

Grenfell Fire Response News

£1 million for local charities reponding to Grenfell Tower disaster

DCLG announced today that it will release £1 million of funding to support organisations working with individuals and the communities most affected by the fire. The money will be distributed by a group of independent charitable funders who are part of the London Funder's membership network. You can register your interest in accessing this funding by e-mailing info@londonfunders.org.uk.

The money is a significant contribution to the locally-led recovery effort. It will be administered by a consortium of independent trusts and charities, and be co-ordinated by London Funders. The full details of how the money will be distributed will be confirmed and shared in the next 48 hours. The money will be distributed at regular intervals over the next few weeks, with decisions being made within a few days of an application being submitted by local groups working in the area.

Angela McConville, Westway Trust Chief Executive, said:

"In the face of this terrible tragedy, the community has responded in an amazing way. As we have demonstrated in recent weeks, local grassroots organisations are best placed to support those who need help. The local community are desperate to support those who have been affected and need more support than ever in order to distribute donations, provide support and comfort and otherwise help the community heal. From the practical to the spiritual we have seen a phenomenal local response."

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What is this newsletter for?

This is the fourth edition of the Grenfell Response Team newsletter. We want to keep you up to date with all the latest information and services available to help. For up to the minute info please follow us on Twitter

@grenfellsupport and on Facebook at **facebook.com/grenfellsupport** and visit **www.gov.uk**

Bereavement support

Freephone helpline

0808 808 1677

24 hours a day.

helpline@cruse.org.uk

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries

0300 222 0000

(outside the UK

+44(0)300 222 0000)

24 hour advice line.

Air quality and smoke exposure

People who have concerns about any symptoms should seek medical advice or call **NHS 111**.

NHS Mental health support

0800 0234 650

24 hours a day.

cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net

VICTIM SUPPORT

Free emotional and practical support for anyone affected.

0808 1689 111

24 hours a day.

victimsupport.org.uk

Financial assistance update

- As of 2pm on 26th June, £1,686,012 has been distributed to affected families.
- This is made up of a £500 cash payment and £5,000 delivered through DWP into bank accounts or similar in a single payment, along with discretionary payments made by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. 108 households have been given the £5,000 payments

Housing update

We have offered emergency hotel accommodation in the local area to everyone who needs it.

Housing numbers across Grenfell Tower, Grenfell Walk and the cordon area are:

- In total there are 377 households in emergency accommodation.
- 140 hotel placements have been made for people living in Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk.
- There are also 109 additional households now in hotels from the wider affected area.
- 181 keyworkers are supporting people affected.
- There have been 79 additional high-vis workers, including 38 Red Cross in the centre and undertaking community liaison.

Work is now taking place to assess the housing needs of all Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk families to identify longer-term temporary accommodation in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and neighbouring boroughs. The accommodation that residents accept now are temporary. Residents can choose to make this location their permanent home or move to permanent locations when they are ready.

- So far 163 housing needs assessments have been completed.
- 68 new build flats as part of the Kensington Road development in the borough will be provided to re-house residents from Grenfell Tower. These will be ready by the end of July 2017.

The air pollution level near the site of the Grenfell Tower tragedy continues to be low, latest readings show.

Public Health England (PHE) ensured that three new air quality monitors were installed in the immediate area of Grenfell Tower by an independent environment company on Saturday.

Readings so far show low levels of pollution .

PHE is carrying out air quality tests in the area and is continuing to monitor readings to ensure the best advice is given. PHE is also advising on air quality, smoke exposure and asbestos and other potential risks.

More information on air quality from Public Health England can be found on their website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Free travel

As of 26th June, TFL is operating a free shuttle bus service between the Community Assistance Centre, at the Westway Sports Centre, and the hotels where large numbers of families have been temporarily housed. Timetables for the bus routes will be available at your hotel if it is one of those included.

There has also been extensive travel assistance offered by both the rail and air sectors

Boilers

The hot water boiler which serves Grenfell Tower and surrounding properties was located under the Tower and completely destroyed by the fire. The boiler provided hot water and heating to local properties. Work has started on fitting a new temporary boiler and we're working hard to get hot water running within the next 10 days. We are offering any residents affected hotel accommodation until we can fix this.

Community donations

The Community engagement team have been working with the local voluntary and community sector to develop a plan as to how the generous donations of clothes and other items that are being stored locally will be managed. We would like to thank all those that have provided feedback so far, and welcome any further comments today. Over the course of the next few days, we shall be incorporating your views into the donations management plan and will update you via this newsletter.

What help is on offer?

If you come to the Assistance Centre at **Westway Sports Centre, Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP** you will be able to access services and support provided by the team from 9am -11pm.

A Red Cross helpline is in action to help give practical or emotional support to anyone who needs it.

The number is

0800 458 9472.

This is available 24 hours a day but we are looking at reviewing these hours based on need. If you have any feedback please email support@grenfellresponse.org.

Any family and friends concerned about their loved ones are asked to contact the Metropolitan Police on **0800 032 4539**.

If you have been affected and have any other questions about the support available, please email support@grenfellresponse.org

Please do not send any personal data like bank details or your address to this email account – rest assured when we contact you, we'll get any additional information we need.

Westway Community Assistance Centre

The Westway Community Assistance Centre is open from 8am to 11pm as a source of advice, and supplies for affected families from the tower and the community, and it will continue to evolve to provide services as the needs of the community change.

Advice

- Registration
- Initial advice on help available
- Government grants
- Emergency financial assistance/payments
- Housing
- Mental health services
- Doctor/nurse access
- Adult social care
- Family and children services
- Consumer issues
- Energy suppliers
- Local business issues
- Royal Mail
- Benefits eligibility
- ID
- Visas
- Embassy inquiries
- Passports
- Driving licences
- Oyster cards
- Consumer issues e.g. utilities/housing
- Victim Support

Frequently asked questions

Are people in emergency housing being put in tower blocks?

No. People are being temporarily housed in hotel accommodation in or close to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Are people living in parks?

We are not aware of anybody living in parks and there is no need for people to be living in parks if that is the case we would urge people to come to the Westway Sports Centre so we can help with their housing needs.

Are people been forced out of the borough, or being made intentionally homeless?

This is simply not true. No one is being forced to move out of London, or being threatened with being made homeless. We're working to find the right accommodation for those affected residents, either in Kensington and Chelsea or neighbouring boroughs.

Are people affected by the fire being asked for ID at the assessment centre?

People affected by the fire were issued letters informing them of the process to access funding and we have asked them to show this letter as some people may have had their IDs destroyed in the fire. This is to ensure those who need support get it. They should not be asked for their ID

Undocumented migrants – What will happen to anyone who isn't documented but lived in the tower?

We will not use this tragic incident as a reason to carry out immigration checks on those involved and those providing vital information to identify victims.

We will also make sure that all victims, irrespective of their immigration status, will be able to access the services they need, including accommodation and healthcare.