

Wales Arson Reduction Strategy

A Review by the Joint Arson
Group

November 2011



CYDWEITHIO I LEIHAI TANAU BWRIADOL
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE ARSON

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Wales Arson Reduction Strategy - Review

A Review of Progress conducted by the Joint Arson Group (JAG), 2011

Introduction

The 'Wales Arson Reduction Strategy' 2007 (WARS) was produced by the all-Wales Joint Arson Group (JAG) and the Welsh Government (WG) to build upon the 'Up in Flames' report (2003) and to provide a real focus for organisations and individuals working in the field of arson reduction. In his foreword to the strategy, Dr Brian Gibbons noted that it 'will need to evolve, as the problem itself will evolve'.

The WARS has certainly served as a 'go-to' resource for JAG, its members and arson prevention practitioners throughout Wales. And now, 4 years down the line, JAG has undertaken a comprehensive review of the progress made against the 'Actions for Change' detailed in the original WARS document.

In completing this review, JAG has also sought to capture and document examples of notable arson prevention work in Wales during the intervening years.

Examples of this work include:

- The Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) in Wales ensuring unsecured sites and buildings are secured as soon as possible following their discovery, thus mitigating the risk and removing the potential for deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour.
- Sharing good practice with Community Safety Partnerships across Wales regarding the removal, storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles to reduce vehicle arson.
- The roll-out of the Schools Target Hardening programme (increased security) across Wales.
- Innovative research ('Wildfires in Wales') and a social marketing approach ('Bernie' Project) to better understand and tackle the issue of deliberate grass fire setting.
- The further development and delivery of education and prevention programmes (e.g. 'Phoenix' and 'FireSafe') with a range of agency partners (e.g. police, Health Authorities, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams etc.).

It is initiatives such as these that have helped to drive an overall reduction in deliberately set fires in Wales from around 20,000 recorded incidents in 2006 to roughly 14,000 in 2010/11¹. Whilst recognising that this represents significant progress in the right direction, this is certainly not the time for complacency. Arson is a particularly difficult crime to combat and is still a major problem: the economic and environmental cost to Wales is staggering; the consequences for its communities and individuals are often tragic and the burden it places on our emergency services is unacceptable.

¹ Fire Statistics Wales, 2008 and Fire Statistics Wales, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (Welsh Government Statistical Bulletins), 2010-2011 data provisional.

The FRSs in Wales attend around 35 deliberately set fires *per day*, on average. More can be done and more needs to be done to continue to tackle arson head-on and by so doing to assist in the building of safer and stronger communities.

Undertaking this review was an important exercise and a necessary step in evolving this strategy in Wales. What has become obvious following this review process is that we now have an opportunity to build upon our experiences and learning from recent years, and develop a new arson reduction strategy that meets the potential challenges of an uncertain economic climate, and which encourages other agencies to share responsibility for arson reduction in our communities.

We hope that this review will be of interest to everyone with an interest in arson reduction in communities throughout Wales.

About the Joint Arson Group (JAG)

The all-Wales Joint Arson Group (JAG) was originally established under the auspices of the Welsh Government's Community Safety Committee. This group is comprised of representatives from key agencies across Wales, including the Fire and Rescue Services; Police Forces; Welsh Government; Firebrake Wales; and Forestry Commission Wales.

It was JAG who was originally tasked with producing a Welsh Arson Reduction Strategy, and the Group has continued to drive it forward through the coordination of multi-agency arson reduction activities and initiatives across Wales. JAG believes that arson is a community problem, and as such, that the most effective ways to deal with it will be through collaborative approaches.

The Role of the Welsh Government

The Welsh Government continues to provide a vital role and remains committed to reducing arson activity and raising awareness of the devastating effect this can have on our communities and the economy across Wales.

Since 2004 the Welsh Government has provided funding of £8.4m to take forward anti arson activity. No one agency has a monopoly of information and the benefits of the FRSs in Wales working closely and in collaboration with the Police, local authorities, community safety partnerships and other stakeholders to promote a partnership approach towards the reduction of arson incidents across Wales have proved both effective and sustainable.

Between 2007/08 and 2010/11, the Welsh Government provided funding of around £3m for the Fire and Rescue Service Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs). For the schools target hardening the ARTs have carried out crime reductions surveys at 167 schools across Wales, with the Welsh Government providing a total of £2.053m for the target hardening measures at these schools.

Between 2007/08 and 2010/11, the Welsh Government provided funding of £1.9m to the FRSs to take forward their youth intervention schemes. This has enabled the FRSs to undertake 9,000 placements on these courses.

The benefits of this investment are clear from the percentage decrease in incidents:

Deliberate primary fires² reduced by 21% between 2008/09 and 2010/11. Over the same period, deliberate road vehicle primary fires decreased by 39%, from 1,993 in 2008/09 to 1,207 in 2010/11³.

Review Methodology

Recognising the need to develop WARS to reflect the ever changing landscape within which it operates, JAG commenced this review in 2011. The original strategy contains some 30 clear 'Actions for Change' and JAG wanted to chart the progress made against *each* of these, in the 4 years to 2011. JAG members consulted with their colleagues and with considerable input and support from the Welsh Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs), set about detailing the progress that has been made, as well as noting the issues faced.

This was an 'inward-facing' review, conducted by JAG members, and as such it has been informed and conducted by those practitioners most closely involved with the delivery of the goals of the original strategy. Nevertheless, the review was always intended to be part of a much broader process that would eventually culminate in the production of a new arson reduction strategy for Wales.

This review in itself is not a systematic evaluation of individual activities and interventions, but is an honest reflection from JAG members of what progress has been made. As part of the review then, members have noted where good practice has seen progress made; where more work or different approaches are still required and, due to external factors, where certain individual action areas may no longer be appropriate or otherwise relevant. Recommendations have therefore been offered as to which of the original actions to 'keep', 'amend' and 'discard' going forward. Members have also suggested a range of potential new 'outcomes' and associated action areas, to help inform the development of a new strategy for Wales.

Going Forward

The reflective element of this review has clearly highlighted that the essence of the original strategy was well founded and still has value today. In light of the progress made and the changing political and social context, a new strategy is now required to re-focus efforts in this area and to broaden the ownership of and responsibility for arson reduction activity in Wales.

To find out more about the new strategy (*Wales Arson Reduction Strategy 2012-2015*) and how you can be included in the consultation process for this strategy, please contact:

Richard Hall, Policy and Research Coordinator, Firebrake Wales
richard@firebrake.org
01633 654000

² Primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.

³ Source: Table 032217 statswales@wales.gov.uk

The original *Wales Arson Reduction Strategy* (2007) can be downloaded here:
[***Wales Arson Reduction Strategy \(2007\)***](#)

The *Up in Flames* Report of The Community Fire Safety Working Group can be downloaded here:
[***Up in Flames \(2003\)***](#)

WARS Action Review – Actions for Change

1. “The Scope of the Problem”

Action no./Ref	1.1 & 1.2
Action	<p>Identification of “Hot Spot” areas and the provision of targeted multi-agency interventions.</p> <p>Partners to collate data in a way that allows analysis of arson, its signal crimes and risk factors.</p>
<p>Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>Develop analysis and management information systems to allow the early identification of emerging issues, based on partnership data.</i></p> <p><i>The provision of multi-agency interventions, supported by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to resolve these emerging issues, based on the SARA (Scan, Analyse, Respond and Assess) model, using a holistic approach.</i></p> <p><i>A common approach to the use of systems used to record data across Wales and by all partners.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>Information is received from both Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and Police Services across Wales, this data is analysed to enable identification of “hot spot” areas and emerging issues.</p> <p>Research has also been undertaken into the profile of arson offenders and the Forestry Commission has also supported research into the motivation of fire-setters in relation to Countryside Fires.</p> <p>The data which has identified hotspots has then been used to support multi agency interventions such as “Environmental Action Days” and school plays.</p> <p>Police Services across Wales use a common crime system, Records Management System (RMS) and the FRSs use the Incident Recording System (IRS).</p> <p>There is recognition that the Police and FRSs collect different data for different purposes, sometimes from the same event, it is <i>using</i> all the data in the pool from all partners that gives the full picture.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

Keep and amend as below:

Identification of “Hot Spot” areas and the provision of targeted multi-agency interventions.

Partners to collate data in a way that allows analysis of arson and deliberate fires, its signal crimes and risk factors.

Suggested new outcomes:

- **Benchmarks are suggested for the collection of expected data by each partner organisation and these are provided to JAG, to advise on a common approach to the identification of hot spots.**
- **This common approach is recognised by all partners as representing ‘best practice’ for Wales.**
- **The collection of data by partners is undertaken according to the agreed common approach, or reasons for non-compliance given.**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- **In suggesting benchmarks, regions should consider whether they can use the original ‘tactical options’ associated with these action points, as the basis for improving practice.**
- **The Police Services having a common classification for deliberately set fires which may not be classed as arson, such as a minor grass fire or a refuse fire, where there is commonly no owner identifiable or any value to the property. This was once recorded as “fire non criminal” and is now commonly recorded as Anti Social Behaviour - Environmental. Perhaps ‘Environmental/Fire’ could be used.**

WARS Action Review – Actions for Change

1. “The Scope of the Problem”

Action no./Ref	1.3
Action	<p><i>To acknowledge the differences between Police and Fire and Rescue Service statistics and to ensure those differences do not hinder arson reduction efforts in Wales.</i></p> <p><i>In the longer term to obtain a consistency between the figures as reported by Fire and Rescue Services and the Police, in relation to deliberate fires and an understanding of the differences in those figures.</i></p>
<p>Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>An acceptance that the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police do not record the same data.</i></p> <p><i>Fire and Rescue and Police Services to ensure standardisation of the initial recording of deliberate fires.</i></p> <p><i>Police to ensure the recording of “Arson” and “Fire non criminal” incidents to allow all relevant statistics to be considered.</i></p> <p><i>Adoption of new Fire Data Report (FDR) reporting procedures which are currently under national review.</i></p> <p><i>Each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) carries out an audit of existing information which has any relevance to arson reduction.</i></p>	
<p>Part 1: REVIEW</p>	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>Differences between Police and Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) data have certainly long been acknowledged. However, <i>closer working</i> and an increased liaison between Police and the FRS (as well as other partner agencies, Community Safety Partnerships etc...), has helped ensure that these differences are now even more widely understood across these organisations in Wales.</p> <p>Furthermore, this better joint understanding of the nature of (and differences between) the data collected, is helping to make sure that such differences are not impacting negatively on arson reduction work in Wales. There are numerous examples of this closer working and understanding in practice, such as Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs) being given direct access to limited police data and the use of both police and FRS data to inform the delivery of multi-agency initiatives such as Operation BANG (Be A Nice Guy) – to reduce arson and anti-social behaviour over the Halloween/Bonfire Night period.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA).</p>	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

Keep.

Suggested new outcomes:

- **All partners are clear about any differences between Police and Fire and Rescue Service statistics, in relation to the recording and reporting of deliberately set fires.**
- **All partners understand how any such differences may affect their own practice and impact upon the communities that they serve, whilst also recognising that arson has a direct link to other Anti Social Behaviour.**
- **That systems are in place to ensure that these differences do not hinder each partners' arson reduction efforts.**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- A clear statement is made by CFOA setting out whether it is their longer term intention to try to standardise the recording of Police and FRS data, in relation to deliberately set fires.
- A presentation of the system currently used by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS) is made to the named/lead officer in Gwent Police (currently seconded to a national data sharing project), as an effective model which could be adopted throughout Wales.

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

1. "The Scope of the Problem"

Action no./Ref	1.4
Action	Promote the concept of a multi-agency approach to arson reduction.
<p>Reminder of the 'goals': <i>To continue the joint Fire and Rescue and Police Services Arson Reduction Teams in Wales.</i></p> <p><i>Further develop successful multi-agency arson reduction initiatives.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>JAG feels that the concept of a multi-agency approach to arson reduction is now well established in Wales. As we see this more as an overall 'way of working' than an isolated 'action point', it is suggested that a statement endorsing collaborative working as <i>best practice</i> should be included in the introduction to any new Wales Arson Reduction Strategy (WARS) document.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Firebrake Wales.</p>	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?</p> <p>Discard, see above.</p>	
<p>Suggested new outcomes:</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:</p> <p>N/A</p>	

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.1
Action	To reduce the number of grass and forest fires which are deliberately set.
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Change the attitude of the community towards the deliberate setting of grass and forest fires.</i>	
<i>To promote life long Education in our communities to the problems caused by this issue.</i>	
<i>Take a multi-agency partnership approach to address this issue.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>A significant amount of work has been undertaken in this area in Wales. The nature, scope and scale of this work in the regions broadly reflect the geographical variance of this issue in Wales. For example, in North Wales, the focus is on the management of controlled burning and encouraging controlled burning or other forms of land management. However, certain common 'themes' are evident in many of the approaches taken across Wales, such as the identification of 'hotspot' areas, targeted campaigns and multi-agency initiatives.</p>	
<p>Examples of work undertaken include;</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support of 'Pain in the Grass' initiative• Enforcement days with Police• Cinema advertising campaign 'We know what you did last summer'• Grass Fire training provided for park rangers and School Community Police Officers (SCPO)• Supporting community fire safety and SCPO's in delivering grass fire input to schools• Use of Police helicopters and 'Airwave' to improve surveillance and communications• 'Crime Stopper' campaign across Wales coordinated with Station Commanders and operational crews• Provision of 'aide memoire' for Police officers to investigate grass fires• Additional training for Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) staff in dealing with countryside fires	

In addition, there have been two recent initiatives of note; the Social Marketing project in South Wales ([‘Bernie’](#), 2010) and the Forestry Commission Wales’ (FCW) research project which resulted in the publication of the [‘Wildfires in Wales’](#) report (Matthew Jollands, May 2011). The *Bernie* project saw a significant reduction in the number of grass and forestry fires in the target area (Tonypanydy in Rhondda Cynon Taff), through the delivery of a number of diversionary activities for young people in the area. These activities were identified and established during the various stages (e.g. research) of the social marketing process.

The *Wildfires in Wales* report makes a series of recommendations for tackling the issue of wildfire arson.

Suggested lead:

Joint Arson Group (JAG).

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

JAG recognises both the increased focus on trying to understand this issue and also the significant amount of work undertaken in Wales in this area in the last year or so. There have undoubtedly been successes and these should be understood and shared for the benefit of all partners. However, it is also very apparent from the incidence of grass fires in Wales this year already, particularly in the few months to May 2011, that this remains an extremely serious and damaging issue in Wales.

Extensive media coverage of these fires, particularly in the South Wales region in early May 2011, highlighted the ‘staggering’ number of grass and mountain fires being attended by fire crews on a daily basis. This coverage included many interviews with FRS personnel who expressed their dismay at the lack of prosecutions in this area to date.

The primary short term recommendation of the *Wildfires in Wales* report is that **partnership working as a means of tackling wildfires should be improved**. Stating that *‘partnership working is the only viable way of tackling such a multifaceted issue as wildfire, and is especially important in times of decreasing budgets and greater time constraints’*.

Keep - and take forward as below.

Suggested new outcomes:

- ***A reduction in the number of grass and forest fires which are deliberately***

set in Wales.

- ***An increased understanding by all stakeholders of the drivers, motivations and social context of this type of fire-setting.***
- ***Increased access for all stakeholders to information on notable practice in this area, particularly those programmes and initiatives that have been proven to be successful in achieving reductions in deliberate grassfire setting.***
- ***An increase in the number of investigations and prosecutions associated with the act of deliberate grass/forest fire setting.***
- ***Increase clarity for stakeholders regarding legislative requirements.***

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Incorporate Toolkit being produced by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (currently in draft form).
- Review of findings and evaluations of recent initiatives and research in Wales by the All-Wales Joint Arson Group – to incorporate recommendations on taking forward actions across Wales.
- Need to improve relationships with land management and extend this to other organisations, for example, Countryside Commission for Wales (CCW), and the 'education' of farmers.
- Seek clarity on legislative requirements from the Welsh Wildfire Enforcement Working Group. This group is looking at increasing prosecutions through better response, investigation and charging standards, including advice to control rooms. [Contact: Sergeant Andrew Scourfield (South Wales Police) Forest crime office, seconded to Forestry Commission Wales].
- Continued involvement of Forestry Commission Wales (FCW).

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.2
Action	To reduce Vehicle Arson.
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Ensure the prompt removal of abandoned and unwanted vehicles.</i>	
<i>Share good practice regarding the removal, storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles throughout local authorities.</i>	
<i>Reduce vehicle crime.</i>	
<i>Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to make effective use of their Statutory Powers to seize vehicles.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>Protocols are in place with local authorities in Wales, as regards removal of abandoned vehicles. Information concerning local authorities' statutory duties regarding abandoned vehicles can be found in the 'Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005' available on the Welsh Government website.</p> <p>A vehicle crime leaflet has been redesigned which is applicable to all Wales.</p> <p>CSP action plans should have stolen vehicles in them if stolen vehicles are an issue in their area, if they are to enable Fire and Rescue Services to reduce vehicle arson.</p> <p>Vehicle crime continues to reduce, reflecting that vehicles are designed and built more securely.</p> <p>The impact of rising scrap values and also the use of a vehicle 'scrappage' initiative by the Government have also been recognised as key factors in reducing this problem.</p> <p>Good progress has been made in Wales in this area.</p> <p>Numerous practical multi agency initiatives have been developed to assist in any identified problem area.</p>	
Suggested lead:	
Police.	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

Keep - as this is still an issue that exists across Wales, though it is decreasing in importance. The issue still exists within some localities more than others.

Suggested new outcomes:

- **Reduction in vehicle crime.**
- **Reduction in vehicle arson.**
- **Reduction in car key burglaries.**
- **Reduction in deliberate vehicle fires (i.e. vehicle may be of no value, abandoned, or owner not known and would not be classed as an arson).**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

Continued identification of hot spot areas and also emerging issues, such as number plate fires, supported by multi agency interventions.

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.3
Action	<i>Improve Waste Management Practices.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>To promote good practice in the safe, secure storage of waste.</i>	
<i>The producers of waste to take responsibility for its safe and legal disposal.</i>	
<i>To educate communities, businesses and producers of waste regarding the dangers of inappropriate storage of waste.</i>	
<i>To educate the community regarding waste management and the impact to the environment caused by poor waste management.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>Joint working with local authorities has helped promote good practice as regards safe and secure storage of waste in order to decrease the instances of deliberate fire-setting to this waste. Developments such as wheelie bin lid locks have assisted in hot spot areas.</p> <p>'Tidy Towns' is a Welsh Government funded initiative which aims to address a number of local environmental quality issues including litter and fly tipping. The Welsh Government also fund Fly Tipping Action Wales (FtAW), an Environment Agency Wales led initiative which has contributed to an overall reduction in incidents of fly-tipping across Wales. FtAW brings together over 50 partner organisations including local authorities, Fire and Rescue Services and Forestry Commission Wales to run initiatives such as 'Total Focus' events, aimed at business producers of waste, along with domestic producers. The initial approach is to educate and this is followed up by enforcement when necessary. Multi agency forums such as these are proving effective in reducing fires in poorly managed and abandoned waste.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission has worked closely with partners such as the Environment Agency in respect of fly tipping on their land.</p> <p>Community awareness of waste management is encouraged through 'Environmental Action Days', and Business Action Days, with partners.</p> <p>The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order as it applies to businesses is used in some of these campaigns.</p>	
Suggested lead:	
Joint Arson Group (JAG).	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

Keep.

Suggested new outcomes:

- **Cleaner streets and environment with fewer opportunities for the deliberate burning of waste.**
- **Reduced number of deliberately set fires involving waste or litter.**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Each region should consider how they use the original ‘tactical options’ associated with this action point (from the WARS document), as the basis for achieving these outcomes.
- Each region should then use JAG as a forum for sharing any new/additional tactical options to further good practice throughout Wales.

WARS Action Review

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.4
Action	<i>To reduce the opportunities for deliberate fire setting at vacant sites and buildings.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>To ensure owners of vacant sites and buildings within our communities take responsibility to secure, maintain and monitor their assets.</i> <i>To ensure unsecured sites and buildings are secured as soon as possible following their discovery, thus mitigating the risk and removing the potential for deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? The risk posed by unsecured void properties has been acknowledged by the Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs), Police Services, Local Authorities and partners. There is evidence to show that the issue of void properties and arsons within them is increasing, and this is possibly related to the economic climate. Decreasing budgets within Local Authorities has made it increasingly difficult to enable boarding up of void properties due to the expense this incurs, even though these costs are recoverable from the property owner in the long term. Opportunities for anti social behaviour and crime have been reduced. As a result there has been a reduction in Police and FRSs activity thus saving resources. The quality of life of those who live in proximity of such properties is preserved or enhanced and in addition they are reassured by the partnership activity within their community. The FRSs in Wales each have a method to identify and secure such sites through intelligence collection and liaison with partners and stakeholders (The Toolkit). The safety of emergency service workers and our communities has been enhanced through the dissemination of information regarding the risk profile of each unsecured void property. Secured and monitored properties retain their practical viability thus offering the potential for economic development and inward investment in our communities and country.	

Suggested lead:

Joint Arson Group (JAG) and Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs).

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

Keep but amend as follows:

'To reduce the opportunities for deliberate fire setting at insecure, void or derelict buildings'.

Suggested new outcomes:

- **A reduction in deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour is achieved, in relation to derelict and void buildings.**
- **Fewer injuries to members of the community and emergency service personnel, in relation to derelict and void buildings.**
- **Partners are better able to identify the security status of derelict and void buildings in their region.**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- The toolkit developed by the ARTs, '*Arson Reduction Tool Kit: Derelict and Vulnerable Buildings*', is formally reviewed by JAG alongside other tactical options and recommended for adoption as good practice.
- The reviewed toolkit is recognised by all partners as representing 'best practice' for Wales.
- Work is undertaken by partners in line with this best practice, or reasons for non-compliance given.
- Intelligence gathering and information dissemination methods are shared, in order to maximise safety and efficiency in relation to unsecured void properties.
- Development of formal unsecured high risk void Memoranda Of Understanding (MOUs) with Local Authorities across Wales.
- Secure support from Community Safety Partnership (CSP's) at a tactical level.

Additional 'Goals' proposed:

Develop a strategy for identifying high risk properties.

Reduce damage in the built environment.

Prevent injuries to members of communities and emergency services attending these properties.

WARS Action Review

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.5
Action	<i>Aim to design out crime at an early stage.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Educate relevant persons involved in the design, and specification of buildings in the advantages of designing out arson.</i>	
<i>All Police Forces should have "Architectural Liaison Officers" (ALO), who are trained to freely deliver advice in this area.</i>	
<i>Encourage and promote manufacturers of items resistant to arson.</i>	
<i>Encourage architects and planners to incorporate arson reduction measures in buildings.</i>	
<i>Ensure the Fire Safety agenda raises the issue of protection of assets as well as people.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
Noted that ALOs have now been replaced with Crime Prevention Design Advisors (CPDA).	
The Joint Arson Group (JAG) outlined slow but steady progress. The only police force not yet having a CPDA is North, but it is hoped that this may change in the near future. Otherwise systematic progress has been difficult because of cost. However, there has been some push nationally, and the police are incorporating Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) issues into this work.	
Suggested lead:	
Joint Arson Group (JAG) & Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?	
Keep - but rename as follows, which also incorporates original action 5.2 .	
'Aim to design out arson at an early stage'.	
Suggested new outcomes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant people and bodies have an increased understanding of the role that Secured by Design ('SBD') can play in reducing arson related crime.• An increased percentage of new buildings are being designed, planned and built in accordance with the principles of SBD.	

- **All new public buildings to be designed, planned and built in accordance with the principles of SBD.**
- **In addition, partners should consider using the principles of SBD in relation to the 'target hardening' of existing buildings.**

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- A letter in support of Secured by Design (SBD) is sent to the relevant officers/ministers in Welsh Government from the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officers.
- A decision is taken at Ministerial level as to the status of SBD in Wales.
- Building Regulations are being devolved to Wales and this may bring some opportunities to push this work forward. *
- Need to promote and raise the profile of SBD within the FRSs.
- All CSPs to ensure that all public buildings in their area are built to SBD.
- FRSs to endorse Supplementary Planning guidance in their Local Authority areas.

** Currently being discussed by Communities and Local Government (CLG). BRE (The Building Research Establishment) are undertaking research on their behalf. The focus is on what areas are suitable to bring into the building regulations, e.g. locks on doors and windows. Another consideration which was discussed at the Working Group was - can this be undertaken by industry itself without the need to amend the building regulations?*

Following devolution of the building regulations it will be the Welsh Ministers who will decide whether to take forward any work in this area. The work being undertaken in England will be of interest.

WARS Action Review

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.6 & 2.7
Action	<i>Arson vulnerability study of schools.</i> <i>Target hardening of schools.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Make arson vulnerability studies an essential part of school management team duties.</i> <i>Multi-agency crime prevention surveys to be carried out on all schools in Wales.</i> <i>All high-risk schools to be target hardened by 2010.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? Arson vulnerability studies are not uniformly included in school management team duties across Wales. Multi agency crime prevention surveys have been carried out on every school in Wales which has been identified as high risk through partnership working. All high-risk schools in Wales have been target hardened. Activity at schools estates is now monitored and recorded by the Fire and Rescue Services and Arson Reduction Teams as a matter of priority. The Welsh Government has made funds available to target harden our most vulnerable sites. All ART members are crime prevention officers who make recommendations for target hardening and monitor the quality, effectiveness and outcomes of such works. Partnerships have been established with Local Education Authorities (LEAs) across Wales. There has been a huge reduction in activity at those sites which have been target hardened as reported to the WG and the JAG. Vital community assets have been protected. The Welsh Government, Fire and Rescue and Police Services together with our partners have provided practical help and reassurance to staff, pupils and communities across Wales. An all-Wales approach to security at educational sites has been developed and works.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

JAG noted that some of the existing goals are no longer relevant, however it was felt that the actions themselves are still worthy of pursuit.

JAG further agreed to combine these two actions along with actions 2.8, 2.9 and 5.1. See new action point '2.X' for details of new outcomes and suggested actions to achieve these outcomes.

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.8 & 2.9
Action	<p><i>Promote involvement of school governors and school councils in crime reduction on school premises.</i></p> <p><i>Schools to comply with the Regulatory (Fire Safety) Order (2005).</i></p>
<p>Reminder of the 'goals':</p> <p><i>Collaboration between school governors, school councils and local agencies in reducing vandalism and arson on school premises.</i></p> <p><i>Schools to carry out their own risk assessments.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>The Joint Arson Group (JAG) notes that there has been progress in this area, some of which is noted under the review of Action 2.6. There is also work going on elsewhere (e.g. Arson Control Forum, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service) which could prove to be useful.</p> <p>Action 2.9 has effectively now been achieved. This is now a statutory requirement: however, there is no consistent approach in implementation.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?</p> <p>JAG agreed to combine these two actions along with actions 2.6, 2.7 and 5.1. See new action point '2.X' for details of new outcomes and suggested actions to achieve these outcomes.</p>	

WARS Action Review

2. "Environment"

Action no./Ref	2.X
Action	Schools and Arson
Reminder of the original actions:	
2.6 Arson Vulnerability study of schools.	
2.7 Target Hardening of Schools.	
2.8 Promote involvement of school Governors & School Councils in Crime Reduction on school premises.	
2.9 Schools to comply with the Regulatory (Fire Safety) Order (2005).	
5.1 Increase the use of Sprinklers in Schools thereby reducing the cost to society of school fires.	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
See original action points for review of progress under each action in Wales.	
Suggested lead:	
Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Suggested new outcomes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are fewer incidences of arson in schools in Wales.• The impact (human, environmental and financial) of any arson attacks on schools in Wales is reduced.• Greater awareness amongst identified key/senior governors & school staff, of the role that they can play in reducing arson on school premises.	
Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:	
Summary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To monitor all Welsh educational sites for criminal/arson activity and work with partners to improve or develop the security of such sites.• To educate appropriate Local Education Authority (LEA) members regarding the	

need to report all educational site activity.

- Evaluation of the impact of the current 3 year programme and recommendations as to future actions needed. This should include a review of the templates and methods used over the past 3 to 4 years to target harden schools.
- Production of a Toolkit.

Detail:

That the JAG formally reviews the templates and methods used during the past four years to target harden schools and that an all-Wales approach to this matter is continued.

Activity at educational sites to be monitored and reported on at regular intervals.

Crime prevention surveys to be carried out on sites which are identified through intelligence gathered.

All intelligence gathering and target hardening activity to be recorded on a common template across Wales.

JAG to seek funding to support target hardening activity at school sites.

Target hardening measures are monitored and reported on to establish effectiveness.

Firebrake Wales to work with JAG police representative (see Action 2.6 above). It is worth considering asking governors and/or head teachers about what has worked well for them.

JAG to consider a safety / security handbook for schools / school governors linking the issues raised on school fires / crime and showing how such issues can be avoided. This could be housed on the Welsh Government website and would enable this action to be 'completed' - in effect a 'toolkit' to prevent school crime / arson. The booklet could include obligations under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005), consider Secured by Design (SBD) and take on board the issues raised in the arson prevention bureau document "How to Combat Arson in Schools".

Fire and Rescue Service to consider the evaluation of the full 3 year target hardening grants to schools vulnerable to incidents of deliberate fire setting and anti social behaviour and to make recommendations on any further target hardening measures.

Depending on the outcome, Welsh Government to consider further funding.

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Engagement and Intervention

Action no./Ref	3.1
Action	<i>To produce a clear picture of the extent to which children and youth are involved in fire setting behaviour.</i>
<p>Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>All partners contribute to research into the arson and deliberate fire setting problem, specifically the extent to which children and young people in Wales are involved, and any relevant demographic factors, as well as desk research into the available options for tackling the problem, including involving children and young people in positive ways to develop solutions.</i></p> <p><i>Identify a suitable agency to collate the information and produce a report.</i></p> <p><i>The improvement of Information sharing between partners.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>There has been much work undertaken in this area in Wales, both in the collection and analysis of various data sources and the development and delivery of programmes to address fire setting behaviour in young people, e.g. FACE, FIRESAFE and Phoenix.</p> <p>Links have been made with the criminal justice system and Youth Justice Services to signpost, and deliver programs to children and young people at risk or involved in fire setting behaviour.</p> <p>Recently, there have also been two major research projects undertaken - The Forestry Commission’s sociological research and the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) social marketing (“Bernie”) project. Whilst this research was specifically into grass fire setting, there was a large focus on young people in both projects.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

JAG's view is that, as written and in the current financial climate, not all of the 'goals' sitting within this action were realistically achievable. However, this remains an important area and, recognizing the considerable amount of work already undertaken across Wales, JAG believes we should now focus on pulling this work together into one place.

In taking this work forward JAG noted the importance of ensuring that the Wales Arson Reduction Strategy (WARS) and the [Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People \(2010\)](#) are mutually referential.

Keep but amend - as noted below.

Suggested new outcomes:

- *To improve access for JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales to existing research into the extent that children and youth are involved in fire setting behaviour.*
- *To increase the awareness of JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales of the extent that children and youth are involved in fire setting behaviour.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Collect and collate existing research in this area (in Wales & beyond), and make it available in one place.
- Collect and collate examples of programmes & interventions in this area (used in Wales & beyond), including details of 'best practice' and any evaluation results, and make this available in one place.
- Once the two actions above are complete, JAG to review whether further research needs to be undertaken to fill any gaps in current knowledge.

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Engagement and Intervention

Action no./Ref	3.2
Action	Partners to utilise evaluated programmes within the local context.
Reminder of the ‘goals’: A suite of evaluated programmes available to partners to chose suitable models for use locally.	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>The Fire and Rescue Services and Arson Reduction Teams have maintained a strong focus in this area, delivering and developing a range of education and prevention programmes throughout Wales. As well as established programmes such as ‘Phoenix’ and ‘FireSafe’ each of the regions has developed additional initiatives such as ‘Fish Not Fire’, ‘Empowering Pedals’, ‘Firefighter for a Day’ and ‘Bush Craft’ courses.</p> <p>One-to-one and group initiatives are being widely provided, with a range of partners supporting both the delivery and the appropriate targeting of specific interventions. Partners include the police, Health Authorities, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams, Local Education Authorities (LEAs), DangerPoint and Flying Start.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?	
<p>JAG recognises the continuing importance of both general education and specific programmes and interventions to prevent children and young people becoming involved in fire setting behaviour. Again, there has undoubtedly been considerable hard work and effort directed in this area throughout Wales.</p> <p>Whilst not wanting to lose sight of this work and the achievements made in this area, JAG recognises the significant role of evaluation and partnership working in delivering effective programmes and interventions. Therefore, whilst activity continues in this area, JAG recommends that details of current work, evaluation and research are now pulled together into one place. Good practice can then be identified and shared across Wales.</p> <p>JAG welcomes the recent publication by the Welsh Government of the <i>Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People</i> (2010), and aims to support and compliment that strategy through the outcomes and actions recommended below.</p>	
Keep but amend , as noted below.	

Suggested new outcomes:

- *To improve access for JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales to details and evaluation results of interventions and programmes in Wales.*
- *To increase the awareness of JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales of the range of interventions and programmes already being used across Wales.*
- *To increase the awareness of JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales of both the extent and results of any evaluation already undertaken of interventions and programmes already being used across Wales.*
- *JAG members, partners and practitioners in Wales are informed and equipped to both select the most appropriate programmes and interventions for their local context, and then to undertake ongoing evaluation of their delivery of the same.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Collect and collate examples of programmes and interventions in this area (used in Wales and beyond), including details of 'best practice' and any evaluation results, and make this available in one place.
- Produce/provide clear guidance on the classification of current interventions, i.e. which of these are 'Tier 1', 'Tier 2' or 'Tier 3'. This guidance should make clear which programmes and interventions have already been successfully evaluated and which have not.
- Produce/provide guidance on how interventions can be evaluated on an ongoing basis. This guidance should highlight the benefit of/opportunities to capture common evaluation metrics for comparison across Wales, and should include an outline framework/template to support this process.

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Engagement and Intervention

Action no./Ref	3.3
Action	<i>Youth Prevention/Engagement posts to be structured within establishments i.e. not short term (3 year funded).</i>
Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>All programmes to be adequately staffed and continuously funded as permanent positions.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? The advantages of having dedicated/funded staff within the Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) to deliver programmes were detailed in the report “ <i>Community Fire Safety – Developing effective practice with young people across Wales</i> ” (K. Wong, 2007). Examples of staffing provision for various programmes within the 3 Welsh Fire and Rescue Services (at the time of writing) are: <u>North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS)</u> Crew manager within the central Community Fire Safety team, whose job description includes issues relating to children and young people (e.g. collating CRB checks). <u>Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS)</u> Firesafe programme – coordinated by HQ, with 2 staff per command area. <u>South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS)</u> Phoenix programme – manager (at Temporary Station Manager level) with 2 Watch Managers delivering the programme. The report mentioned above also highlighted the key qualities of FRS staff that young people valued, for example ‘fairness’ and ‘empathy’. Extensive and specific staff development (in-house and external training/courses) to enable teams to effectively deliver youth programmes continues throughout Wales.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

It is JAG's view that the policy of youth prevention in this area is now firmly 'core-business' for the FRSs. The requirement for specialist skills in working with children and young people is very clearly recognised in the *Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People* (2010). This strategy sets out a 'road-map' of how the FRS will ensure that staff working with children and young people are effective and professional.

JAG therefore recommends that this action point as it stands is no longer required.

Discard – no longer needed,

Suggested new outcomes:

N/A

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

N/A

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Engagement and Intervention

Action no./Ref	3.4
Action	<i>Develop effective programmes designed to meet the needs of children and young people at risk of offending behaviour.</i>
Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>Strategies for engagement with children and young people to form part of Fire Authority’s Risk Reduction Plans (RRPs).</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>There is much evidence in Wales of organisations developing established programmes to suit the local context, as well as initiating new activities to address this action. There are also numerous examples of partnership working being used to both target those children and young people at risk, and to refer them on to appropriate programmes.</p> <p>Examples include: the extension of the Phoenix programme in North Wales (‘Phoenix 2’); the adaption of various programmes in Mid and West Wales to meet the specific needs of children and young people; and the roll-out of additional activities in South Wales (e.g. Vehicle Crime Days with focus on the effects and consequences of vehicle arson).</p> <p>The Welsh Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and the Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs) have established a network of partners to identify appropriate individuals for courses and programmes: indeed these partners are now seen as being an ‘embedded’ component of these programmes going forward. In addition, key recent research and Social Marketing projects* have included findings which will add to our understanding of the involvement and motivations of children and young people specifically in relation to the deliberate fire setting of vegetated areas.</p> <p>* Forestry Commission Wales, SWFRS and MAWWFRS – ‘Wildfires in Wales’ research, 2011 and SWFRS – ‘Bernie’ project, 2009 onward.</p>	
Suggested lead:	
Joint Arson Group (JAG).	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

The recent *Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People* (Welsh Government, 2010), aims to deliver an approach which has two main 'strands'. As well as an element of general education, the strategy addresses the need to "deliver effective reduction of anti-social fire crime behaviour and engage with children and young people who are on the cusp of offending or have already offended".

JAG believes that, as youth prevention work has become 'core business' and given that the Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) now have a clear and recognised strategy for engaging with children and young people to deliver reduction in fire risk and fire crime, this action is no longer needed.

Discard – no longer needed.

Suggested new outcomes:

N/A

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

N/A

WARS Action Review

3. "Prevention of Youth Offending and Re-Offending"

Engagement and Intervention

Action no./Ref	3.5
Action	<i>Fire and Rescue Service staff to sit on appropriate panels for children and young people involved in pre or post court work in YOTs.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Fire staff of suitable seniority to be available in each local authority area that has a Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP).</i> <i>Fire staff seconded to each Youth Offending Team (YOT).</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? This has not been achieved as stated, but other suitable links are now in place through Youth Justice Services (YJS) and other work programmes.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group.	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? Discard - no longer needed (see above).	
Suggested new outcomes: N/A	
Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes: N/A	

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Education

Action no./Ref	3.6 & 3.7
Action	<p>3.6 Ensure consistency in education messages and practices across all services and agencies.</p> <p>3.7 To promote greater collaboration between key partners in developing educational resources and programmes in educating children and young people about arson.</p> <p>Give a higher priority to Personal Social Education (PSE) within the school curriculum by ESTYN (Office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales) and by all LEAs/Department for Education, Culture & the Welsh Language (DECWL) in Wales.</p> <p>It is recognised that the current situation is that schools have discretion over their PSE. Where arson is a problem, schools in the area should be actively encouraged to ensure an arson prevention message is included in PSE.</p>
<p>Reminder of the ‘goals’:</p> <p>3.6 <i>Children and young people in education receive appropriate information on arson issues.</i></p> <p><i>To ensure that children and young people not in conventional education are engaged.</i></p> <p><i>Delivery in line with the all-Wales schools programme to ensure the widest audience is reached.</i></p> <p>3.7 <i>Educational resources to be developed in line with government guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>PSE to be accorded a higher status within LEAs and schools.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>There has been much achieved in this area in Wales since the <i>Wales Arson Reduction Strategy</i> was published. Several fire safety education ‘units’, materials and activities have been produced (or are in the process of being produced) for the various ‘Key Stages’ (KS) of the National Curriculum. Examples include:</p> <p>KS1: Tanni Fire Safety Activity Book KS2: Second stage of the Welsh Government funded educational project, designed</p>	

around the requirements of the PSE (Personal & Social Education) framework in Wales, delivers key fire safety messages, supported by Fire Safety Activity Books.

Accompanying guidance has also been produced, which identifies for teachers how the various messages and elements within these materials link back to key PSE aspects such as 'physical', 'emotional' and 'vocational'.

Much of the work done aims to communicate key messages to raise awareness of personal fire safety in the home, such as how to escape from your home in the event of fire and remembering a 'bedtime routine'. Important as these messages undoubtedly are, there appears to have been less focus on units and materials specifically related to **arson**.

One such initiative, developed for **Key Stage 3**, is "**It's Just a Bit of Smoke**". This bilingual interactive educational DVD highlights issues such as under-age drinking, bullying, peer pressure and relationships, through a fire crime scenario concerning hoax calls and arson. This has been designed to show school pupils the consequences of playing with fire, as well as the dangers of making hoax calls to the fire service.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service have also been involved in a KS 3 programme, "**Playing with Fire**", in partnership with the All Wales Police Core Programme coordinator and the All Wales FRS Education Group (AWEG). This has been designed to address the fire crime of mountain and grassland fires, and to encourage young people to discuss the consequences of their actions.

More recently, the '**StayWise Cymru**' initiative has seen the development of a website to host FRS bilingual resources and lesson plans. This has been based on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's 'StayWise' initiative, whose aim for this was to "join together safety conscious agencies such as the Fire, Ambulance & Police Services" to "provide a 'one stop shop' in applied learning for teachers and community safety practitioners". In Wales, AWEG will take a lead on overseeing resources and inputting to the website, with all materials being linked to the National Curriculum and PSE in Wales. JAG is not aware at this stage how much specific 'arson' content this website will host/contain.

Suggested lead:
Joint Arson Group (JAG).

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

JAG recognises the considerable effort and advances made in this area in Wales, and believe that this continues to be an important area for focus. The education of children and young people both in terms of their personal/home fire safety and in regards to arson is paramount.

The vital role of education is clear in the *Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People* (2010), which identifies the need to "educate children and young people and their families in fire safety skills and responsible citizenship". The

strategy highlights that “each Fire and Rescue Authority currently employs educationalists who educate in mainstream schools at key stage 1, 2, 3 and 4”.

Within this broader ‘education’ context, JAG is obviously predominantly interested in how this relates to, and can effectively impact upon, the issue of deliberate fire setting. These two actions from the *WARS* set out the need for **consistency** (in messages & practices) and **effective collaboration** in this area – and JAG believe that these remain important aspirations.

To this end, we would note the following points/concerns raised by practitioners with regard to progress against these actions to date:

- Lack of an all-Wales ‘toolkit’ for Halloween and bonfire night
- View by some that there has been little consultation between those developing all Wales packages and arson reduction practitioners themselves
- Concern raised by some of the ‘reach’ of the work in this area – how accessible is the information to ‘NEETS’ (Not in Education, Employment, or Training)?

In taking this work forward JAG noted the importance of ensuring that *WARS* and the *Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People (2010)* are mutually referential.

Keep but amend - as noted below.

Suggested new outcomes:

- ***To increase the consistency of arson related education messages and practices as delivered by the Fire and Rescue Services, Police and other partner agencies across Wales.***
- ***To increase collaboration between key partners in the development and delivery of educational resources and programmes to educate children and young people about arson.***

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- JAG nominated member (potentially Firebrake Wales) to liaise with AWEG and other key partners, to develop an all-Wales ‘perspective’ of the design and delivery of education messages related to arson. Such a perspective should include detail of how current and planned work supports the delivery of the *Fire and Rescue Authorities Strategy for Children and Young People (2010)*. A close link generally between JAG and AWEG would also help ensure that arson-related educational messages have an all-Wales arson practitioner input.
- Collate and make available to JAG members examples, in Wales and the rest of the UK, of good practice and success in engaging with children and young

people not in conventional education (e.g. MAWWFRS).

- Collate and make available to JAG members all evaluation undertaken, in Wales and the rest of the UK, on relevant education programmes in this area.
- Explore potential for supporting the consistent and timely roll-out of important messages to children and young people about responsible behaviour during the Halloween/bonfire night 'season': this could link in with the existing Operation BANG (Be a Nice Guy).

WARS Action Review

3. “Children, Young People and Education”

Education

Action no./Ref	3.8
Action	<i>Age groups - Initiatives beginning with children between the ages of 3 to 7 years should be developed in line with the Welsh Assembly Government foundation phase framework for children’s learning.</i>
Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>Instil responsible behaviour to young people from an early age.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? ‘Tanni’ is aimed at younger children between the ages of 5 and 7. Following the adventures of a cartoon character based on a fire-fighter’s helmet, Tanni explores with children the dangers of fire, the risks they may encounter in the home, or elsewhere, and how they can keep themselves safe – using the key message ‘Don’t Touch, Tell ’ to reinforce learning. Tanni enables all three Welsh Fire Services to work with a consistent resource that is available to <u>all</u> Welsh schools in English or Welsh. A Fire Safety Activity Book that children can take home to complete with their parents will supplement classroom work.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? No longer appropriate – education of young children included in other programmes. Discard.	
Suggested new outcomes: N/A	
Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes: N/A	

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.1
Action	<i>Fire and Rescue Services to be included within the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in respect of Dangerous Offenders with deliberate fire setting behaviour.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Engagement of the Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) across Wales in the Probation led MAPPA process which runs across England and Wales.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? South Wales FRS is included in MAPPA meetings when appropriate and as invited. South Wales FRS also attends all Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings and provides an urgent response to acute domestic violence and hate crime. This is achieved through a Memorandum of Understanding with Gwent and South Wales Police Forces whereby SWFRS will respond to urgent threats of fire attack. This is done within agreed specific timelines and support to the victim can include provision of a letterbox guard, CCTV etc. North Wales receive MAPPA surgery lists and attend those where fire is involved; they are also invited to level 3 meetings as appropriate, where there is higher risk. There needs to be inclusion within Mid and West Wales within the MAPPA process, either directly with Probation or by utilising the Public Protection Units within the Police Service. Good practice shows that positive links with Police Public Protection Units identifies Vulnerable Children, Vulnerable Adults and Vulnerable Families, including those who are threatened or at risk of arson attacks. These are groups which FRSs can work with in order to make them safer, through processes including MAPPA and MARAC.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? Keep – action needs to be extended to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS).	

Suggested new outcome:

- *Improved attendance and participation in MAPPA, MARAC and developing anti-social behaviour (ASB) risk assessment processes.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Introduce a 'Performance measure', i.e. the number of MAPPA meetings actually attended by FRS's as against number which FRS were requested to attend, as measured and monitored by Probation.
- Need to review on a regional basis. Consider an all-Wales Service Level Agreement (SLA) in relation to FRS involvement in the areas of domestic violence and hate crime. Such an SLA could be drawn up and sent round to all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- Consider local responses to acute and urgent reports of domestic violence and hate crime.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.2
Action	<i>The reduction of re-offending by those released from custody (both adult and juvenile) who exhibit fire setting behaviour.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Identification of those likely to set deliberate fires through effective partnership working between Police, Probation, Youth Offending Teams and National Offender Management Service (NOMS).</i> <i>Develop a variety of interventions from one to one packages to group work to deliver to this group.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? Much work has gone on throughout Wales both to identify those people who are most likely to set deliberate fires, and to develop and deliver suitable packages and programmes to work with them, individually and in groups. There has been a clear multi-agency approach to this problem, with partners including Youth Justice Service (YJS) teams, Probation, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), probation and the prison service (NOMS), but most of the work done to date has been with young people. Programmes have been delivered in the community and in custody/secure units, and aim both to educate about arson and fire risk, and to reduce reoffending. It is acknowledged that while Fire Service personnel can deliver some of these interventions, the involvement of both probation and prison/custody staff is important as many of the recipients face multiple problems and can present a high risk. The three Fire and Rescue Services liaise with each other in order to ensure consistency of intervention throughout Wales.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? JAG's view is that as written, this action is unachievable, since rates of offending/re-offending by those involved in fire-setting are not uniformly or consistently measured. However, this remains an important area of work, and while recognizing the achievements that have already been made, JAG believes that there now needs to be action to increase levels of engagement with offenders and ex-offenders, both within and out of custody.	

Keep but amend - as noted below.

Suggested new outcome:

- *To increase levels of engagement with offenders and ex-offenders involved in deliberate fire setting, in order to educate them as to the risks they take and pose, and to positively influence their subsequent behaviour.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Collect and collate examples of programmes & interventions in this area (used in Wales & beyond), including details of 'best practice' and any evaluation results, and make this available in one place.
- Consult with probation and custody staff as to what packages or interventions might be most suitable for use with adult offenders.
- Produce/provide guidance on how engagement can be measured and evaluated on an ongoing basis. This guidance should highlight the benefit of/opportunities to capture common evaluation metrics for comparison across Wales, and should include an outline framework/template to support this process.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.3
Action	<i>Reduce re-offending or the likelihood of offending by those at risk in the community.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Identify those at risk of offending or who have offended through partnership working.</i> <i>Establish referral systems for all partner agencies to enable identified persons to be referred to programmes.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? Various programs with partners have been used, though there is no consistency across Wales; good practice needs to be shared. The Phoenix programme already has Good Practice exchange across Wales. The issue of anti social behaviour is going to increase in importance and the Joint Arson Group (JAG) needs to be kept informed of developments by Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and how it can engage in that process.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? Keep but amend as follows: <i>"Reduce <u>arson related</u> re-offending or the likelihood of offending by those at risk in the community".</i>	
Suggested new outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A variety of programmes will exist to address the issues around offending behaviour.</i>• <i>These programmes will be delivered using a multi - agency approach, and linked to ongoing work with Probation or the Youth Justice Service (YJS), to form an integrated package.</i>	

- ***Those who have offended or are likely to offend will receive a timely and effective intervention.***

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs) identifying needs and gaps in provision and working with partners including the YJS to develop new programmes, such as 'Forest Skills'.
- Systems need to be developed which can measure the effectiveness of programmes - identifying if they have been successful in changing behaviour.
- We need to know how many people these programmes have been delivered to, and the profile of the group involved, this will monitor the appropriateness of the range of programmes available for various groups and ages.

Proposed additional 'Goal':

Develop programmes suitable for a range of offending levels, from those at risk of offending at the lower level to those convicted of deliberate fire setting at the higher level. These need to be appropriate to age and ability concentrating on those below the age of 18 years.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.4
Action	<i>Media campaigns should be coordinated across Wales to deliver effective and timely messages to prevent arson attacks or improve the detection of such attacks.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>A pool of bilingual literature held in a central source available across Wales.</i> <i>National messages, such as Home Fire Safety Checks and Countryside fires, should be consistent and reach all parts of Wales, using appropriate media.</i> <i>Campaigns should be centrally coordinated.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? North Wales Fire and Rescue Service reported that although standard messages are available and used by Corporate Communications, these are given on a North Wales rather than an all-Wales basis. The message is often given by the Incident Commander at the time of the incident, particularly at evenings and weekends, and there is a selection available which can be drawn on. However, an all-Wales approach is adopted for projected fire safety campaigns. Corporate Communication teams meet quarterly on an all-Wales basis. A number of leaflets use all-Wales statistics, and the 0800 number is the same throughout Wales, as is the text facility available for hard of hearing. For example, the recent Operation BANG (Be A Nice Guy) over Halloween and Bonfire Night had an all-Wales message from Chief Officers in Fire Services and Police, and this was consistent across Wales. This was supplemented with variations by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) locally, enabling local issues to be added on by CSPs own press offices. The grass fire campaign was also initiated on an all-Wales basis using appropriate media, and Crimestoppers is utilized for investigation of Arson Offences. It was also noted that the work that Firebrake Wales has and is doing on producing all-Wales resources and messages in relation to home fire safety and vulnerable groups could very easily be developed to support the issue of deliberate fire setting and arson.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	

Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?

While JAG members acknowledge the work that has been done in this area, there was a strong feeling that arson related campaigns and messages are still not sufficiently central co-ordinated, nor are they evaluated. It was also felt that they could be more specifically focussed and targeted. Therefore, JAG feels that this action should be continued, with the outcome amended as noted below.

Suggested new outcomes:

- ***Agreed mechanisms exist to deliver effective and timely messages which help to prevent arson attacks, or improve the detection of such attacks on a national, regional, and local basis.***

Suggested action to achieve these outcomes:

- Community Safety Managers to task Corporate Communications with developing a range of messages, and the teams to attend Fire Safety Forums on a regular basis to enable communication on a County by County basis to gain consistency with corporate messages.
- Firebrake Wales consider the role they could play in the development and coordination of consistent all-Wales messages in relation to arson, and to the evaluation of the same.
- Better links are forged between JAG and the Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Communications teams.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.5
Action	<i>Raise the awareness of those working within the Criminal Justice System of Intervention programmes that Fire and Rescue Services can provide.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals': <i>Those preparing reports for the Courts in both Probation Service and the Youth Offending Teams should consult with their local responsible Fire and Rescue Service Officer in order to ensure that where appropriate a suitable programme is available to the offender.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales? Action has been taken throughout Wales to ensure that those working within the Criminal Justice System, as well as in other agencies which come into contact with people at risk of offending, are aware of the programmes and interventions that the Fire and Rescue Services can provide. In North Wales, for example, Youth Justice Services (YJS), Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Police, and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have all received information or briefings; while in Mid Wales the Arson Reduction Team (ART) has been involved in Magistrate training. In South Wales, the Fire Crime Unit provides arson training to all Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) within both Gwent and South Wales Police Force areas, and key CSPs, i.e. those that are most busy in terms of arson, have developed Fire Safety Action Groups in order to address arson issues at tactical level.	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal? JAG's view is that this work is still important, and should be continued on a rolling basis. Keep but amend - as noted below.	
Suggested outcome – as previously: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>To raise the awareness of those working within the Criminal Justice System of Intervention programmes that Fire and Rescue Services can</i>	

provide.

Suggested action in support of continued outcome:

- A standard presentation to be designed and made available throughout the regions: it should include core information about fire risk, deliberate fire setting, and FRS interventions, but also allow space for regional or local issues to be addressed.
- All CSPs should consider the establishment of a Fire Safety Action Group (or similar) to deal with arson issues at tactical level, and to ensure the focus on arson remains high on the agenda.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.6
Action	<i>Public Knowledge of Fire and Rescue Service Preventative Measures should be increased to all sections of the Community.</i>
Reminder of the 'goals':	
<p><i>Strategies developed to reach vulnerable groups including mental health and substance misuse sufferers, single parents, young parents, lone living etc. These groups would be better protected from Arson attack.</i></p> <p><i>A consistency across Wales of Services provided and how they can be accessed, to reduce the opportunity for an arson attack.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
What progress has been made in Wales?	
<p>A great deal of work has gone on throughout Wales in order to try to reach vulnerable groups and better protect them from arson attacks, and the appointment of Third Sector Co-ordinators within the Fire and Rescue Services (initially in the North Wales region, more recently in Mid & West and South regions) is seen as being very helpful in the achievement of this aim. A range of partnerships and Service Level Agreements have been set up with both the Voluntary and Public Sectors, to cover both referrals to and delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs). Multi-agency relationships and agreements also play a large part in identifying potentially high risk individuals, for example, through data sharing, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) panels, Public Protection Units, and Policing teams. Private sector businesses as well as neighborhood and community groups are informed about the work of the FRSSs, and the interventions that they can provide. Target hardening and the use of such systems as MOSAIC* also play a part in reaching out to those most at risk, and urgent or emergency cases are prioritised.</p> <p>It was also acknowledged that the work that Firebrake Wales does in terms of education and awareness raising in relation to fire risk and vulnerable groups should form a key part of this work, in particular in supporting a consistent all-Wales response.</p> <p>(*MOSAIC UK is Experian's system for classification of UK households).</p>	
Suggested lead:	
Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?	
<p>JAG recognises the importance of continuing to reach out to those individuals and groups most at risk of arson attack, and also understands the value of collaborative</p>	

working in doing this successfully. While there is a clear need to take account of local and regional aspects in terms of delivery, there is also scope to learn from and share good practice throughout Wales.

Keep but amend - as noted below.

Suggested outcomes:

- *To increase public knowledge of Fire and Rescue Service preventative measures across all sections of the community.*
- *To increase public awareness of the risk to arson attack faced by particular individuals and communities.*
- *To continue collaboration between key partners in the delivery of information and interventions to protect such individuals and groups from an arson attack.*
- *To increase the consistency across Wales of access to and delivery of appropriate information and interventions provided to reduce the opportunity for an arson attack.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

- Collect and collate examples of work done in this area (used in Wales & beyond), including details of 'best practice' and any evaluation results, and make this available in one place.
- Produce/provide guidance on how work can be evaluated on an ongoing basis. This guidance should highlight the benefit of/opportunities to capture common evaluation metrics for comparison across Wales, and should include an outline framework/template to support this process.

WARS Action Review

4. "Public Protection"

Action no./Ref	4.7
Action	Identify Arson attacks that are Racially Motivated.
Reminder of the 'goals':	
<i>Identification of incidents which are racially motivated.</i>	
<i>Use of specialist knowledge and prioritisation of these issues within partner's agencies.</i>	
<i>Preventing hate crime and associated incidents.</i>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>A great deal of work has been done throughout Wales to identify and prevent arson attacks which are racially motivated or otherwise associated with hate crime. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the Arson Reduction Team (ART) works in a multi-agency way to identify, risk-assess and intervene to protect the victims of hate crime, whether motivated by race, domestic violence, homophobia, or sex crime. These interventions have been successful, with serious injury and damage prevented.• In North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, such incidents are tagged by both the FRS and North Wales Police, information is shared, and any such referral is treated as urgent.• In South Wales Fire and Rescue Service hate crime is dealt with by the Domestic Violence Officer based in the Fire Crime Unit. Again, there is a multi-agency approach to raising awareness, assessing risk and sharing information, and providing advice and interventions. <p>However, it was acknowledged that from both an FRS and Police perspective there is little racially motivated arson reported in any of the regions, and the work noted above relates to hate crime more generally.</p>	
Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?	
<p>While JAG recognised the extent of the work that has gone on, and the very positive impact that it has had, it was felt that this action needed to be amended to look at hate crime more generally, rather than just focussing on racial motivation.</p>	

Keep but amend - as noted below.

Suggested new outcomes:

- *To identify arson attacks that are racially motivated or otherwise associated with hate crime.*
- *To continue collaboration between key partners in the delivery of information and interventions to protect such individuals and groups from an arson attack.*
- *To increase the consistency across Wales of access to and delivery of appropriate information and interventions provided to reduce arson attacks which are racially motivated or otherwise associated with hate crime.*

Suggested actions to achieve these outcomes:

Firebrake Wales to set up a Task & Finish Group, to include representatives from South Wales FRS Fire Crime Unit and the Police, to co-ordinate actions noted below:

- Review how FRSs and their partners currently deal with arson attacks motivated by hate crime, and how they measure the effectiveness of their interventions.
- Collect and collate examples of work done in this area (used in Wales & beyond), including details of 'best practice' and any evaluation results, and make this available in one place.
- Produce/provide guidance on how work can be evaluated on an ongoing basis. This guidance should highlight the benefit of/opportunities to capture common evaluation metrics for comparison across Wales, and should include an outline framework/template to support this process.

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

5. "Sprinklers"

Action no./Ref	5.1
Action	<i>Increase the use of sprinklers in schools thereby reducing the cost to society of school fires.</i>
<p>Reminder of the 'goals': <i>To reduce the economic cost to Wales of school fires.</i></p> <p><i>To preserve and protect the 'schools assets' in Wales.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>Sprinklers are now included in extensions or new build, and on occasion are retrofitted.</p> <p>School Sprinkler Programme: During 2007-2010, 57 schools vulnerable to incidents of deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour were provided with funding totalling £9.6m to install sprinklers.</p> <p>Schools Target Hardening Programme: During 2007-2011, 167 schools vulnerable to incidents of deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour were provided with funding totalling £2.1m. The appropriate crime prevention measures were identified through a crime prevention survey, carried out by the Fire and Rescue Services Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs).</p> <p>During the first year of the Target Hardening grant programme (2007-2008), 47 schools across Wales received funding to enhance security and crime prevention measures, including CCTVs, fencing and safer storage of rubbish/recycling areas. Evaluation of these projects has shown significant reductions in anti-social behaviour and crime at the schools involved. Some have reported a 100% reduction, with an average 89% across Wales.</p> <p>The cost of providing sprinklers in schools is now met as part of the mainstream 21st Century Schools Capital programme funding mechanism. It should be noted that where the Welsh Government is providing grants for refurbishment and newly built schools, fire sprinklers remain a condition of grant.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead:</p> <p>Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?</p> <p>JAG agreed to combine this action along with actions 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 2.9. See new action point '2.X' for details of new Outcomes and suggested actions to achieve these outcomes.</p>	

WARS Action Review - Actions for Change

5. “Sprinklers”

Action no./Ref	5.2
Action	Reduce the cost to society of fires in public buildings.
<p>Reminder of the ‘goals’: <i>To ensure that all our communities have full use of public amenities reducing the risks that arson will necessitate by their rebuilding or closure.</i></p> <p><i>To ensure that local communities are not deprived of the focal points in the community through serious fire loss.</i></p> <p><i>To reduce the economic cost to Wales of fires in public buildings. This would include all buildings controlled by the Welsh Assembly Government who should set an example to other public bodies. Public buildings to include Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authority, NHS, and other publicly funded bodies, as well as any PFI (Private Finance Initiative) buildings occupied by them.</i></p>	
Part 1: REVIEW	
<p>What progress has been made in Wales?</p> <p>Communities and Local Government have announced their work for 2013, the next change to building regulations they do not intend any changes in relation to sprinklers.</p> <p>Establishment of Arson Reduction Teams (ARTs).</p> <p>Police forces are engaging with differing levels of success with local authorities. In Neath Port Talbot for example there is an agreement with the Planning Authority that all public buildings will be developed to the “Secured by Design” standards.</p> <p>Safer South Wales have commissioned a Supplementary Planning Guide (SPG) on Community Safety. It is hoped that this SPG will be adopted by all Planning Authorities across Wales. Safer South Wales would welcome the views of the Welsh Government and Fire Services on the document.</p>	
<p>Suggested lead: Joint Arson Group (JAG).</p>	
Part 2: JAG RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Overview: Do we need to keep, discard, or amend this particular action/goal?</p> <p>JAG agreed to combine this action with previous action 2.5. For details of new Outcomes and suggested actions to achieve these outcomes, please see original action point 2.5.</p>	