the Firesetter referral in the normal manner.

9. UNIFORM

The CYP Team (SHQ) will provide the following to advisors:

- Navy Polo shirt with Firesetter logo

Items of uniform that are outgrown or reasonably damaged will be replaced. These items (as well as items no longer needed) should be returned to the CYP Team (SHQ) for recycling.

Ideally, unless an adverse reaction could result, this uniform is to be worn during all interventions.

10. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Firesetter Intervention Programme

Line Managers

Unless it is identified as part of an individual's role, interventions will normally take place out of normal office hours. In this case payments must be claimed in accordance with the [CSAT service policy document](#). There may be situations where it is necessary to carry out an intervention during office hours e.g. at the end of school and/or convenience for the family. Line managers may release/detach advisors up to a maximum of 2 hours per month during their normal working day to carry out an intervention, any time taken above this must be taken as leave or flexi, claiming payment in the normal manner, again with the approval of the line manager.

Children & Young People's Manager

Responsible for the;

- development and maintenance of policies and standards in relation to the operation of the scheme, including health and safety matters.
- day-to-day maintenance and management of teams.
- maintenance of a fully competent team of advisors.
- organisation and management of 6 monthly meetings of advisors and partner agency practitioners.
- planning of training programmes and seminars for advisors.
- recruitment, selection and training of new team members in liaison with HR.
- liaison with local Youth Offending Teams, Police, Social Services and other agencies with an interest in firesetting among young people.
- audit and performance management of the teams and the processes.
- delivery of an annual review to inform programme and team member development.

Children & Young People's Co-ordinator

Responsible for;

- the nomination of a team leader and a support member to deal with the referral (where possible on a rota basis).
- making contact with a parent or carer of the individual, confirming the acceptance of the referral, identifying any special requirements such as

Firesetter Intervention Programme

overcoming language barriers or disability issues, giving interim fire safety advice and arrange a home fire safety visit.

- providing the team leader with all relevant information before contact is made by the team.
- maintaining a balance of experience between members of the team.
- securing and maintaining the central firesetters database.
- maintaining a file of referral log sheets and completed firesetters database forms.
- forwarding information relating to fires involving homes of known firesetters to the original team leader and between them decide if further action is necessary.
- advising the team leader of six monthly follow-up with the parent(s) or carer(s) to check on the child's progress.
- providing relevant administrative support to the Children & Young People's Manager and Firesetter advisor(s).
- attending review and team meetings in support of programme development.
- sharing depersonalised data with the FSEC/IRMP/CFRMIS teams as appropriate.
- issuing Firesetter advisor packs and updates to team members as appropriate.

Firesetter Team Leaders

Responsible for;

- making initial contact with parent(s) or carer(s) and making contact with the relevant agencies, where necessary, with the approval of the Children & Young People's Manager.
- the health and safety of the team, through dynamic risk assessment.
- completing the referral log sheets and firesetters database form. On completion of the intervention these should be used to record the total time spent by each member of the team on the referral. The completed forms

Firesetter Intervention Programme

should be returned to the DSFRS Children and Young People's Co-ordinators.

- acting and complying fully with D&SFRS's Child Protection policy.
- passing urgent information to Firesetter Co-ordinator and CMC / Control if appropriate.
- attending appropriate training and team meetings.
- following up all referrals after 6 months from completion of the initial intervention and update the Children and Young People's Co-ordinator.

Team Members

Responsible for;

- acting and complying fully with the DSFRS Child Protection policy.
- supporting the Team Leader, and where required to act as team leader where this person is unable to continue with the referral.
- attending relevant training courses.

11. EXIT STRATEGY

The service recognises that some behaviours and actions are so challenging that they go beyond our skills. When a Firesetter advisor feels uncomfortable or unable to continue with an intervention the Children & Young People's Manager must be informed. A case conference will be arranged with the advisors and the Community Safety (Projects) Manager to discuss the most appropriate course of action.

12. TRANSPORT

In circumstances where, for the effective running of the scheme transport is required, the following will apply:

- If, as part of the scheme, it is necessary for staff to travel to a destination different to their normal place of work, they should use DSFRS transport. In circumstances where appropriate DSFRS transport is not available, staff may use public transport or their private vehicles in accordance with the [Occupational Road Risk SPD](#). Pre-approval for reimbursement of travelling expenses should be sought from the CYP Manager (SHQ), to whom claims should also be submitted on form [FS15 F](#).

Firesetter Intervention Programme

- Participants should, where possible, be carried in 'badged' DSFRS vehicles and not 'lease cars'.

13. VENUES

CYP Activities will principally take place on DSFRS premises, but may take place at other venues and under this scheme will most likely be within domestic premises. However, notwithstanding the legal ownership of any premises, it is the duty of DSFRS to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants in its schemes. Therefore, all advisors must familiarise themselves with the Firesetter Intervention Home Visit risk assessment which can be found on the Intranet.

CYP Workers are deemed specialists and liaison with the CYP Lead Worker should ensure that the duty DSFRS Manager is satisfied with the Health & Safety arrangements pertaining to the CYP Activities.

14. SAFETY EVENT REPORTING

Any safety event involving CYP should be recorded and reported in compliance with DSFRS policy. Additionally, the Health and Safety Department (SHQ) will be responsible for providing the CYP Manager (SHQ) with a quarterly summary of safety events involving CYP.

Where a safety event occurs not on DSFRS premises, there may also be a need to report the event to the responsible person for the premises visited.

Following an injury to an advisor or participant resulting in hospitalisation the CYP Team (SHQ) must be informed immediately.

15. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is a core principle of DSFRS that CYP's participation in the scheme is not limited by financial circumstances. Therefore, neither participants nor their parents nor carers must make payments to DSFRS.

The CYP Manager (SHQ) will be responsible, on an annual basis, for forecasting the cost of running the scheme, seeking financial support from partners and sponsors and managing the devolved budget.

16. AUDIT & EVALUATION

The aims of this programme are clearly stated in the key information section of this

Firesetter Intervention Programme

document. They are wide in context and therefore offer many benefits to the individual, the parent / carer and the community as a whole.

DSFRS currently monitors the outputs of Firesetters through the measurement of referral numbers, the number of visits and contact hours. Whilst these issues are quantitative by nature, D&SFRS aims to measure qualitative output by collating and assessing the responses of parents/carers.

Firesetter intervention is evaluated following completion of a referral and this will typically involve scrutinising issues such as;

- Was the intervention delivered in good time.
- How many visits were required during the intervention.
- Was other specialist counselling required.
- Was the intervention delivered with an acceptable degree of quality.
- Identifying of any problems that were encountered and how they could be avoided in future.
- Where unforeseen events took place.
- Was there anything that could be done to improve the way the programme is delivered.

The outcomes of the Firesetter Intervention Programme will be assessed by evaluating the impact and the quality of contact by establishing whether it has brought about a cessation of the firesetting behaviour exhibited by the children / young people who have been referred to the initiative.

The methods for gathering information relating to these outcomes will include:

- Post initiative evaluation sheet completed by parents / carers,
- Contact with the parents/carers six months after the intervention,
- Post initiative with the Youth Offending Team where the child / young person has an offending history.

The parent/carer will be given an evaluation sheet and a pre-paid envelope. It is only by evaluating the service provided, that improvements can be made in the future.

This evaluation will be undertaken by DSFRS Children & Young People's Manager and will usually involve informal discussion with individuals based around a structured set of questions.

The aims of the evaluation are to assess whether the intervention is successful in stopping the firesetting behaviour of the child / young person who was referred

Firesetter Intervention Programme

and to assess whether the intervention could be improved.

17. USEFUL CONTACTS

Firesetter Manager – Children & Young People’s Manager 01392 872372

Children & Young People’s Co-ordinator – Lorraine Brierly 01392 872315

Children & Young People’s Co-ordinator – 01392 872357

Children & Young Persons Team (8am-6pm) (Somerset area) 0845 345 9122

24hr emergency duty team (Somerset area) 01458 253241

Specialist counselling – Youth Offending Team ‘Duty Desk’(out of hours)01458
449112 (Somerset area)

Devon Children & Families Emergency Duty Service – 0845 6000388

Devon & Cornwall Police – 0845 2777444

Avon & Somerset Police - 0845 4567000