

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL
DELIBERATE FIRE-SETTING

Bromley Arson Reduction Strategy 2011



Introduction

The London Fire Brigade's (LFB) Borough Arson Liaison Officer (BALO), in conjunction with the Safer Bromley Partnership's (SBP) Arson sub Group, have produced this document setting out the strategic approach to tackling deliberate fire setting and associated anti-social behaviour in Bromley.

The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that a wide range of agencies work together to reduce the incidence of arson and the broader issue of anti-social behaviour and address the concerns of residents, businesses, the LFB and those individuals who work in and visit the borough.

The main focus of the strategy is to educate all sections of the local community, prevent deliberate fire setting and other anti-social behaviours, to reduce the cost of deliberate fire setting in the borough and to improve the recording of deliberate fire data and the sharing of that data between all relevant crime and disorder reduction agencies by:

- Educating all Bromley stakeholders on arson and how to prevent it
- Improving joint agency working
- Increasing the reporting of arson by all groups in Bromley
- Working with all agencies to reduce opportunities for deliberate fire setting
- Early intervention for youths displaying fire setting tendencies making use of initiatives such as Local Intervention Prison Me No Way (PMNW) and Junior Fire Intervention Scheme (JFIS).

BACKGROUND

Deliberate fire setting continues to impose significant costs on the economy of England and Wales. But where commercial fire losses due to arson are concerned the loss is not simply financial. Deliberate fires can result in deaths and injuries to staff and fire-fighters. They can also result in significant losses for industrial and commercial buildings in terms of lost production, market share and customer goodwill. Even a relatively minor fire at crucial stages of production can mean very large losses for individual firms; business interruption or even closure of the company; lost jobs; and the loss of facilities or amenities for the wider community.

Tackling arson is not just a priority for the Fire and Rescue Service, but across agencies such as the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Forensic Science Service and others. For this reason the Arson Control Forum was established in 2001 and provides a cross agency approach to reducing arson.

In Bromley, in the year April 2009 to March 2010, there were 165 arson related rubbish fires. Up to date data is available from the Statistical and Performance team within the LFB via a Arson task force report provided on a monthly basis and shared with the partnership. This number of deliberate fires is not only a drain on multi agency resources but also, more importantly, has a significant adverse impact on local communities.

Financial Cost of Arson in Bromley

Table 1 shows the economic cost of deliberate fires per event. The values are based on primary fires (fires involving property that generate a fire report), therefore these figures do not include secondary fires (rubbish, open land or outdoor storage). The costs are based upon average costs across the UK. Individual fires may cost far more or far less than these averages. Also, costs in London may be higher than UK average costs. The costs ignore environmental damage.

Table 1: Cost per case of deliberate fires (based on primary fire data). Source ODPM Economic costs of fire 2004.

	Event Cost per event (2007 prices)
Dwelling deliberate fires	£20,869
Vehicle deliberate fires	£3,575
Rubbish deliberate fires	£2,585

A breakdown of the fires in Bromley in 2009-2010 is shown in table 2 and details that the main types of deliberate fires in Bromley that contribute to our performance are

vehicle fires, rubbish fires and open land fires. It also details the total economic costs according to table 1.

Table 2 – Breakdown of types of fires in 2009-10 and the associated economic cost

Type of fire	Rubbish	Dwelling	Vehicle	Grand Total
Number of fires	165	34	78	277
Economic Cost	£426 525	£709 546	£278 850	£1 414 921

The types of fires shown in table 2 can be directly related to anti social behaviour and the majority can be linked to young people.

Initiatives in Bromley that contribute to arson reduction

Anti fire-setting messages can be delivered through valuable existing routes using established resources, these include:

- Bromley Council
 - Fly Tip removal scheme
 - Abandoned vehicle removal scheme
 - Antisocial behaviour coordinator
 - Promoting Positive Behaviour Strategy
 - Parks and open spaces Community Services Manager
 - Community Wardens
 - Safer Bromley TV
- London Fire Brigade
 - Arson Task Force
 - Prison, Me, No Way (in conjunction with other agencies)
 - Arson Sub Group to the Safer Bromley Partnership
 - JFIS (Junior Fire-setter Intervention Scheme)
 - Schools Team
 - Junior Citizen Events – (in conjunction with other agencies)
 - Summer cigarette public awareness campaign
 - Community Events
 - Borough Arson Liaison Officer (Station Manager)
 - Efit notifications
 - Visual audits
 - Data sharing protocol

- Metropolitan Police
 - Robust investigation of crimes that aim to bring the offenders to justice
 - Junior Citizen Events
 - Borough Crime Prevention Teams
 - Borough Arson Liaison Officer
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MPS & LFB)
 - Schools Officers
 - Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Probation Service
 - Operation Payback
- Victims Support
 - HFSV partnership
 - Arson Letterbox fitting by Safer Bromley Van
- Housing Associations
 - Attendance at Sub group meetings ,support on request.

Inter Agency Partnerships

- Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) strategy meeting – Quarterly - Borough Commander attends
- Safer Bromley Partnership (SBP) strategy meeting – Quarterly - Borough Commander attends
- SBP tasking meetings – once a month - BALO attends
- Tactical, Tasking, Coordinating Group (TTCG) – twice a month - Police Chair – BALO attends on request.
- SBP Arson Sub group - BALO Chairs
 - Members of the Arson Sub Group are
 - Council Communications Officer
 - Borough SNT Coordinator
 - Police SNT Inspectors (East and West)
 - Council Parks and Open Spaces
 - Senior Crime analyst
 - Affinity Sutton Housing Environmental Officer
 - Victims Support
 - SNT's / other agencies on request

Contact details for the above can be found on page 15

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

London Fire Brigade has a target of a 10% reduction in rubbish fires year on year.

These are:

	2008/9 Baseline	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target
Reduction in the number of rubbish fires	315	286	260 244 (stretch)

In addition, the Borough Arson Liaison Officer (BALO) aims to:

- Reduce the cost of arson in Bromley
- Improve the position of Bromley within the LFB London borough groupings
- Reduce the fear of crime in Bromley by reducing ASB and cutting crime

Although the BALO target is to reduce deliberate fires across Bromley as a whole, specific attention will be focused in the following wards, which are the borough's arson hotspots and contribute 60% of the total deliberate fires in Bromley.

- Cray Valley Easy
- Cray Valley West
- Orpington
- Hayes & Coney Hall Ward
- Crystal Palace
- Mottingham & Chislehurst North

With regard to the types of fire to be targeted, specific attention will be paid to Rubbish fires which accounts for 70% of the total deliberate fires in Bromley.

Top 6 wards (total deliberate fires)

Cray Valley East	89
Cray Valley West	39
Crystal Palace	34
Mottingham and Chislehurst North	34
Chislehurst	32
Penge and Cator	29

Borough Comparisons

The statistics below show that, in 2009-10, Bromley has the ninth highest number of deliberate rubbish fire out of the 33 London Boroughs'.

Tower Hamlets	480
Newham	397
Southwark	299
Barking & Dagenham	252
Croydon	230
Greenwich	201
Bexley	169
Hackney	168
Bromley	165

OUR APPROACH TO TACKLING DELIBERATE ANTI SOCIAL FIRE-SETTING

Our approach to reducing arson in Bromley is dependent on focusing efforts on the following four themes: Education; Joint Agency Working; Reducing Opportunity and Tackling Offenders.

The themes in the Arson Reduction strategy are consistent with those themes in the Crime Reduction, Youth Crime and Anti Social Behaviour strategies and focus on community empowerment, information sharing, education and intervention.

It should be noted at this juncture, that this strategy focuses primarily on significantly reducing nuisance arson, which is the biggest cause of deliberate fires in Bromley and where arson reduction initiatives will be most effective. Targeted, malicious arson, which is perpetrated for financial gain or as an act of hatred is sporadic, mercifully infrequent and typically has no trend. General education on installing smoke alarms and responsible refuse disposal can restrict the likelihood of targeted arson, however, the most effective intervention measures in these instances will be provided by the Police or Victim Support.

Process

Education:

By constructing an over arching educational programme aimed at key elements of Bromley's residents, we aim to empower them to make a difference to their own environment. This will be executed by producing literature, teaching aids and presentations and by conducting high visibility campaigning to raise public awareness. Delivery of these messages will be achieved by using existing schemes and routes to audiences.

Key areas of focus will be:

Businesses:

To educate retailers in hotspot areas, to protect themselves from arson and to adopt socially and environmentally responsible retail practices to reduce arson in hotspot areas. Delivery will be achieved through presentations at, for example, Bromley Chamber of Commerce or Arson Prevention Bureau conferences; by working on enforcement with Wardens and Trading Standards; goodwill visits by Fire safety inspectors after fires or when individual issues are raised.

Schools:

To create, supply and promote standard teaching resources for all schools in Bromley that can be reinforced by LFB's own School's Teams visits or via other Agency educational events that demonstrate the consequences of arson. Delivery will be achieved by incorporating anti fire-setting messages into the standard LFB School's Team Fire Safety messages; by creating lesson plans in conjunction with LFB and the Arson Prevention Bureau. Crime awareness days "Prison Me No Way" will be held

through out the school year at targeted schools in wards that ASB and fire setting is high.

Communities:

Raise public awareness and educate all facets (including tenants associations, religious groups, community forums) of Bromley's community on how to minimise the likelihood of arson, how to report arson activity and the social ramifications of arson. Implicit in this activity is the encouragement of active participation in resident's own environments. Delivery to community groups will be achieved by means of presentations at community events; by the production of information leaflets distributed with LBB communications; by regular community visits by fire station personnel.

Agency:

Raising awareness of arson within all major crime reduction partnerships will be achieved by proactively providing all crime reduction partnerships with monthly data on arson, this data will be analysed to highlight arson issues according to the specific agencies criteria. For example arson data has been provided to MPS safer Neighbourhood teams at ward and community council level in order to establish which areas have a problem and to work towards a joint and sustainable approach to tackling the issues.

Joint Agency Working

By identifying and engaging the relevant agencies, associations and existing Crime & Disorder Partnerships in Bromley, to further develop processes to reduce anti-social behaviours.

Intrinsic to the joint agency approach is LFB's commitment to arson reduction. The Borough Commander for Bromley is responsible for the delivery of Fire Brigade response and community fire safety in the borough. The Station Manager BALO has functional responsibility for reducing non-accidental fires in Bromley. Both the Borough Manager and Station Managers are the initial point of contact for the Arson Reduction Officer supported by specific personnel at individual Fire Stations.

The dissemination of information between existing associations, Crime & Disorder Partnerships, LFB, MPS and multiple departments within LBB are key to the success of the arson reduction strategy. This will be achieved by proactively providing all crime reduction partnerships with monthly data on arson, providing this data will allow community councils and other agencies to make informed spending decisions and to allocate appropriate resources if arson is a problem in their area. Regular scheduled meetings to discuss the implications of the data in arson hotspot areas are being organised between all necessary representatives.

In addition, initiatives in conjunction with LBB Housing providers that tackle both prevention and reducing opportunity are being developed. Better control of refuse disposal, refuse chutes and refuse collection through both public awareness and in liaison with LBB refuse and cleansing ultimately seeks to reduce arson by denying fuel and addresses the causes of deliberately started fires rather than the symptoms.

Reduce Opportunity:

In order to reduce the number of deliberately started fires, there are several measures that can be taken to prevent opportunity. These measures may require the redesigning of arson hotspots and may include installing CCTV; additional lighting and ways of prohibiting access to areas such as kissing gates, bollards etc.; using Operation Payback to clear rubbish build up in hotspot areas; use of visual audits to identify potential instances where deliberate fires could occur.

The current priority roads are as follows:-

Star Lane
Chalk Pit Ave
High St Penge
Monks Orchard Road
Elmstead Lane
Lessons Way
Anerley Road
Thicket Road
Main St Biggin Hill
Sandway Road

All measures undertaken to reduce opportunity for deliberate fire setting will be aligned with measures being taken to reduce other ASB's.

Tackling Offenders:

Our strategy recognises that as with most ASB's, arson is typically a precursor for subsequent, more serious behaviours or offences. This strategy aims to prevent arson by working in conjunction with relevant bodies and targeting offenders or potential offenders with diversionary and intervention measures to minimise the likelihood of ASB's being committed. Additionally, we aim to deny potential arsonists of fuel, privacy and open land as a means of reducing opportunity for deliberate fire setting. We also seek to encourage referrals to early intervention schemes such as LFB's or JFIS programmes or multi agency schemes such as the Prison, Me, No Way Scheme. Other referrals schemes such as the Motor Project being developed by LBB can help to divert local youths from committing ASB's and instead learn valuable skills.

Liaising closely with MPS, the Arson Reduction Officer and BALO will work to ensure that ASBO's are issued to those individuals caught deliberately starting fires. Additionally, the ARO, BALO and Youth Offending Teams (YOT) is working to encourage the compulsory attendance at an intervention programme as part of an offender's reparation. Schemes such as "Prison, Me, No Way" have proven effective in lowering re-offending rates.

Communications

Resulting from the implementation of the above 4 themes, it is envisaged that a robust communications programme will be required to focus attention on arson in Bromley.

In order to maximise the impact of this strategy's proposals, we need to disseminate the "zero tolerance" message across the whole community. That includes all schools, businesses, relevant agencies and Crime & Disorder Partnerships.

Essential messages that need to be publicised are:

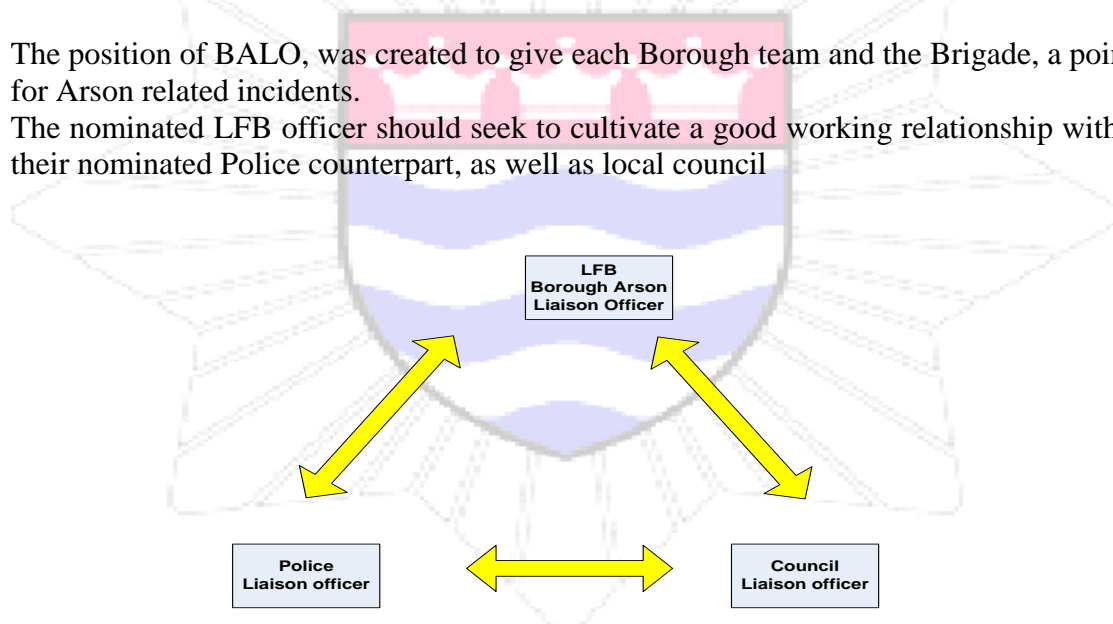
- How to report arson or any other ASB
- What arson / ASB reduction initiatives we are conducting
- What arson / ASB reduction successes exist
- Further promote LFB's Fire Safety & Anti Fire-Setting messages
- Educate Bromley residents on how to reduce likelihood of arson
- Encourage feedback from the Bromley residents

A data sharing protocol has also been established whereby agencies can share information regarding instances of arson. This includes daily Efit notifications and monthly LFB arson reports.

Role of the LFB's Borough Arson Liaison Officer

The position of BALO, was created to give each Borough team and the Brigade, a point of contact for Arson related incidents.

The nominated LFB officer should seek to cultivate a good working relationship with their nominated Police counterpart, as well as local council

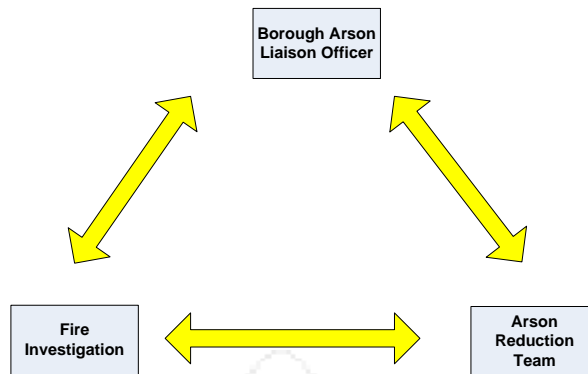


The above is the basis of the role

This should enable the exchange of information and intelligence.

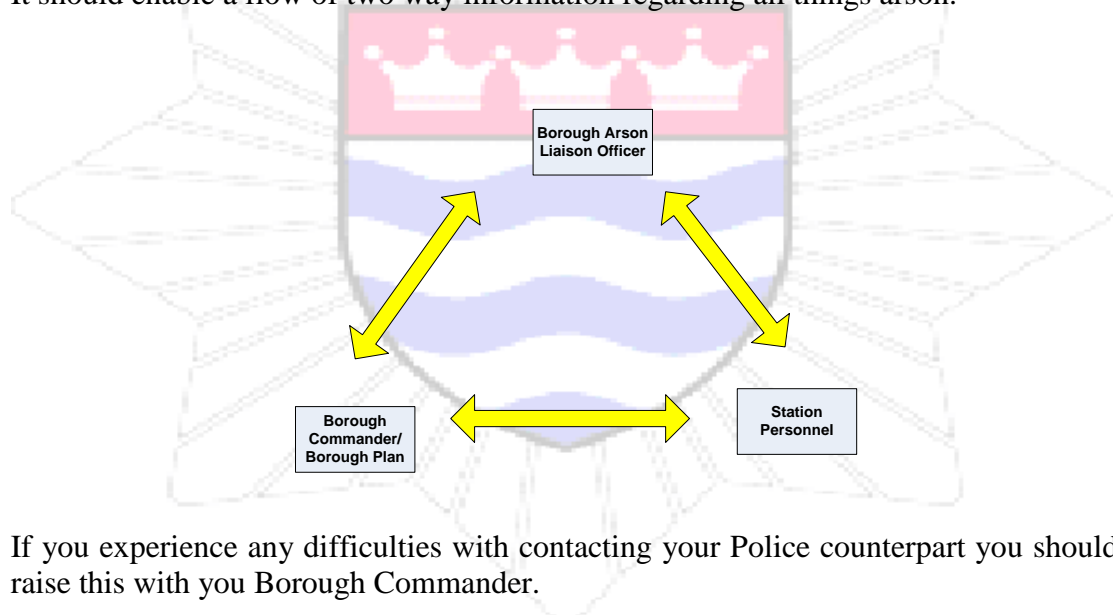
This can then be fed back into the Borough Plan for action

Arson Task Force Practitioner (if you have one) & Fire Investigation



This then gives the Brigade a point of reference when raising questions or enquiries about events, incidents or investigations.

It should enable a flow of two way information regarding all things arson.



If you experience any difficulties with contacting your Police counterpart you should raise this with you Borough Commander.

You may be consulted or informed of incidents or events, either from authority personnel or external agencies, including the Police, information which you can then pass on the various groups within the Brigade who are seeking to reduce arson related incidents, these include the Arson Task Force, Junior Fire setters Intervention Scheme, Fire Investigation as well as station based personnel, or if required, onto the other agencies

An example: Reacting to an Arson incident, utilising contacts, develop an action plan, initiate, evaluate and revise. This could involve rubbish clearance, premises securing, education, local liaison etc.

As BALO you should consider the following:

- Informing stations & teams of your role and how to contact you.
- Prevention, community education, safer citizens, etc
- Target Hardening, providing advice on how to avoid being a victim of arson
- Fuel Management, if there is no fuel, it's harder to start a fire
- Education, advice people on how to reduce the risk
- Identify at risk groups.
- What can we do to Reach, Inform, and Educate & Engage them?
- What is in place, to protect them?
- What could be done, i.e. HFSC, smoke alarm
- What is in the Borough plan?
- Does it need to be updated/amended to reflect patterns & trends?

The role also involves attending meetings with the police, at which Borough Crime targets are discussed, these usually revolve around the likes of Murder, rape, burglary, violent crime working there way through to arson.

The best thing is to build a working relationship with your police counterpart.

As well as this, getting involved with the local authority's action plan, attending meetings networking etc.

Its worth remembering that both the Brigade and the Police have an obligation to enter into partnerships to reduce arson.

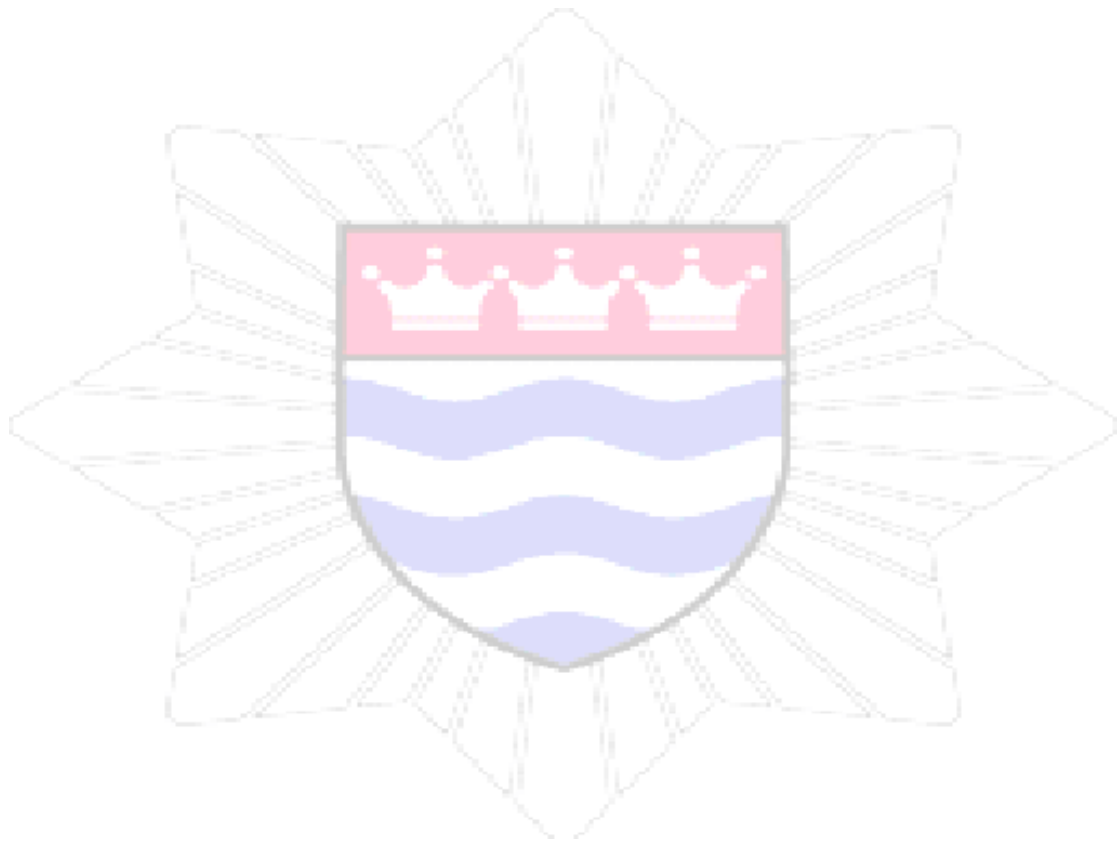
The Police Reform Act 2002, places a duty on Fire & Rescue Authorities, working with police and local authorities in Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships, to identify crime and disorder problems and to develop and implement a strategy to tackle them

Always keep a copy of the LFEPA, **FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION, "Memorandum of Understanding"** with you, it explains the role of the relevant parties.

MOU link:

http://hotwire/operations/cfs/Arson_reduction/media/MOU.doc

Sent as additional attachment to external partner



Bromley BALO tasks

When Necessary	
JFIS referrals	Coordinate instances of fire setting behaviour by youths and liaise preventative initiatives with other agencies
Efit notifications	Automatically generated notifications sent to partners and analysed by BALO for trends.
Weekly	
Victim Support referrals	Analyse Victim Support referrals to see any that have been affected by arson. Check the LFB's attendance and investigate via the safer neighbourhood team if necessary.
Daily Internal Business sheet	Analyse for any incidents in the borough and any action from them
Monthly	
Performance management Arson data	Analyse monthly reports and distribute via email to all Arson Sub Group members, Station and Group Managers stating trends and points for action
Arson Sub Group	Organise and Chair according to issues at the time. Update and distribute action plan after each meeting
Safer Bromley Partnership Tasking meeting	Normally held at the Civic Centre 10am on the last Wednesday of each month. Summarise outcomes of Arson Sub Group meeting
Police Tactical, Tasking coordinating group (TTCG)	Held every two weeks on Wednesday afternoon's (2.30pm) at Bromley Police station. Provide input or advice from any police arson initiatives. Attendance of BALO on request.
Borough Management meeting	Update Borough Commander and other Station Managers any outcome of arson initiatives
Quarterly	
Performance management Arson data	Analyse Quarterly reports and distribute via email to all Arson Sub Group members, Station and Group Managers stating trends and points for action. Compare statistics against targets and liaise with Borough Commander
Visual audits	Analyse data and align visual audits accordingly
Annually	
Performance management Arson data	Analyse annual reports and compare against previous years figures and headline targets. Distribute via email to all Arson Sub Group members, Station and Group Managers stating trends and points for action. Include in the email lists of worst six wards for total fires and worst wards for each type of fire (Open land, vehicle, rubbish etc...) Liaise with Borough Commander regarding comparison with Borough Plan and revise arson reduction strategy.

Borough Contacts

Role	Name	email	phone
LFB BALO	Station Manager Terry Gooding	Terry.gooding@london-fire.gov.uk	020 8555 1200 x 32626 07810850744
Arson Task force Practitioner	George Laing	George.laing@london-fire.gov.uk	07795542440
Police Borough Arson Liaison Officer	Chief Inspector Chris Smart	Chris.Smart1@met.pnn.police.uk	07884234473
Police Borough Intelligence Unit Manager	Chief Inspector Dave Telford	Dave.Telford@met.pnn.police.uk	02087214510 07771506375
Police SNT	Chief Inspectors Carron Schusler	Carron.schusler@met.pnn.police.uk	0208284 9955
Police SNT Inspector South West	Inspector Kevin Smith	Kevin.R.Smith@met.pnn.police.uk	0208284 8023 07879 487127
Police SNT Inspector North West	Inspector Tony Nickalls	Anthony.Nickalls@met.pnn.police.uk	0208284 8901 07920 207 120
Police SNT Inspector South East	Inspector Martin Hills	Martin.hills@met.pnn.police.uk	02082848023 07876216238
Police SNT Inspector North West	Inspector Darren Murphy	Darren.Murphy@met.pnn.police.uk	02082848768 07803123631
Borough Senior Crime analyst	Vacant		07866676 414 07852 768617
Head of Community Safety Bromley Council	Colin Newman	Colin.Newman@bromley.gov.uk	02084617915 07958336223
Borough SNT Coordinator	Sue McVicker	'Sue.mcvicker@bromley.gov.uk'	07958745613
Council Parks	Toby Smith	'Toby.smith@bromley.gov.uk'	07904169360
Council Street Services	Peter Turvey	Peter.turvey@bromley.gov.uk	02083134901
	Janine Pethig	Janine.pethig@bromley.gov.uk	02084617867 07939537583
Council anti Social	Peter Sibley	Peter.Sibley@bromley.gov.uk	07951006350

Behaviour Coordinator			
Broomleigh Housing Association Environmental Manager	Andy Goddard	'Andy.goddard@affinitysutton.com	07803512609
Council Communications Officer	Suzie Clarke	Susie.Clark@bromley.gov.uk	07889607080
Victims Support	Cora Green	Cora.Green@vslondon.org	02087767071 07746857074

