

Site

Greater Manchester Probation Service

Name of project / initiative

Atlas Project

Overview

Fire-setters often struggle to find housing and employment because of their offence histories – while their offending brings risks of harm to life and property, on top of the costs to Fire & Rescue Services. The Atlas Project is a course developed by Greater Manchester Probation and Fire & Rescue Services (GMFRS), for adults convicted of fire-setting, to reduce the likelihood of future offending and, it is hoped, improve their chances of employment and housing. It was piloted as an intensive a two week programme at Bury Fire Station. While fire and fire safety awareness are core elements, the course also includes a range of wrap around elements, drawing on the available evidence base, including helping participants build resilience, improve their coping strategies and develop pro-social interests – and participants gain a L1 Certificate in Developing Resilience on completion.

Its impact

The programme is being evaluated, and while it is too early to be confident of it achieving its aims on risk and improving offenders' chances of employment and housing, it has been well received by all those involved.

What's special about it

The programme is unique to Greater Manchester and has been developed taking account of the available research to help address the needs and risk of a generally hard-to-reach and under-served group of offenders.

Wider applicability

Greater Manchester believe the course would be of benefit across NPS. Following the pilot, they plan to deliver 6 courses over 12 months, and to introduce a weekly, "evening-class" version for those in employment.

For more information:

Contact: andrew.scott@justice.gov.uk

See also: [Knowx.uk/GMPS-KBT23.pdf](https://knowx.uk/GMPS-KBT23.pdf) [GMFRS report]