

University of Kent

Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychology (CREFP)

Kent and Medway NHS

NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

The Clinical Needs of Adult Firesetters

Theresa A. Gannon
 University of Kent
 Forensic & Specialist Care Group, KMPT

Key Players

E-S-R-C
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

Ministry of
JUSTICE

Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

- Lona Lockerbie
- Emma Alleyne
- Helen Butler
- Harriet Danby
- Tamsin Lovell
- Elizabeth Spruin

- Nichola Tyler
- Magali Barnoux
- Caoilte Ó Ciardha
- Aparna Kapoor
- Katarina Mozova
- Tracey Tostevin

Characteristics

Theory

Treatment

University of Kent

Trevor Gibbens Unit

2005 – Date Academic

2008 – Date Practitioner

University of Kent

Trevor Gibbens Unit

2005 – Date Academic

2008 – Date Practitioner

What are the reoffending rates for people who have set deliberate fires?

1 in 5

What treatments are available for people who have set deliberate fires?

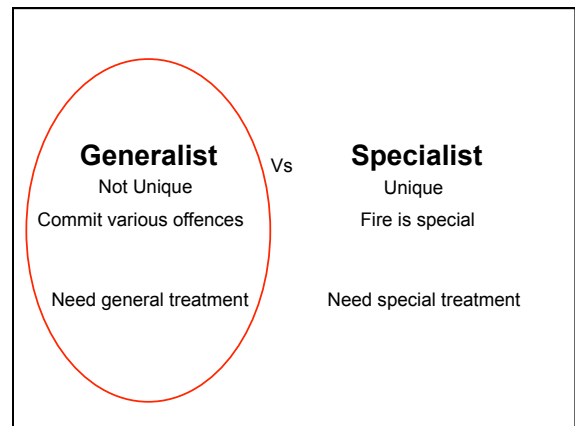
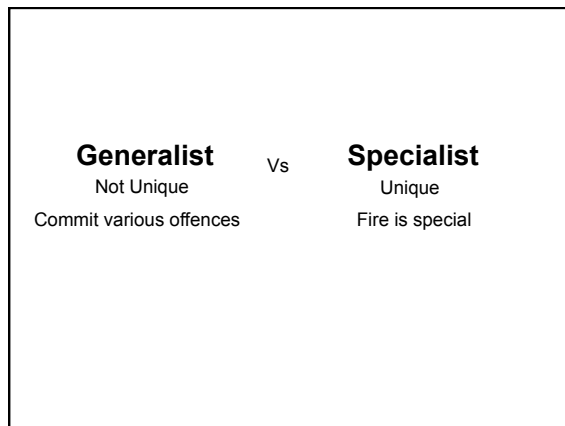
Very Little

How does this compare to people who sexually offend?

1 in 5

Well Established Treatment





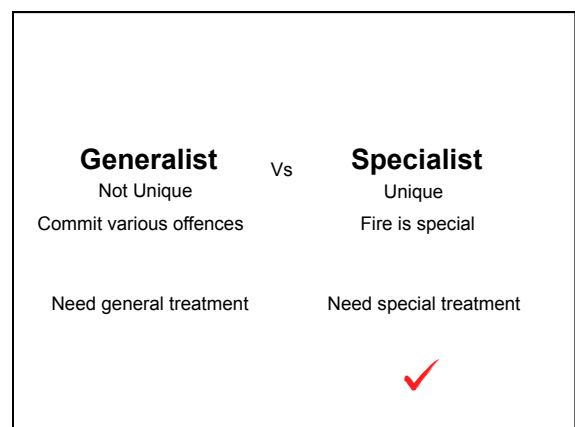


Do individuals who set deliberate fires have unique clinical characteristics?

Firesetters versus Offending Non Firesetters

- Interest in serious fires
- Identify with fire
- Normalise fire
- Fire safety awareness less
- Anger problems
- Self esteem issues

YES!





Reviews Jackson's Model (1987)

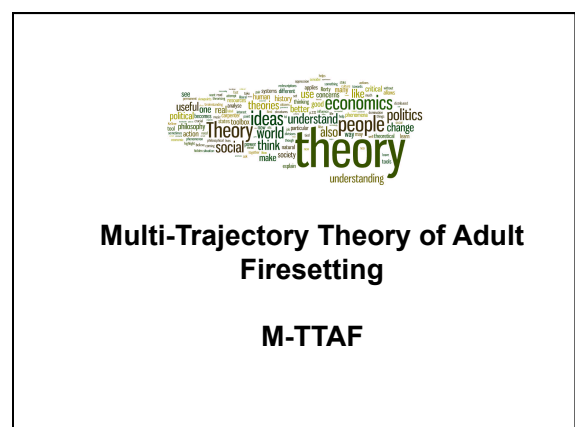
MailOnline:ory Needed

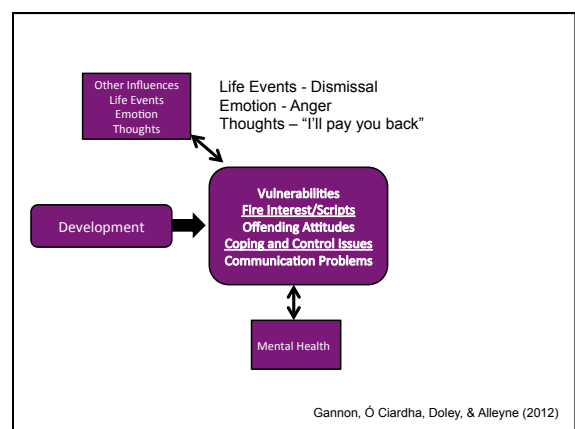
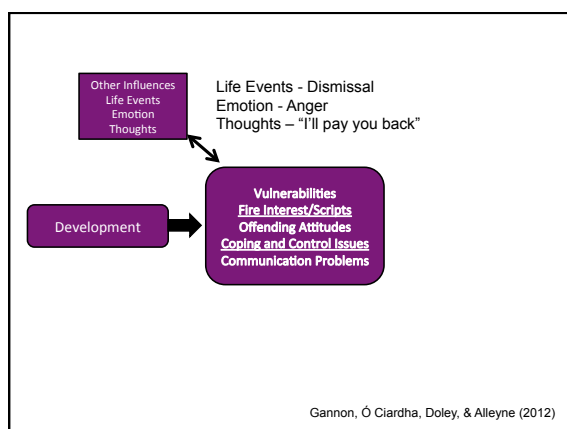
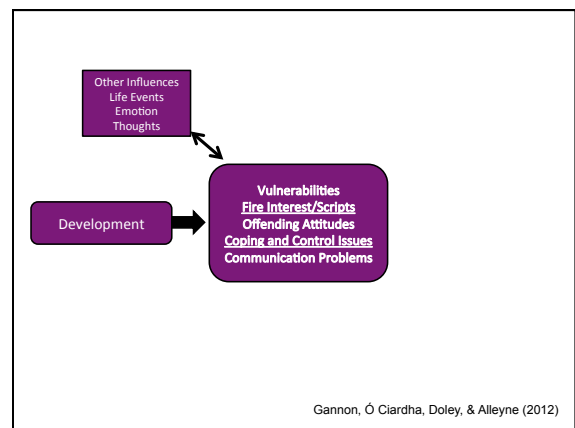
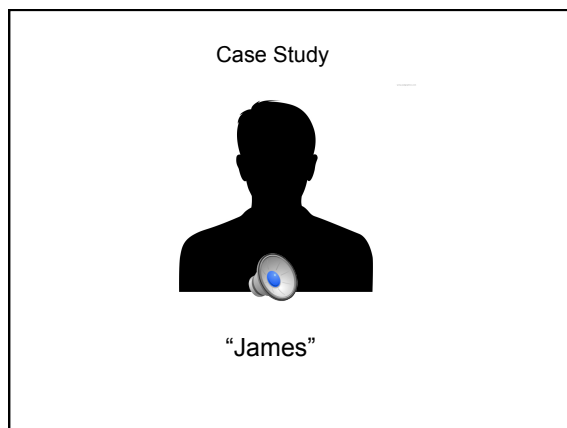
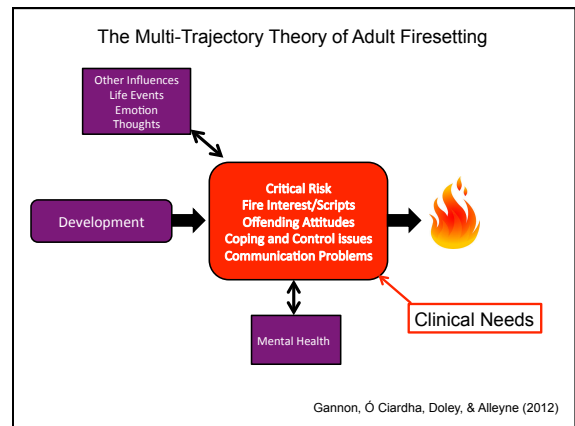
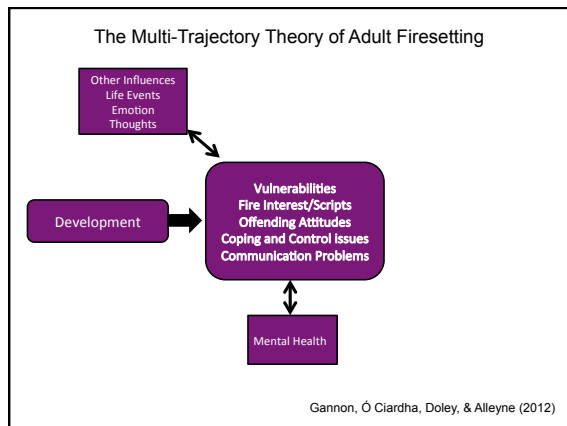
Arson-for-insurance-money scam nets man 137-year sentence

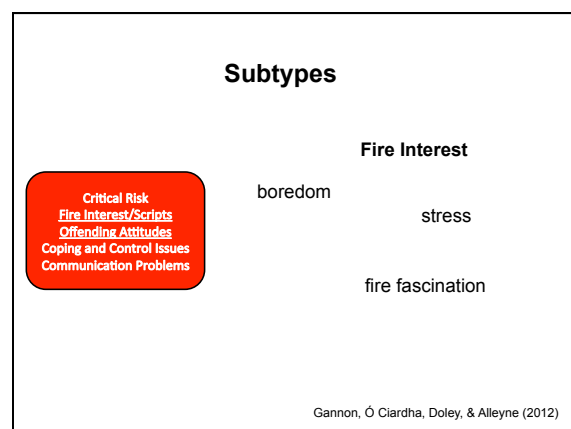
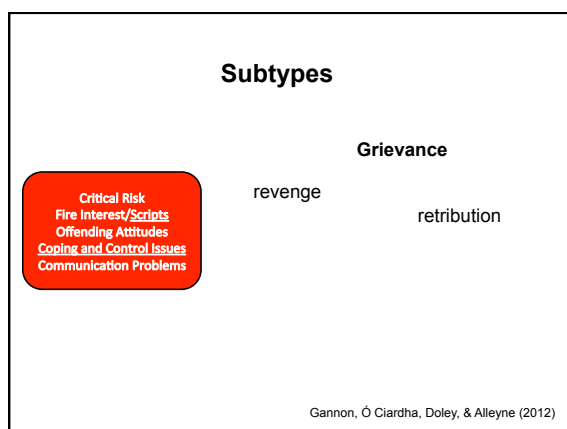
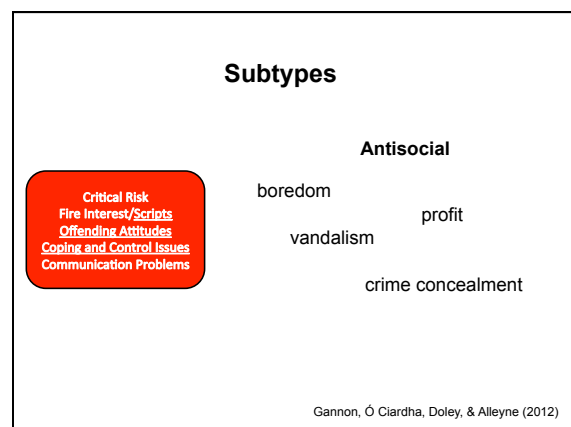
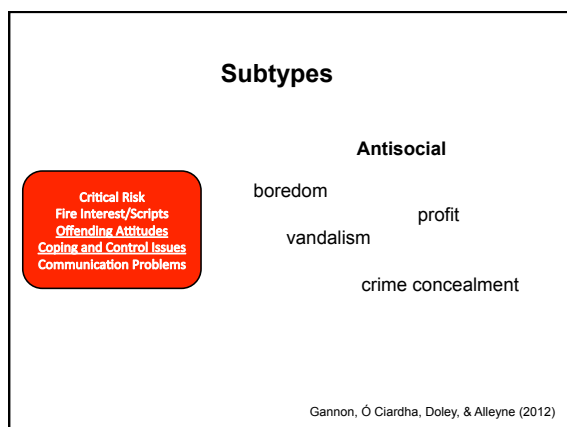
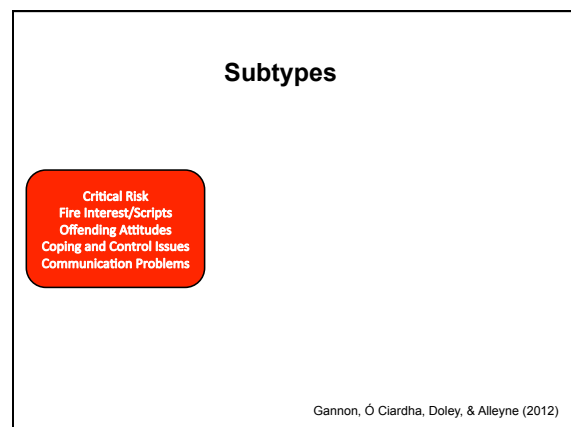
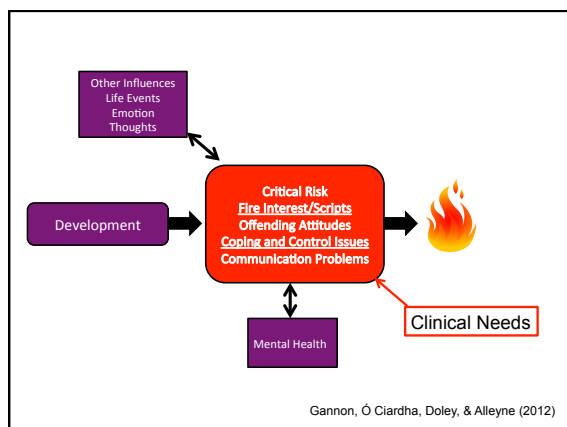
the

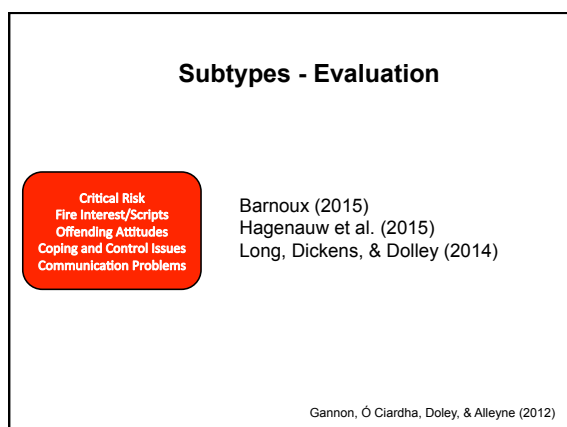
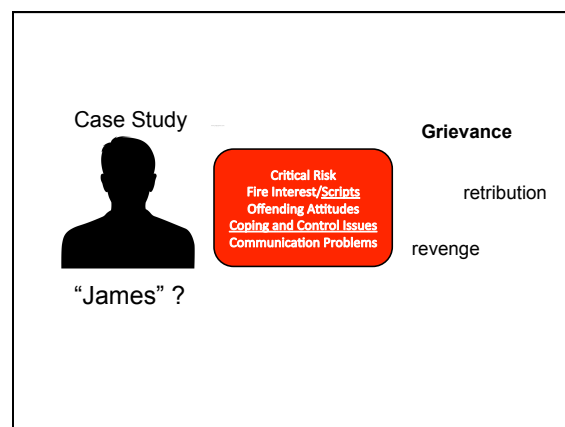
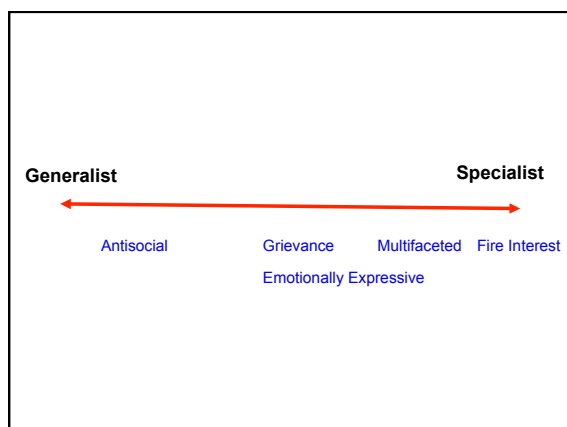
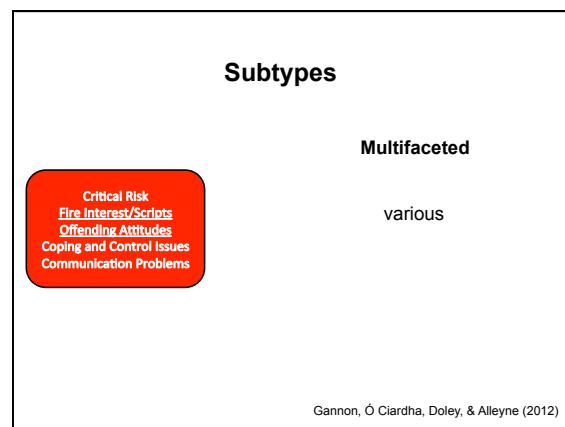
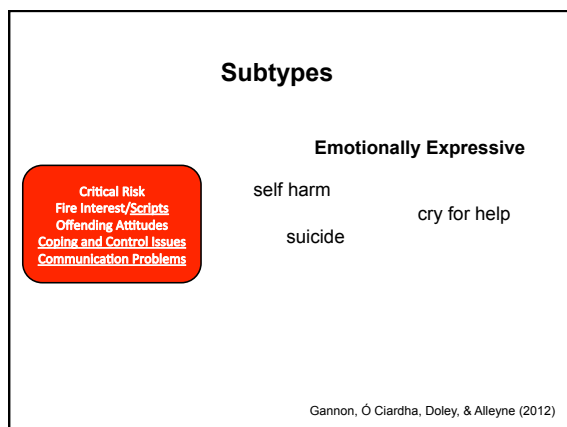
guardian

House Set Ablaze to Conceal Burglary





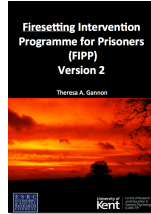






Patients

Male or Females
Semi-structured Manuals
Largely Same Content



Prisoners

Referral Criteria

1+ deliberate or attempted firesetting

Group Work (2 hours)

Registered Practitioner Lead

Plus 1 or 2 Assistants (Nurses, Fire Officers)

Plus Individual Support (1 hour)

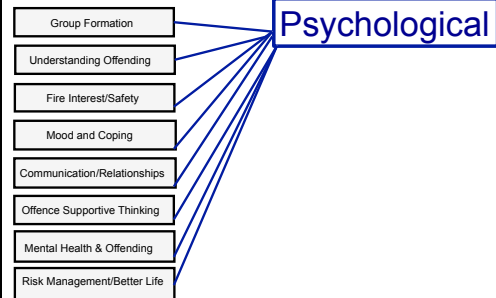
Essential Requirements

Psychological Expertise

Fire Safety Expertise

- Group Formation
- Understanding Offending
- Fire Interest/Safety
- Mood and Coping
- Communication/Relationships
- Offence Supportive Thinking
- Mental Health & Offending
- Risk Management/Better Life

Group Sessions



- Group Formation
- Understanding Offending
- Fire Interest/Safety
- Mood and Coping
- Communication/Relationships
- Offence Supportive Thinking
- Mental Health & Offending
- Risk Management/Better Life

Formulation Skills

- Group Formation
- Understanding Offending
- Fire Interest/Safety
- Mood and Coping
- Communication/Relationships
- Offence Supportive Thinking
- Mental Health & Offending
- Risk Management/Better Life

Formulation Skills

Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Behavioural Psychology

Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Behavioural Psychology



Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Behavioural Psychology



Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Cognitive Behavioural Psychology



Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

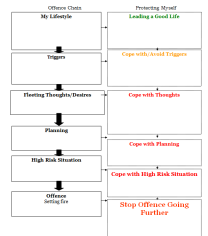
Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Risk Management Plan



Group Formation

Understanding Offending

Fire Interest/Safety

Mood and Coping

Communication/Relationships

Offence Supportive Thinking

Mental Health & Offending

Risk Management/Better Life

Fire Safety Input

- Fire Triangle
- Fire Spread (Flashover, Backdraft)
- Videos
- Unintended Effects
- Equipment/Uniform



Adam

32 Years Old
Numerous Arsons on Record
Hospital Fires

- Highly Interested in Fires Since Childhood
- Felt He Was 'Expert' Around Fire
- Stated He Could Control Fire
- Used 'Expertise' to Minimise Seriousness

Key Risk Factors or Clinical
Needs in the M-TTAF?



Adam

32 Years Old
Numerous Arsons on Record
Hospital Fires

Critical Risk
Fire Interest/Scripts
Offending Attitudes
Coping and Control Issues
Communication Problems

= Fire Interest Subtype



Adam

32 Years Old
Numerous Arsons on Record
Hospital Fires

Treatment Plan

- Decrease Fire Interest - Psychology
- Re-Education – Fire Safety Officers
- Self-Testing Faulty Beliefs – Psychology + Fire Safety Input

'What Works?'

Group Formation
Understanding Offending
Fire Interest/Safety
Mood and Coping
Communication/Relationships
Offence Supportive Thinking
Mental Health & Offending
Risk Management/Better Life

Empathy
Positive Approaches
Supporting New Perspectives on Fire

Marshall & Burton, 2010; Ward & Stewart 2003

Things to Avoid

Group Formation
Understanding Offending
Fire Interest/Safety
Mood and Coping
Communication/Relationships
Offence Supportive Thinking
Mental Health & Offending
Risk Management/Better Life

Shock Tactics
Working Outside Expertise

Forde, 2017; MacKenzie & Souryal, 1994;
Tyler et al., 2014



Evidence of Treatment Effect

Treatment	Comparison
N = 54	N = 45
Recruited from Sites Where Treatment Unavailable	

Treatment	Comparison
N = 54	N = 45
Age Sentence Length Previous General Offences Previous Firesetting Offences Engagement with Mental Health Services	

Treatment	Comparison
N = 54	N = 45
 Time 1 Assessment  28 Weeks  Time 2 Assessment  Time 3 Assessment	 Time 1 Assessment 28 Weeks  Time 2 Assessment  Time 3 Assessment

Treatment	
N = 54	
 Time 1 Assessment  28 Weeks  Time 2 Assessment  Time 3 Assessment	Any Improvement Relative to Comparisons?

Treatment Group Improvement?	
Fire Factors ✓ Coping with Emotions/Communication ✓ Self Esteem ✗ Fire/Offending Supportive Attitudes ✓	Serious Fire Interest Identification with Fire Fire Safety Awareness Anger Regulation Locus of Control Violent Attitudes Antisocial Attitudes

What Improves Most?	
Fire Factors ✓ Coping with Emotions/Communication ✓ Self Esteem ✗ Fire/Offending Supportive Attitudes ✓	Serious Fire Interest Identification with Fire Fire Safety Awareness Anger Regulation Locus of Control Violent Attitudes Antisocial Attitudes

What Improves Most?



Odds 3.45

Treatment

$N = 54$

Time 1 Assessment



28 Weeks

Time 2 Assessment

Time 3 Assessment

Are Treatment Gains Maintained Relative to Comparisons?

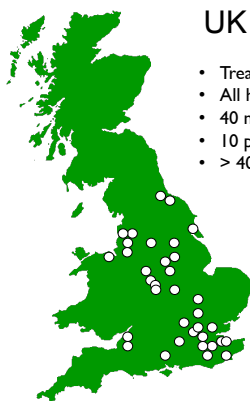
Stable Improvements?

Fire Factors ✓
 Coping with Emotions/Communication ✓
 Self Esteem
 Fire/Offending Supportive Attitudes ✓

YES



The Big Picture



UK

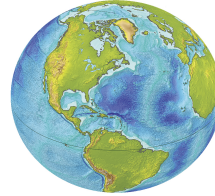
- Treatment rolled out nationally
- All high secure hospitals
- 40 medium/low secure hospitals
- 10 prisons
- > 400 professionals trained

Three Awards
ESRC Outstanding Impact
in Society 2016





International



- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Germany
- Ireland
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Singapore
- USA



Conclusions

Firesetters have unique clinical needs to other offenders and require specialist treatment

Specialist treatment appears promising and is being followed up

Treatment must be psychological in partnership with fire rescue services



Want to be Involved?

Training or Partnering

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/fipmo/>

J.C.Fotheringham@Kent.ac.uk



Questions?

