



Firesetters Intervention Scheme (FSIS) briefing

This briefing provides an update of the progress so far by the Firesetters workstream which was established following the publication of the CFOA/ NFCC Firesetter Guidance Note; created and issued in 2016 to assist not only firesetter tutors but managers at all levels or those who are responsible for firesetter intervention schemes.

The first national workshop in West Midlands in 2016 identified a real need from staff at all levels for a national foundation training programme that could be delivered in house to new staff. Participants recognised that there are several providers who deliver more in-depth training for experienced tutors and that they have their place in the tutors journey of gaining a holistic approach to intervention. It was also demonstrated that there was a real understanding of the constraints of austerity on schemes up and down the county, hence the need for a Train the Trainer foundation training programme that can be delivered by fire services independently, regionally or collaboratively by FRS members of staff.

Task and Finish Training Group

There was a plethora of excellent work already in development by services and in particular by Scotland and West Midlands who have assisted the training group to build, develop and expand new modules. Avon FRS, Derbyshire FRS, Greater Manchester FRS, Humberside FRS, London FB, and Suffolk FRS expressed a desire to build the Train the Trainer programme and so the FSIS task and finish training group was created. Thanks for all of the services that are allowing their staff to be involved in this exciting national CYP work and for acknowledging the variety of their expertise, in the subject matter and training environment.

The training group have met five times since its creation and have been hosted by the services involved to make best use of resources. Working collaboratively, the group have researched and established a range of modules that they understand staff, newly engaged in the intervention need to have to be able to fulfil their duty to families, professionals, and agencies alike. This work has not been completed in isolation but with consideration for the excellent work by the National Fire Cadet work-stream.

FSIS covers a significant topic area; full consideration has been given to this in order to identify the modules that would be needed to equip staff to work in this field. It is pleasing to see services bring their expertise together to ensure the construction is a collaborative venture.

These overarching module topics are:

- Communication, listening skills and Ice Breakers/Energisers
- Report writing & Case Studies
- Safeguarding
- Legal responsibilities
- Classifications of CYP that have an unhealthy interest in fire.
- Fire Behaviour
- Basic home safety visits
- What is the Responsibility of FRSs?
- Resources
- Child development and attachment disorder

- Behaviour change
- Exit strategies & Evaluation

At a further national practitioners workshop held in February 2017, delegates agreed that the modules identified would provide robust and appropriate foundation training.

This work is progressing well; the twelve modules have been completed with lesson plans and the associated teaching resources in anticipation that a full toolkit can be produced. The first trial is scheduled for July with a practitioners launch in September 2018.

Simultaneously investigative work is being completed with the Professional Standards Body Project to develop a National Occupational Standard for Firesetter intervention staff. This will progress now that the base line modules are completed.

The two national Firesetter workshops re-iterated the aspiration for nationally led regional, multi-regional show and tell events for practitioners. Dorset and Wiltshire FRS championed this at their first South West meeting held in February 2018. South Yorkshire FRS is also creating an environment for this to be duplicated in Yorkshire and Humberside region in June.

Sharing and creating inexpensive resources is another piece of work, identified at the workshops, that the task and finish group will move onto once the Train the Trainer work is at a suitable point; this too will be in partnership with the Staywise working group.

The aspiration is for the training course to be accredited and work has begun to explore the options to progress this. Once the Train the Trainer programme has been trialled and finalised by the task and finish group we will agree the next steps. As this is a competitive arena it's imperative that the most suitable provider is sourced.

Data Collation

Compiling a robust anonymised national dataset is a further area we need to develop to be able to compile a true picture of the scale of Firesetter intervention that is occurring up and down the country. Consequently a survey has been circulated via NFCC communities to all fire services to gain this information. Sadly this method of engagement hasn't been very successful and because of this, time is being taken on administration to chase and gather the information.

We still have considerable gaps so for those of you that have not yet responded please find the survey attached. I would like to encourage you to complete and return to Rebecca.peachy@cambsfire.gov.uk. It is important that we are able to pull together a National picture.

I would like to close by again thanking all of the practitioners and FRS's for their contributions and their willingness to work so collaboratively