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This circular is	For Guidance	For Information	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Services about guidance on the establishment of formal partnerships for prevention programmes working with children and young people		

Prevention Programmes and the Fire and Rescue Service

Issued by:

Terry Pretious
Head of Community Fire Safety and Arson Reduction Team
Fire and Resilience Policy Division

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Summary

This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities of guidance issued jointly by the Youth Justice Board, the Chief Fire Officers' Association and the Department of Communities and Local Government about the establishment and development of formal partnerships for working with children and young people.

For further information, contact:

Terry Pretious Community Fire Safety/Arson Reduction Team Depart for Communities and Local government Zone 5/B Allington Towers PO Box 50200, 19 Allington Street London SW1E 5WY	Direct line	0207 944 6152
	Fax	0207 944 5664
	E-mail	Terry.pretious@communities.gsi.gov.uk

General helpline	020 7944 8194	Website	www.communities.gov.uk
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1.0 Background

- 1.1** Statistics suggest that children and young people are likely to be responsible for a large proportion of fire-related crime, including deliberate firesetting, hoax calls and attacks on firefighters. Such anti-social behaviour causes the emergency services severe problems and can have potentially life threatening consequences for the community as a whole. Early and effective intervention, diversion and education can help reduce fire-related crime, improve life chances, and develop better citizens and safer communities.
- 1.2** The Fire and Rescue Service has particular strengths in supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and reducing risks to them and to their communities. 'The Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service Working with Children and Young People', launched on 24th October 2006, recognises the work already being undertaken with some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities. It also stresses the importance of joint development and delivery with partners of high quality professional intervention programmes to address these issues.

2.0 Guidance on Prevention Programmes

- 2.1** Partnership is essential to the success of the Strategy at a local level. To this end, the Youth Justice Board, working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Chief Fire Officers' Association, has developed guidance for those with an interest in preventing young people committing fire-related crime and associated anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2** The guidance, a copy of which is attached to this circular, provides a framework upon which the Fire and Rescue Service can establish and develop formal partnerships for working with children and young people and make a real difference to their lives. The guidance outlines how effective partnerships may be achieved and specifically addresses issues concerning:
- The advantage of partnership
 - The anticipated outcomes
 - How to start forming a partnership
 - Current research and sources of information
- 2.3** The appendices to the guidance contain brief details of the different kinds of intervention programmes available, and case study examples of partnerships that are already in place. The full Memorandum of Understanding between the Youth Justice Board, the Chief Fire Officers' Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government can be downloaded from the Youth Justice Board website: www.yjb.gov.uk where there are also further examples of good practice in partnership working.

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Fire and Resilience Directorate