



South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

WORKING FOR A SAFER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ARSON REDUCTION STRATEGY

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1	Forward	1
2	Background and Terminology	1
3	Explanation of Terms	2
4	Strategic Aim	3
5	Local Strategic Partnership Plans	4
6	Performance Framework	4
7	Future Development and the Way Forward	4
8	Arson Awareness Training	5
9	Leadership and Accountability	5
10	The Partnership Approach	6
11	Investigation Protocol	7
12	Arson Reduction Innovation Projects	7
13	Education & Intervention	7
<u>APPENDIX A</u>	Doncaster Community Safety Arson Reduction Strategy	
<u>APPENDIX B</u>	Sheffield Community Safety Arson Reduction Strategy	
<u>APPENDIX C</u>	Rotherham Community Safety Arson Reduction Strategy	
<u>APPENDIX D</u>	Barnsley Community Safety Arson Reduction Strategy	

Arson Reduction Strategy

1. FORWARD

In 1998, the Home Office commissioned the scoping study – “Safer Communities-towards effective arson control”. This ensured that the reduction of incidents involving arson and deliberate fire setting was placed firmly on the agenda of the current government.

One of its principal recommendations saw the establishment in 2001 of the Arson Control Forum (ACF) and has since seen real progress. Community Safety Partnerships now recognise the links between deliberate fire setting and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Arson remains, however, one of the most destructive and life threatening crimes estimated to cost the UK over £40m in an average week.

Nationally arson is the largest single cause of major fires in the UK. The UK average is approximately 2000 deliberate fires per week.

The effects are: -

- Loss of life
- Serious injuries
- Substantial economic loss (£2.1 billion)
- Is a catalyst to &/or a result of other anti-social behaviour.
- A gradual degradation of Communities & Community Spirit.
- Lower social economic groups are most affected (30 times higher).
- A five times increased chance of death compared with more affluent areas.

Deliberate fire setting by youngsters is recognised as another, often more potentially dangerous, form of anti-social behaviour which requires close partnership working using the “problem solving” approach adopted by police and community safety partners in recent years.

2. BACKGROUND & TERMINOLOGY

Following the publication of the report of the Arson Scoping Study “Safer Communities – Towards Effective Arson Control” the Arson Control Forum (ACF) was established in 2001 to co-ordinate efforts to reduce arson.

Co-operation and mutual assistance between the Police and Fire and Rescue Service in the investigation of a suspected deliberate fire is not a new phenomenon, but the ethos of the crime and disorder. It provides opportunities for the Police and Fire and Rescue Service to develop local initiatives and programmes with a range of partners including the Local Authorities, in relation to the investigation and prevention of non-accidental fires.

Through the Arson Control Forum (ACF) the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister wasted no time in initiating action intended to provide support and guidance to arson reduction and in November 2003 published “Arresting Arson – a review of Arson Reduction Partnerships”

Containing 14 recommendations this comprehensive review examined how Police and Fire and Rescue Services work with other partners to reduce arson and identifies areas of best practice.

The establishment of the ACF also coincided with the publications of Fire and Rescue Service Circular 21/2000 and Home Office Circular 44/2000 which puts the levels of arson and deliberate fire into statistical perspective, re-emphasises roles and responsibilities and partnership working. It provides advice and guidance to Police and Fire and Rescue Services in dealing with primary and secondary fires.

Both publications confirm that sharing information and good analysis of data to support an intelligence led approach to arson reduction is essential to the success of an Arson Reduction Strategy. Notwithstanding the requirements of data protection legislation, any doubts relating to the shared exchange of relevant information among community safety partners should be dispelled.

The designation of the Fire Authority as statutory crime and disorder partners (Clause 92 and 93 Police Reform Act 2002) has given a renewed impetus to the Fire and Rescue Service to raise the profile of arson and deliberate fires under the broad umbrella of anti-social behaviour and quality of life complaints from the community and to influence partnership responses. This new role also consolidates the role and influence of the Fire and Rescue Service within the Community Safety Partnership arena.

3. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

The Fire and Rescue Service divides deliberate fire incidents into three categories for reporting and statistical purposes:

Primary Fires – broadly those involving; buildings and structures, and other property such as vehicles, storage, plant and machinery; fires involving casualties, rescues or escapes, fires where significant Fire and Rescue Service resources are employed. (Fire and Rescue Service Circular 44/2000 and Home Office Circular 21/2000)

In recording deliberate fires most Fire Services sub-categorise primary (FDR 1) fires further particularly ensuring that those involving vehicles (other than caravans) are separately highlighted. In many cases vehicle fires are attributed to cars that have been stolen and when identified can usually be aligned with police crime and incident records.

Secondary Fires – Broadly those involving derelict buildings/vehicles; single buildings under demolition, fires confined to chimneys; outdoor fires such as those involving grassland, gardens and fences, refuse and refuse containers.

Anti Social Fires – These account for over 75% of deliberate fires attended by the Fire and Rescue Service across the country and are often nuisance fires set by the same people who are responsible for other forms of anti-social behaviour in our communities. By their nature and volume focused partnership work is required to effectively deal with them.

Given the volume of these events a successful arson reduction strategy must therefore, place substantial emphasis on proactive & reactive measures that can be taken to reduce secondary fires; and in doing so significant impact will be felt on reports of anti-social behaviour.

A preventative approach is required to target a range of individuals and groups, an emphasis on taking messages into schools will yield positive long term results.

4. STRATEGIC AIM

- **To reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fires (NI 33) using a sustainable problem solving approach.**

This strategy recognises the value of addressing arson and deliberate fire setting using the problem solving intelligence led approach adopted under the National Intelligence Model. Also, the introduction of arson awareness training initially for Police and Fire Officers together with community / street wardens which will subsequently be extended to community safety partners.

- **To identify potential and actual fire setters and take appropriate action through a partnership approach.**

While much has been achieved in reducing the opportunities for arson (e.g. removal of abandoned vehicle schemes and refuse clearance ('hot spotting') considerable work is being done to identify those responsible for setting fires and to ensure appropriate action is taken in the form of enforcement, intervention or education.

- **To ensure that community safety partners absorb arson reduction measures into their partnership work and take a shared responsibility to reduce the opportunities for arson/deliberate fires.**

Successful measures to reduce arson will make a positive contribution to other community safety measures.

There is growing recognition that deliberate fire setting often takes place in the same areas and by the same people responsible for other, more recognisable forms of anti-social behaviour and quality of life complaints from residents.

Within South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, Community Fire Station Managers have implemented local plans covering the full range of activities to improve service to their respective communities. Each of these carries a commitment to work with partners to reduce anti social behaviour. The Fire and Rescue Service is also extremely robust in its pro-active education and intervention work with the services of dedicated Arson Reduction Co-ordinators and an Arson Reduction Team.

Arson Reduction Team

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have formed a specialist team within the Prevention and Protection Directorate who will focus on the reduction of anti social behaviour fires.

- **To provide a clear structure of management and accountability in addressing fire crimes.**

A successful strategy requires clarity of purpose and accountability for delivering it at an operational level. Community Fire Station Managers through station plans and Police Community Inspectors through crime and disorder strategies and local policing priorities are key to ensuring this strategy is successfully implemented. They will be supported by and held accountable to their respective line managers who form the nucleus of a tactical planning team which will ensure the strategy is effectively delivered, monitored and kept under review.

5. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PLANS

“It is important that agencies and partners are fully engaged and supported to become so. Other partners benefit from their expertise and the burden of providing a safer community is shared”

In addressing the broader issues of community development, environmental and economic improvements local strategic partnership plans provide the umbrella under which community safety plans operate. They also provide a strategic perspective under which valuable funding opportunities are considered.

6. PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

National

The government has set a target of a 10% reduction in Arson by March 2010 using 2001 – 2002 as its baseline.

The South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Corporate Plan contains targets relating to deliberate fire setting and ASB Fires.

In addition fire related targets form part of local authority local area agreements. Performance in all these areas has set reporting criteria.

7. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND THE WAY FORWARD

Recording Deliberate Fire Setting as Anti-social Behaviour

One of the most difficult problems facing the Fire and Rescue Service in terms of engaging with community safety partners (especially the Police) is the fact that only a very small proportion of deliberate fires ever come to the notice of the Police. For the most part the Fire and Rescue Service responds to complaints of refuse and other minor deliberate fires, extinguishes them and returns to Station. Constantly the fact is that deliberate fires are not being recorded as incidents of anti-social behaviour and are often not taken into account by the Police and other partners in planning responses.

8. ARSON AWARENESS TRAINING

“Arresting arson - a review of Arson Reduction Partnerships” acknowledges that unlike training in fire investigation there has been no development of specific multi-agency arson reduction training to a nationally agreed syllabus or standard.

SYF&R has begun delivering a training package covering the following areas:

- An overview of the extent and levels of arson / deliberate fires locally (within station and ward areas)
- How information and data can be accessed and shared
- Duties at the scene of fires
- Actions that can prevent / reduce deliberate fire setting through removal of vehicles, protection of property and fuel management.
- Dealing with potential / actual fire setters through education and intervention

- Partnership responsibilities and responses at an operational level

9. LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Although community safety partnerships have collective responsibility it is acknowledged that the Fire and Rescue Service is the driving force to reduce arson and deliberate fires. This strategy has given South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue a unique opportunity to make a real and permanent difference to this work. South Yorkshire Police have agreed to effectively share the workload in giving impetus and energy to the implementation of the arson reduction strategy. All Local Authorities throughout South Yorkshire need to be proactive in identifying & removing refuse before it becomes a victim of fire related anti-social behaviour.

Since January 2008 South Yorkshire Fire Rescue continue to see positive results in relation to the reduction of anti-social behaviour fires which is attributed to a closer involvement with key partners. The robust approach of community safety partnerships to anti-social behaviour including, where appropriate, the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) provides a useful model to engage with, in relation to firesetters.

10. THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 recognises that no single emergency service, agency or community safety organisation can successfully address crime and disorder and provides "a framework for multi-agency efforts to tackle crime and its causes"

Since its implementation the work of community safety partnerships has for the most part been led and driven by the Police and Local Authority partners. The designation of fire authorities as statutory crime and disorder partners (Clause 92 and 93 Police Reform Act 2002) has consolidated the role of the Fire and Rescue Service and the issues it faces within community safety partnerships and raises the profile of arson and deliberate fire settings.

Resources to reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fire are often either wholly or partly provided by external funding – the Arson Control Forum and Government Office for the regions are good examples. SYF&R will seek external funding from the sources available and have employed a Business Development Manager to assist with the acquiring of external funding.

Community Safety Managers and Co-ordinators within Community Safety Partnerships can provide huge support in this area and have an extremely important role in making valuable links with partners, ensuring each understands the benefit of partnership working and giving impetus, guidance and support to partnership planning.

The sections below identify in brief and simple terms what obligations lie with community safety partners to reduce levels of arson and deliberate fires. The list is not exhaustive.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and South Yorkshire Police

- South Yorkshire Police will share a key lead role in implementing the arson reduction strategy and work in partnership to reduce levels of arson and deliberate fires.
- They will use existing communication policies and strategies to provide timely and relevant information internally and to external partners to support a successful arson reduction strategy.
- Ensure that operational officers at all levels understand the contribution they can make to the arson reduction strategy by taking a pro-active approach in areas of vehicle and refuse removal: removing or reducing deliberate fire risks in the community, identifying potential and actual fire setters and working with community safety partners.
- Visibly support the contributing development of the strategy within Community Safety Partnership strategies and action plans.

Local Authorities

- Remove abandoned and end of life vehicles from public places, together with environmental improvement and protection.
- Support the arson reduction strategy through continually monitoring and improving arrangements to remove vehicles and refuse especially in high risk areas.
- Provide robust arrangements to identify and take action against fly tippers.
- Community Safety Managers / Co-ordinators to assist with cross-functional working and using multi-agency planning meetings to support deliberate fire reduction work
- Community or street wardens to provide visible deterrents, take actions to reduce risk and gather intelligence to identify fire setters.

Other Community Safety Partners

- Where appropriate contribute to strategic, tactical operation planning.
- Residents (especially neighbourhood watch members) to be encouraged to provide information.

11. INVESTIGATION PROTOCOL

A successful arson reduction strategy demands an effective partnership approach to fire investigation.

A fire investigation protocol has been prepared and agreed between South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and South Yorkshire Police that recognises the need to communicate, liaise and work together from the earliest possible stage.

12. ARSON REDUCTION INNOVATION PROJECTS

- Vehicle Clearance Schemes
- Securing Empty Properties
- Reduction of Wheelie Bin Fires
- Removal of Refuse

13. EDUCATION AND INTERVENTION

Education

Firesetter intervention schemes and educational strategies to address young people from a community and personal safety perspective have been established for a number of years. One of the difficult challenges yet to overcome is ensuring that information and intelligence from a variety of sources that can identify fire setters is collected, analysed and shared.

- **Schools Presentation** – Community Safety personnel deliver arson awareness presentations in targeted primary and secondary schools. The current education package in secondary schools is the “Heat of the moment” and it deals with Arson and anti social behaviour.
- **LIFE Courses (Local Intervention Fire Education)** - This initiative offers young people from the ages of 13 to 18 years the chance to work with firefighters over a period of 5 days following a set programme of activities. The course is aimed at addressing the problems of young people, particularly young people who have offended, are at risk of offending or those who have been the victim of crime. This group could also include people with low confidence, people who are bullying or being bullied, those struggling to mix and those generally disaffected with the education system. This course will address anti-social behaviour by providing an intense work experience within a tightly structured and focused team environment. Included in this initiative is the “Head On” course which is specifically aimed at young people that have been involved in vehicle related crime.
- **Fire setter Education** – This is a juvenile intervention scheme, in which trained Fire and Rescue Service personnel have one to one meetings with young people in their own home with their parents present with a view to eliminating the problem of fire setting. These interventions are aimed at children/young people who have started fire(s) within their own homes, but the problem of outdoor fire setting can be addressed.
- **Education in Theatre** – With the use of a professional theatrical team South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue are able to provide key safety messages to target audiences in relation to the consequences of anti social behaviour fires. Each year the contracted theatrical team are instructed to arrange a production for 40 schools throughout South Yorkshire aimed at year 7 pupils, comprising of 10 secondary schools per Community District.

- **Fire watch crew** – From 2008 SYF&R will commence with a Fire Watch Crew scheme for year 6 students, the idea of the project is to construct a team of students to carry out a visual audit of both their school and the surrounding area in conjunction with the local Firefighters. The purpose of the project is to enable year 6 students to understand the environmental issues around their community and this will ensure a better quality of life for them and their community.

Intervention

- **Arson Reduction Team** – Arson in its truest sense is defined by the Criminal Damage Act 1971 & only those offences which meet that definition can be legally attributed.

To help combat the problem of arson/antisocial behaviour fires in South Yorkshire, a newly formed team of Arson Intervention Officers has been formed whose duties will be primarily to proactively reduce arson & anti-social behaviour fires through effective partnership working in the diverse communities throughout South Yorkshire.

- **Arson Reduction Cycle Teams** – Analysis of anti social behaviour fires show that patterns relating to activity, locations and the perpetrators of such fires emerge enabling the identification of target areas and groups. A persistent problem is that of young people setting fires in remote locations. These areas are sometimes difficult to access and those resorting to them, through a variety of factors, are often unable to receive community safety advice.

New innovative ways to address this issue were considered and it was decided that in order to gain access to these areas and individuals, traditional methods can prove restrictive. Personnel on cycles if correctly trained and resourced are able to gain access and reach on a more personal level the target audience. It is felt this will have a positive impact on behaviour and subsequently reduce this type of incident.

A decision was made that the pilot usage of the cycle teams would be for the period of the school summer holidays (26 July – 2 September 2007) in a single station area. The station area would be selected based on anti social behaviour fire data for the same period in 2006. Royston fire station was selected as a high percentage of its overall activity was anti social behaviour fires.

For this initial project it was decided to fully utilise Royston station personnel's knowledge of local activity, risk and topographical awareness, for this reason all those trained on the first course were operational staff from Royston Fire Station.

To present the value of the teams in economic terms Communities and Local Government estimate the cost of anti social behaviour fires at **£1,970** per incident (source – The Economic Cost of Fire – Estimates 2004). This equated to a saving during the pilot initiative period (stated above) in the Royston area of **£68,950**

Following the success of the pilot initiative, a further sixteen cycles were purchased, four members of the brigade have received training to a standard that can be cascaded to selected personnel & be assessed as competent.

To current date our fleet of cycle's stands at 26 with approximately 50 trained riders spread across South Yorkshire. The diversity of the cycle patrol teams allows them to work as one organisation or in partnership with other key members of the 'Safer Neighbourhood Teams' e.g. South York's Police, Street Wardens etc. & will be deployed proactively as well as reactively by the relevant Station Manager / Arson Reduction Team into target areas at peak times of the day so that effective youth engagement can be established. This will be achieved by our cycle teams building a sustainable rapport with local youths & by establishing a two way mutual trust & respect by all parties.

- **Wheelie Bin Fire Reduction**

The significant escalation in the number of wheelie bin type fires has caused increasing levels of concern for Fire and Rescue Services and Local Authorities for several years.

A plastic wheelie bin provides the opportune arsonist with a mobile combustible resource that is readily ignitable and available in the majority of our neighbourhood communities. The facility for the malicious lighting of fires within them creates a significant unwanted and unnecessary risk to our communities. It also creates a community environment that fuels the anti-social behaviour culture therefore further having the potential to blemish the society that we live.

In December, 2005 an anti-social behaviour fire involving a wheelie bin in the Batemoor area of Sheffield had a devastating effect on a family and the local community. An intentionally lit wheelie bin fire quickly spread to the property it was allocated to and claimed the lives of three residents of the property. In comparison with other UK brigades, Merseyside Fire & Rescue had also experienced a recent similar incident with devastating effects.

Due to significant concerns raised by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, the community, all local and other emergency service agencies and by local politicians this led to the formation of a multi-agency group with the overall aim of identifying measures to reduce or eliminate this growing societal scourge.

As part of our research work & in partnership with Merseyside Fire & Rescue, Chiltern International Fire Research was contracted to carry out fire tests on plastic wheelie bins. The aims & learning outcomes of the tests have given us a much improved understanding of the development of fire related anti-social behaviour wheelie bin fires.

Several successful multi-agency initiatives have taken place in Sheffield since 2005 to reduce/eliminate fire related anti-social behaviour wheelie bin fires. The success of these initiatives have been mirrored across target areas of South Yorkshire.

- **Refuse Fire Reduction**

The persistent number of refuse fires has caused increasing levels of concern for SYFR and Local Authorities for several years. It is a known fact that fly tipping & other forms of illegally disposed refuse along with poor refuse management in domestic premises provides the opportune arsonist with a combustible soft target that is readily ignitable and available in the majority of our target areas consisting of high deprivation & poor socio-economic communities. The malicious lighting of refuse fires creates an unwanted and unnecessary risk to our communities & also creates a community environment that fuels the anti-social behaviour culture therefore having the potential to further blemish the society that we live.

To assist in the reduction of anti-social behaviour refuse fires SYFR have successfully piloted an "Arson Awareness" training scheme aimed at South Yorkshire Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO's). The training has been produced & delivered by SYFR & enables PCSO's to have the skills to proactively identify the potential for arson/anti-social behaviour fire attacks on commercial/domestic properties including wheelie bins. When a potential anti-social behaviour fire incident is proactively identified, the PCSO's also have the skills to give the appropriate advice via the appropriate agency to reduce/eliminate the risk. Initially 106 Sheffield PCSO's have received training in Sheffield with many more agencies requesting the same training i.e. Sheffield Homes, Local Authority Street Wardens & City Centre Ambassadors.

The success of the "Arson Awareness" training scheme has been replicated in all four Local Authority areas of South Yorkshire with other UK Fire & Rescue organisations showing considerable interest.

14. STRATEGY

District Strategies

Whilst the problem & causes of anti-social behaviour fires can be classed as 'Generic', each District Arson Intervention Officer is responsible for producing & implementing a local arson/anti-social behaviour fire reduction strategy to address local issues (See Appendices A – D). Each District arson/anti-social behaviour fire reduction strategy will be underpinned by the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue "Arson Reduction Strategy", also taking cognisance of National Indicator 33, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue 'Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011', 'Local Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008 – 2011', Local Fire Station Plans & Local Multi-agency Arson Reduction Forums.

15. SUMMARY

Since the formulation of the new SYFR Arson Reduction Team in January 2008 to June 2008, anti-social behaviour fire related incidents have declined by 98 incidents per month compared with the same period in 2007. This success is undoubtedly attributed to the successful multi agency initiatives described above & has made an approximate financial saving of £196,000 during the first six months of 2008.

Doncaster Community Arson Reduction Strategy

Introduction

Doncaster is the largest Metropolitan District in England covering approximately 225 square miles with an ever increasing diverse population of 290,000. The appointed Arson Intervention Officer is currently based at one of DMBC Offices (Unity House) in the Town Centre & forms a vital link with all of the Doncaster area 16 Safer Neighbourhood Teams & other key partners to achieve the aims & objectives of this strategy.

Local Aims & Objectives

To proactively & reactively reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fires using sustainable problem solving initiatives, these being: -

1. Plastic wheelie bin fire reduction in target areas via replacement of individual bins for bulk bins, fitting of bin locks, revision of waste management collection times & legal enforcement by DMBC.
2. Target hardening of vulnerable properties by 'alley-gating' & education etc, for habited properties, also improved security of un-inhabited properties leading to fast track demolition.
3. Identification & reporting via PCSO's of accumulated domestic & trade waste (fly tipping) followed by rapid removal by the F.L.A.G. team.
4. Identification of abandoned/derelict motor vehicles followed by rapid removal via the F.L.A.G. Team.

To identify potential and actual fire setters and take appropriate action through a partnership approach. This will be achieved by: -

1. Effective communication/education with individuals in target areas via schools intervention work embedded Firefighter schemes, Young Firefighters, L. I.F.E Training Courses, Deployment of Cycle Teams.
2. Continued effective partnership working with Youth Offending Teams etc.
3. Arson Awareness training & reporting systems for PCSO's & other key agencies.

To ensure that community safety partners absorb arson reduction measures into their partnership work and take a shared responsibility to reduce the opportunities for arson/deliberate fires via the following methods: -

1. Attend relevant strategic & local community group meetings to deliver education relating to the financial & moral impact of anti social behaviour fires.
2. Sharing of information & good practise including 'feedback' across all relevant key agencies responsible for the reduction of anti-social behaviour.

Future Development Plans and the Way Forward

1. Continue to seek improved partnership working to achieve further success in the reduction of fire related anti-social behaviour fires.
2. Strive to be even more proactive in identifying potential/immediate fire risks & take the necessary action for target removal / target hardening.
3. Educate & protect vulnerable people through effective initiatives against the risks of ASB fires using any relevant available resources.

Sheffield Community Arson Reduction Strategy

Introduction

As Arson Intervention Officer for Sheffield East/West, my area contains 7 fire stations, these being: Central, Lowedges, Mansfield Road, Mosborough, Darnall, Elm Lane and Rivelin. I have currently been in this role since January 2008.

My primary function is to reduce anti social behaviour fires within my district using joint initiatives which will include working with community safety partnerships, Police and any other agencies relevant to combating anti social behaviour fires. Working with our partners will enable a more structured approach and strategy in dealing with this problem of anti social behaviour fires.

Local Aims and Objectives

To proactively and reactively reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fires using sustainable problem solving initiatives, these being: -

- Wheelie bin fires can be reduced by working with our partners such as Veolia and Streetforce and introducing measures such as stock removal which was recently introduced in one of our hotspot areas in Handsworth which involved removal of all refuse bins in properties which became empty. This drastically reduced incidents of bin fires in that area.
- Arson foot patrols have been introduced in our city centre which has enabled firefighters to actively engage with shop owners and give them advice on issues relating to good and bad practice when disposing of waste, which should help reduce the number of commercial bin fires.
- We have introduced an arson reduction programme in which we have given training to our partners in identifying possible arson incidents and how to deal with these incidents in a more pro-active way. This training has been introduced to PCSOs, City Centre Ambassadors, Neighbourhood Warden Teams and Sheffield Homes. These are just some of the initiatives we have in place at this present time.

To identify potential and actual firesetters and take appropriate action through a partnership approach. This will be achieved by:

Working with agencies such as the Youth Offending Team by also working with the Police and other agencies we can identify those responsible for firesetting and then ensure the appropriate action is taken. This may take the form of education.

Initiatives currently at our disposal are:

- ASDAN
- LIFE
- Young Firefighters
- Firesetters Intervention Course

These are just some of the programmes we can draw on when required. We also actively ensure the message of not participating in acts of anti social behaviour by introducing programmes which enforce this message. This may be introduced in secondary by our officers if required.

To ensure that community safety partners absorb arson reduction measures into their partnership work and take a shared responsibility to reduce the opportunities for arson/deliberate fires via the following methods:

- By attending local meetings with our partners, by also sharing intelligence which may help in reducing local problems with anti social behaviour fires.
- To have strategies in place where good communication can take place and information can be obtained and to have a shared responsibility.
- Speaking for my own district I have now moved into Sovereign House this is where the safer neighbourhood partnerships are based, this has enabled me to work much closer with my partners; hopefully this closer working relationship will reflect in a greater reduction in anti social behaviour activity.

Future development plans and the way forward

To further develop our links with our partners, to share information more readily.
To work together in devising strategies to further reduce the number of wheelie bin fires.

Date: 4/9/08 Author - [REDACTED] Title – TWM Service No 921

Rotherham Community Arson Reduction Strategy

Introduction

Rotherham is one of the 4 metropolitan boroughs of South Yorkshire, covering an area of 28,278 hectares (118square miles) with a population of 252,000. Neighbouring authorities are Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield, North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Bassetlaw. The borough is divided into 21 wards, grouped into 7 Area Assemblies. About 50% of the population live in and around the main urban area of Rotherham Town. The remainder live in numerous small towns such as Wath, Dinnington Maltby and Aston, and in the rural areas which make up 50% of the Borough area. Rotherham's traditional steel and coal industries have largely given way to new industries to create a growing economy, comprising of approx 4,800 businesses's providing employment for many of its residents. The borough is protected from fire by 3 stations in Rotherham Centre, Maltby, and Aston Park, and to a lesser extent by 4 stations Brampton, Mexborough, Tankersley and Darnall Road, which as well as covering Rotherham protect parts of Barnsley, Sheffield and Doncaster.

Local Aims & Objectives

To proactively & reactively reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fires using sustainable problem solving initiatives, these being: -

Working Police CIU, Police SNT area officers, NAG Managers etc. to identify local problem areas and incident types

In consultation with the appropriate groups formulate an independent or joint action to tackle the associated problem.

The continuation of training across the defined groups, to allow each group to be aware of the role of other services.

To identify potential and actual fire setters and take appropriate action through a partnership approach. This will be achieved by:-

Reduce the opportunities of arson in schools, community and commercial premises. This will be achieved by working closely with the local education authority, community groups and business's to assess the risk of arson and advise on measures to prevent attacks. The arson reduction team will carry out a program of routine inspections within identified target areas. All visits will be recorded and monitored.

Work with partners to identify person or persons involved in fire setting and deliver the appropriate education intervention, or enforcement as required to solve the problem.

To ensure that community safety partners absorb arson reduction measures into their partnership work and take a shared responsibility to reduce the opportunities for arson/deliberate fires via the following methods: -

Working with partner agencies to ensure arson becomes part of their overall business strategy, by providing the appropriate training for partners staff.

Future Development Plans and the Way Forward

Working with partners to identify new and innovative solutions to ASB and deliberate fire setting, by.

Targeting repeat offenders.

Expanding the use of CCTV to identify and monitor areas, to assist in the appropriate actions.

Waste Bin management and the introduction of a tagging scheme trial in Maltby, with a few to expanding Borough wide.
Further targeted interventions for young people, at various points during the year, linked to culture and religion.

Date: - 05/09/08 Author: - [REDACTED] Title Wm Service N° 1036

Barnsley Community Arson Reduction Strategy

Introduction

Barnsley is one of four Council Districts in South Yorkshire. It covers an area of 127 Square miles (approx) and has a wide ranging diverse population of 228000 residents (2005 figures).

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue has five Stations: Barnsley, Royston, Tankersley, Brampton and Penistone that cover the area. These stations work closely with their local Safer Neighbourhood Teams of which there are nine.

Local Aims & Objectives

To proactively & reactively reduce incidents of arson and deliberate fires using sustainable problem solving initiatives, these being: -

Working closely with Barnsley District schools at Y0, Y2, Y4, Y6, Y7/8 and Y10 we deliver relevant arson/anti-social fire reduction messages via a classroom setting. Firefighters are embedded in local High Schools as Role models. We also follow the ASDAN scheme with a Certificate of Personal Effectiveness allowing pupils to gain a greater understanding of the Fire Service related fire problems and to gain a recognised Qualification. Arson reduction cycle teams are also deployed at relevant time/areas to engage with the community.

To identify potential and actual fire setters and take appropriate action through a partnership approach. This will be achieved by: -

Working closely and training our own station personnel, partners and other outside agencies with the skills to effectively identify and pass on details or deal with the problem directly. We also work closely with YOT's, station personnel/ Managers, SNT's sharing information to reduce firesetting. Setting up schemes such as Young Fire-fighters, Junior Fire Wardens, Life Courses.

To ensure that community safety partners absorb arson reduction measures into their partnership work and take a shared responsibility to reduce the opportunities for arson/deliberate fires via the following methods: -

With good liaison and sharing good practise, Identify problem areas between Partners at all levels. Target the specific areas with best possible resources, so that any relevant agency can effectively alleviate the problem. Revisit these areas if required.

Future Development Plans and the Way Forward

Build on the good Practise that we have at the moment and extend Young FireFighters, Embedded Fire-fighters, working with Youths in the community (Youth Clubs or groups). Allow all our relevant partners/agencies to proactively promote Arson/Anti-social Fire reduction.