

October 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to this 13th edition of the fabtic quarterly newsletter.

This edition includes firesetter work featured in the FT Weekend Magazine, the publication date for Professor Kolko's firesetting manual, dates for CPD accredited firesetter training courses and a cyberbullying conference.

"I Stop Children Setting Fires"

Representations of why people deliberately set fires can vary widely in the media, often conforming to stereotypes of "twisted firestarters" to those seeking fetishist thrills.

As with most stereotypes, these lazy images often speak nothing about the truth that can sit behind firesetting, especially amongst children and young people. Therefore the recent feature in the *Financial Times Weekend Magazine* entitled "I Stop Children Setting Fires" was a much welcomed, reasoned insight into this complex behaviour.

Speaking to journalist Blanche Girouard, fabtic Managing Director Joanna Foster explained in the article, "Firesetting's a form of communication. For many kids, it's a cry for help. I worked with one girl who lived in an inner-city housing estate and had been dropping lit pieces of paper over the balcony of her flat. She was going to get noticed and she knew it; she needed somebody to find her...because her mother was brutalising her. This girl had been on social services' radar for years but it was the firesetting that really brought her to their attention. Six months later, she was in foster care...She'd put on weight, she was clean and her hair was shining."

The interview continued, "Most kids want to stop...they're trapped by their own behaviour...I help them understand the risk they're taking, I pay attention, listen and don't shout".

To read the article in full visit

['I stop children setting fires'](#)

With thanks to writer Blanche Girouard, FT Weekend Magazine deputy editor Esther Bintiff and photographer Rosie Matheson for their dedicated work in producing the featured article.

CPD ACCREDITED FIRESSETTER TRAINING

Whilst places have all sold out on the fabtic firesetter foundation training courses hosted by Surrey and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services in the coming months, external spaces are still available with Cleveland Fire Brigade.

Running from Monday 5th to Friday 9th December 2016, the five-day, CPD accredited course provides evidence-based research and practical strategies that enable staff to work effectively with children and adolescents who set fires. Using case studies and hands-on resources throughout, past course delegates have included personnel from fire and rescue services, forensic psychology, secure units, youth offending teams and community mental health teams.

To book a place, or for more details on venue, timings and costs, please contact Wendy Dewhirst at Cleveland FB wdewhirst@clevelandfire.gov.uk

If you are unable to attend the December training dates but would like to register an interest in attending the next open foundation course in central London, please email info@fabtic.co.uk

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DATE ANNOUNCED FOR PUBLICATION DATE OF FIRESETTER MANUAL

After much patience by all interested parties – including readers of this newsletter – a date has now been announced for the publication of the latest firesetter manual by Professor David Kolko.

The Oxford University Press has confirmed that the manual will be printed at the end of January 2017.

The Assessment and Treatment of Children Who Misuse Fire will be the first of its kind available in the UK as it integrates assessment, treatment and intervention materials into one source. It will feature three workbooks for use with children, teenagers and, uniquely, parents.

Drawing on Professor Kolko's nearly 40 years of research and work with juvenile firesetters, the evidence-based manual is modular in approach and allows practitioners from a wide range of agencies to effectively engage with all the family when directly addressing firesetting behaviour. An accredited training course is being developed for practitioners who will use the manual, helping ensure consistency in delivery standards by practitioners. Training will also be available for the risk assessments that will accompany the manual,

A conference and workshop, led by Professor Kolko, will launch the manual, risk assessments and training programme in the UK, which is expected to be held in spring 2017. Information updates on the manual's availability and conference launch will be included in future fabtic newsletters and on Twitter @fabtic_ltd

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CYBERBULLYING

Human beings can be immeasurably cruel, especially in childhood. Bullies exploit the differences between individuals and target those who seem to be outside the 'norm'. As more time is spent on social media, relentless exposure to bullies, trolls and stalkers is greater than ever before. To help protect children and young people from these online dangers, a one-day conference focusing on cyberbullying is taking place on Thursday 3 November in central Nottingham.

Hosted by the Cognitive Centre, expert speakers include Dr Jo Bryce (Director of the Cyberspace Research Unit, University of Central Lancashire), Will Gardner (CEO of Childnet International) and Alex Holmes (Head of Anti-Bullying Programme, The Diana Award). Presenting current research and providing effective approaches to keeping individuals safe from harm, the conference is suitable for all professionals working with children and young people.

For more information, including details of costs and discounts available for group bookings, please contact the Cognitive Centre on (029) 2051 3048 or email wendy@cognitivecentre.com and visit www.cognitivecentre.com