

LGA Fire Commission – Sprinklers’ Local Campaigns Toolkit project

The LGA Fire Commission Sprinklers’ working group is developing a grassroots campaign toolkit. The purpose of the toolkit is to enable Fire and Rescue Authorities to work with local communities and groups to raise awareness of the benefits of sprinkler system installations as a means of protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

The ultimate outcome the LGA Fire Commission would like to help realise is the protection of the most vulnerable groups of people in our society. The Commission believes that sprinkler systems should be installed in buildings where older people, children and young people and the infirm either reside in or visit regularly. These are principally schools, care homes, hospitals and homes of multiple occupation (HMOs), especially high rise social housing blocks.

In the view of the Fire Commission Working group, this aspiration can only be achieved by enabling local campaigns to emerge. To date, government has not been moved to reconsider the compelling arguments and evidence which demonstrate the invaluable protection sprinklers can afford. The Commission working group recognises this and seeks to promote the concept of localism by designing and developing a campaigns toolkit.

The content of the toolkit will include parliamentary, press and media, social networking, myth busting and evidence collection sections. It is envisaged that every Fire and Rescue Authority in the country will be signatories to the toolkit and will disseminate it locally. Additionally we have secured the support of a ‘celebrity’ champion Nick Ross, co-presenter of Crime Watch, to promote the cause.

The LGA Fire Commission and working group has secured the support of the LGA Environment and Housing Board on this issue and it would also like to raise awareness of this project with the Community and Wellbeing Board given that the focus of the toolkit will be aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

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