

DIVERSIONARY CONFERENCING FOR YOUTH MISUSE OF FIRE



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(How) do interagency agreements between juvenile justice and fire and rescue services facilitate youth misuse of fire prevention?

Interagency agreements

Juvenile justice and fire and rescue services have collaborated to facilitate firefighter participation in diversionary conferencing convened for young people who misuse fire

Diversionary conferencing

A restorative justice mechanism which diverts young offenders away from intrusive state intervention

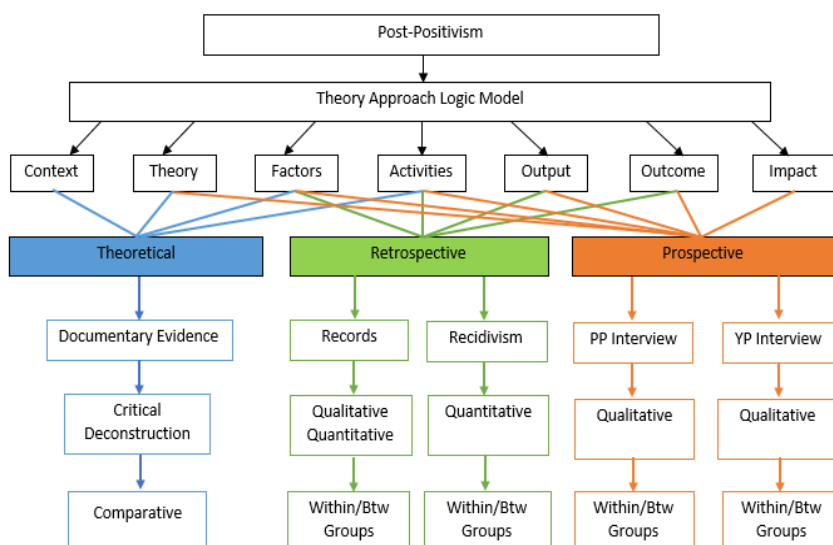
Youth misuse of fire

Any illegitimate use of fire or incendiary materials by a person under the age of 18 yrs



“The first step to beating arson is to encourage stakeholders to work together.”

McKim, 2006.



Findings to date

- Firefighters provide subject matter expertise which has the potential to change misuse of fire behaviour,
- But, firefighter role confusion may problematize program implementation and evaluation.
- Firefighter involvement ensures the provision of offence-specific outcomes for young people,
- Yet, mandatory involvement may impede convenor discretion and program restorativeness.

“Who better than an experienced firefighter to reinforce the serious consequences of the offenders’ behaviour.” Kelly, 2006.

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