

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) - Youth Anti-Social Behaviour

1. Experiences of Youth ASB

- Secondary Fires
- Child Fire Setting
- Violence at work towards MFRS personnel

2. Interventions they put in place to deal with Youth ASB

- Complete fly-tipping reports to MFRS Arson Team and refer on to the relevant authority
- Street Intervention Team target hotspot areas to proactively engage with young persons, to give advice / provide reassurance and to gather intelligence
- Community Risk Management Routes (CRM) - Fire Appliances complete these in identified hotspot areas
- Youth Engagement programs - Fire Cadets, Beacon Project, Life Programme and Princes Trust Courses
- Regular engagement with partners to share intelligence and highlight issues of concern
- Seasonal Campaigns - Operation Banger, Beach Safe (Sefton Coastline)
- Co-ordinate monthly Environmental Action Days with partners
- Conduct Safety Advice and Fire Education (SAFE) courses to Young Fire-setters
- Complete Potential Arson Target Scheme (PATS) referrals to MFRS Arson Team

3. Any barriers to achieving success

- Covid-19 has been a big barrier in achieving success, in the fact that MFRS have had to work very differently since March 2020 particularly during the Bonfire period in both 2020 and 2021. One example being, Arson Officers were unable to enter schools to engage with students about the risks of fireworks/Bonfire night etc... this subsequently could have impacted on Youth ASB.
- Key partners have been impacted massively by the pandemic and a number of services have been put on hold. Some partners have also lost their funding resulting in loss of jobs, and although many partners have worked and continue to work from home, it does have an impact on communications and can on occasions, not be as effective as that face-to-face contact in resolving particular issues.
- MFRS volunteers have been put on hold since the start of Covid impacting on the work that they were involved with (campaigns in community, talks in schools/colleges).
- Street Intervention Teams (SIT) have also been impacted due to the numbers of staff going out in the team reducing from 3 per shift to 2 for Social Distancing can reduce the impact of the outreach team to engage with as many youths.