



## **Equality & Diversity Case Study: 'Crawley Fire Safety Team's educational work with young adults with learning difficulties'**

Source: West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Crawley Fire Safety Team identified a need within their local community at a care home for young adults with learning difficulties. The home provides weekday care for young adults, who then return to join their families at weekends. The majority of these residents have either Downs' syndrome or Autism and were identified as being at risk following a routine visit from one of our Fire Safety Engineers; in addition to the home being a sleeping risk the manager highlighted the problem that some of the residents were failing to respond at all to the fire alarm during the night.

To ensure that the needs of the residents were met, who have an average learning age of between 7 and 10 years, the Fire Safety team developed a solution by working together with the helpers and carers at the home and the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Arson Task Force Team. They have developed an interactive package, including practical activities for the residents, such as 'Stop, Drop & Roll' to educate them about how important fire safety is and how they should act in an emergency. This is supplemented with 'easy read' versions of Fire Safety booklets and information given to their families, to enable them to continue the fire safety awareness when they are at home at the weekends. Follow up visits are planned in after the initial sessions when the Fire Safety Advisors return to speak with the residents and carers to evaluate the effectiveness of the sessions and see if any additional support can be provided.