

Grenfell Fire Response News

21 July 2017
Issue No: 23

Public meeting at Notting Hill Methodist Church on Wednesday

The next community public meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, 26 July, from 6pm to 7.30pm at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, W11 4AH. Please note that this meeting has reverted to its original Wednesday night timing, not Tuesday night as was the case with last week's meeting.

The session will aim to provide:

- an update from Response team representatives
- a face-to-face question and answer session
- guidance on information and support available.

Meetings are open to the public, so please do come along or invite people from the Lancaster West estate who you think would like to attend.

If you have suggestions of any issues you would like to see addressed at the meeting, please contact communityengagement@grenfellresponse.org

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Grenfell Assistance Centre now at long-term premises at The Curve

The Grenfell Assistance Centre has moved to new long-term premises nearby at The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP.

Located just around the corner from Latimer Road Station and the Westway Centre, the new centre provides a space for people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire to meet up and continue to access services.

The centre will continue to provide residents with an extensive range of support, and will also provide a space for the community affected by the Grenfell Tower fire to meet with family, friends and neighbours.

The centre will be open from 10am to 8pm every day and will provide support and advice from a wide range of agencies, including the NHS, Benefits, Post Office, Adults' and Children's Social Care, and Housing.

Other services include:

- emotional support
- a crèche for children
- food and toiletries area
- an area to place orders for new clothes.

Community volunteers will also be present to carry on their crucial work of supporting those affected in every way possible.

What is this newsletter for?

This is the twenty-third edition of the Grenfell Fire Response Team newsletter. We want to keep you up to date with all the latest information and services available to help.

The newsletter is also available in Arabic and Farsi languages. For up to the minute info please follow us on Twitter [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/grenfellsupport](https://www.facebook.com/grenfellsupport) or visit www.gov.uk

Drop-in sessions as Grenfell Inquiry consultation period further extended

The consultation period on the Terms of Reference for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry has been extended by a further week, to **Friday 4 August**.

It is very important for people affected by the fire to have the opportunity to say what questions they want answered by the public inquiry, and drop-in sessions are being held this week and next week at Notting Hill Methodist Church to support you to submit your views.

Computers are available to write and submit responses. An independent advisor is available to help explain what the consultation is about and how to submit a response. The advisor can help with drafting responses if needed.

The details of this week's sessions at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH are as follows:

- **Thursday 20 July** 2–4pm
- **Friday 21 July** 2–4pm

Information on further sessions will follow in future editions of this newsletter.

What help is on offer?

Anyone who would like to speak to the police in relation to the investigation into the fire are asked to contact the Met Police.

Other important contacts

Bereavement support

Call the Freephone helpline on **0808 808 1677** or email helpline@cruse.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries

Call our advice line on **0300 222 0000**. The line is open 24 hours.

Air quality and smoke exposure

If you have concerns about any symptoms, please see your doctor or call NHS **111**.

NHS Mental health support

Call **0800 0234 650** or email cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net for mental health support. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Victim support

Call **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support, or visit victimsupport.org.uk. The line is open 24 hours a day.

You can also get physical and mental support at the Grenfell Assistance Centre. Find out more by calling **07712 231 133**.

You can also call the Red Cross helpline on **0800 458 9472**. The line is open from 8am to 8pm.

For regular updates please follow us on Twitter at [@grenfellsupport](https://twitter.com/grenfellsupport) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/grenfellsupport](https://www.facebook.com/grenfellsupport), or visit www.gov.uk

Tower structure not a risk to public safety

The Grenfell Response team will be writing to people living near Grenfell Tower to provide reassurance around the stability of the tower structure and public safety.

Despite the intense heat of the fire, the structural concrete frame of Grenfell Tower is stable and there is no risk to public safety. This has been confirmed by a range of experts, including structural engineers.

You will continue to see lots of activity on site over the coming months as the police recovery operation and investigation inside the tower continue.

The area surrounding the tower continues to be cordoned off. This is both to keep the area safe and to ensure the police investigation can continue without interruption.

The safety of the building is enforced by a sophisticated system of on-site alarms which can detect the tiniest movements caused by gusts of

wind, temperature changes or shifts in the building as heavy material is removed. This will not lead to alarms sounding and there is no risk or issue for people living nearby.

The timetable for work includes three phases:

1. Shoring up the building structure with steel supports.
2. Erecting scaffolding to allow debris, possessions and other material to be removed.
3. Putting up a cover in stages as successive floors are cleared.

This work will proceed over coming weeks with a view to the building being covered by November.

No long term decision on the building will be taken until survivors, their relatives and local people have been consulted. We realise the sensitivity and strong emotion that activity around the building can provoke, so all work will be carried out with residents' concerns at the centre of our considerations.

NHS update

In response to the needs of patients, NHS partners in West London have set up a multi-disciplinary health outreach team to support patients, families and neighbours affected by the tragedy.

The team is currently located at the Grenfell Assistance Centre, and is able to provide emotional support and physical checks. The health team is also able to signpost to GP services and more specialist mental health services.

The health outreach team is able to visit you at your place of residence or at another location of your choosing, such as a local community centre.

Non-urgent referrals can be made to the outreach team by calling **07712 231 133**. This is a direct line to the team at the Grenfell Assistance Centre, who will organise a non-urgent visit. The team can visit the patient on the day of the referral or the following day. Alternatively, referrals can be emailed to **cnw-tr.westway@nhs.net**

The first port of call for physical, emotional or mental health needs for any resident should be your own GP. Your GP will provide the all-important continuity of care, and is able to signpost to more specialist services.

Local GP practices are well placed to support people with emotional and mental health needs with an enhanced service in place.

If you do not have a GP, you can register for one online at **www.nhs.uk** by entering your postcode. If you do not have access to the internet, please call **020 8962 4600** and a member of the team will help you. The line is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Through the NHS **111** service, GP appointments are also available if needed at the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing Integrated Care Centre, Exmoor Street, London W10 6DZ. Those requiring an urgent mental health response should call **0800 0234 650**.

Health visitors are also contacting all displaced families with young children.

Access to emergency funding

There are a range of funds available to those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

Department for Work and Pensions

The government has a £5 million Grenfell Tower Residents' Discretionary Fund for households who have permanently lost their home, including guaranteed payments per household of £5,000 into bank accounts and £500 cash per adult (age 16 and over) who resided in the property.

How to apply: Please visit the Grenfell Assistance Centre where help is available to access this funding.

Alternatively contact:

Phil Black
pblack@westminster.gov.uk
0207 641 2678 or

David Hodgkinson
dhodgkinson@westminster.gov.uk
0207 641 8162

Receiving this funding will not affect any existing benefits that are being claimed by individuals.

John Lyon's Charity

Funding is available for groups or organisations working with children, young people and families. This is available to registered charities, CICs, non-profit community groups, schools and local faith groups.

How to apply: Organisations should complete an application form online at **www.jlc.london/news/grenfell-tower-disaster**

London Funders

A £1 million fund is available for smaller charities and local organisations that stepped in to help in the immediate response to the disaster. This fund will help reimburse organisations and to make sure their on-going work is supported.

How to apply: Please download an application form and guidance from **www.londonfunders.org.uk/trust-and-foundation-funding-and-support-community-groups-affected-grenfell-fire**

London Emergencies Trust

The next of kin for each of those who tragically lost their lives in the Grenfell fire are to receive an initial £20,000. Individuals hospitalised for seven days or more will receive £10,000 and individuals hospitalised for 6 hours or more will receive £3,500.

Three of the major funds for the people affected by the Grenfell fire, the British Red Cross, K&C Foundation and the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund, in collaboration with The London Community Foundation, are coming together with the London Emergencies Trust to make money available immediately with more to come.

How to apply: Family Liaison Officers (FLO) or Key Workers who are attached to families affected will help fill in an application form. You can also call the Red Cross helpline on **0800458 9472**.

Rugby Portobello Trust

A fresh start grant of £10,000 per household from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk once they have been provided with confirmation of new temporary or permanent accommodation.

How to apply: Please apply through the Rugby Portobello Trust by calling **020 7229 2928** or email **newhomesteam@rpt.org.uk**

Health update

Air quality figures available online

Monitoring from Public Health England (PHE) shows that the risk to people's health from air pollution around the site continues to be low and no asbestos has been detected.

Air quality monitors were installed in the immediate area of Grenfell Tower, with additional equipment being put in to support ongoing monitoring. Chemicals produced when the Grenfell Tower fire was burning will not be present now.

Following discussions with local residents, PHE has published a report containing the air quality data from around the site. The report contains data tables, graphs and photographs of where the equipment is based, alongside an explanation of the data. The report will be updated on a regular basis. You can read the report online at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-thegrenfell-tower-fire

Asbestos

Public Health England (PHE) is reassuring the public there is no increased presence of asbestos in the air in the area around Grenfell Tower.

Water quality

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to drink and use as normal.

More advice from Public Health England can be found online at www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

Housing update

Finding housing solutions that work for everyone directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire remains our absolute priority and we are working hard to achieve this.

Offers of temporary accommodation are being made on a daily basis, but we know that families will have concerns around this process and the idea of accepting a temporary home. So far, 169 offers of accommodation have been made, 35 offers have been accepted and 10 households rehoused.

For some people, it's still too soon to make such a major decision. For others, there are all sorts of considerations to take into account, such as the needs of elderly relatives, proximity to schools, and dealing with historical overcrowding. Choosing a temporary home for families that have undergone unimaginable loss and trauma is a big decision, and we are at pains to ensure they have the time to select a home that is right for them at a time that is right for them.

Government has given commitments to help reassure families that:

- their needs are paramount, all other considerations are secondary to these
- their rent will not increase and the same terms and conditions of their previous home at Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk will be maintained
- they will have lifetime security of tenure
- they will not be forced to stay in temporary accommodation on a long-term basis
- accepting an offer of temporary accommodation does not mean that they lose priority for a permanent home
- no one has to accept a particular property and not accepting a property does not mean that they will be made intentionally homeless
- temporary homes will be rent and utility bill free for 12 months
- for some cases, if they like their temporary home, there is the potential for it to become their permanent home (this will be discussed when the home is offered to them).

More information is available on the housing line on **020 7361 3008**.

Frequently asked questions

Will victims have to pay for outstanding utility bills?

The Government and utility companies have announced a package of support for Grenfell victims across energy, water and telecommunications. This includes suppliers agreeing to write off outstanding utility bills for victims of the fire, and the support comes on top of the £5 million fund to pay for emergency supplies, food, clothes and other costs. Further details can be found online at goo.gl/yhcniU

Will my eligibility for benefits be affected if I receive the £5,500?

The Department for Work and Pensions has said that your income-related benefits won't be affected by payments from the fund. Other benefits, such as Personal Independence Payments, won't be affected either and any payments from the emergency fund will not be taxed.