

# Grenfell Fire Response News

25 July 2017  
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## 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](mailto:communityengagement@grenfellresponse.org)

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## Grenfell Inquiry Consultation meeting tonight

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry is holding its second community consultation meeting tonight from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH.

This is an opportunity for you to let the Inquiry team know what you believe the Inquiry should cover. The meeting will be recorded and all views will be considered carefully.

The consultation period into the terms of reference, which will set out what the Inquiry will cover, has also been extended following feedback from local residents and survivors. The closing date for comments is 4 August 2017.

For more information you can email the Inquiry team at [contact@grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk](mailto:contact@grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk) or contact them by phone on **020 7947 7837**.

The consultation document can be read at [www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Grenfell\\_consultation\\_doc.pdf](http://www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Grenfell_consultation_doc.pdf)

## What is this newsletter for?

This is the twenty-fifth 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://facebook.com/grenfellsupport) or visit [www.grenfellresponse.org.uk](http://www.grenfellresponse.org.uk)

## Activities for children and young people this summer

There are a range of activities planned to support parents in the local community to entertain children and young people during the Summer holidays.

### Drop in and play football programme

Starting from Monday 24 July QPR, Westway and other local organisations are providing a free drop-in and play football programme for 4 to 18 year olds from the local community.

Sessions will take place Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm for the next six weeks at Westway.

The programme will be delivered by professional DBS qualified staff.

### Activities for families and parents

Nova are offering a fantastic summer programme of activities, workshops, classes, trips and events for adults and for parents to attend with their children, including library visits, workshops at the British museum, and day trips as well as one-to-one advice sessions and more.

You can find out more at [www.novanew.org.uk](http://www.novanew.org.uk)

### Summer in the City

There are hundreds of events and activities taking place for children, young people and their families this summer across central London, enjoy outdoor activities,

bake-offs, free cycling tours, nature trails, cupcake making, graffiti art, photography and much more.

This week young people aged 13 to 19 can have fun and learn circus skills, play team games, take part in sports, enjoy arts and crafts and much more at venues across Kensington and Chelsea with Epic CIC.

You can pick up a copy at locations across the borough including The Curve or visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/all-council-statements/summer-activities](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/all-council-statements/summer-activities)

### Summer Reading Challenge

Young people can enjoy reading over the summer break and win prizes with the Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge 2017. All you have to do is visit your local library to register and read six books over the holidays, and collect stickers, rewards and clues along the way to solve animal themed mysteries.

If you read six library books, you'll receive a certificate and might solve the mystery too. The Summer Reading Challenge is free and children of all ages can take part.

You can find out more at [www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/special-events-children](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/special-events-children)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

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

## Multi-faith vigil to take place on Thursday 27 July

Local faith leaders are inviting the community to join a multi-faith vigil taking place on Thursday 27 July at 6pm, at Silchester Road.

People are invited to bring a single flower with them, if they wish, to be laid outside the Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH following the service.

## Update on expenses for food

If you are currently staying in hotel accommodation while you are considering your options regarding offers of accommodation, you are able to claim expenses for food costs.

Adults and children over the age of five are able to claim up to £300 each per week, and children under five can receive up to £150 per week to cover food costs.

Requests for this financial assistance are assessed on individual need, but people can choose to eat at

their hotel, or elsewhere depending on their preference.

If you choose to eat at your hotel, you can charge the costs to your hotel room. Where available, you can also make use of room service and charge it to your room. If you choose to eat off site, then you can receive cash to pay for meals separately.

For further information, please speak to your Key Worker.

## 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](http://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.

### How can people find their post?

Mail for Grenfell Tower can be collected from Royal Mail's West London Delivery Office, Unit 20-23, West London Delivery Office, Premier Park Road, NW10 7NZ (open Monday to Friday, 8am to 2pm, and Saturday, 8am to 1pm).

Mail collection is also available by prior arrangement on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Royal Mail desk at the Grenfell Assistance Centre at The Curve.

Please call **01752 387055** to make a mail collection arrangement. ID is required to collect your mail.

## Kensington and Chelsea Council announces how permanent homes will be allocated to Grenfell residents

Kensington and Chelsea Council has outlined its approach to allocating permanent homes to Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk residents.

Newly built permanent housing is now available to residents of Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk. You will be able to choose where you live and will not be forced to accept an offer of social housing if you don't wish to. You will only move to a permanent home if you are happy with it.

Once the initial twelve month occupancy period is over and if you are a former council tenant, you will not pay any more rent than you paid at Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk, even if you are rehoused to a larger home.

If you did not hold a council tenancy for a flat in Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Walk, the rent you will pay will remain at the social rent level.

This new policy sits alongside a number of Government commitments which state that if you are a former resident of Grenfell

Tower, or Grenfell Walk, you will not have to pay for rent or core utility bills within the first year of accepting an offer of Stage two temporary or permanent housing.

Alongside the Government's contribution of £5,000, plus £500 for each household member aged 16 or over, households will also receive a £10,000 Fresh Start grant from the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has issued letters to all affected residents, which you should have now received, outlining how both the Government and the Council's permanent rehousing plan will work for you. This includes details on how Stage two temporary accommodation can be converted into permanent housing where possible, if you prefer.

To view the policy, letter to residents and FAQs, please visit:

**[www.rbkc.gov.uk/press-release/kensington-and-chelsea-council-announce-how-permanent-homes-will-be-allocated-grenfell](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/press-release/kensington-and-chelsea-council-announce-how-permanent-homes-will-be-allocated-grenfell)**

## Latest advice on air quality

Monitoring from Public Health England (PHE) shows that the risk to people's health from air pollution around the site continues to be low.

PHE has published the latest report containing the air quality data from the monitoring locations around the site. The report will be updated on a weekly basis.

You can read the report online at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire)

### Ash and dust

Every effort is being taken to ensure that the Grenfell Tower site is handled in a dignified and respectful way for all those who have been directly impacted, as well as the local community.

The current air quality monitoring has not identified elevated levels of ash or dust in the surrounding area,

and no asbestos, so the risk to your health is considered to be low. Monitoring is also taking place for chemicals considered to be the most hazardous to health.

Teams working within the Tower report that the majority of the building is still damp, which reduces the chances of any material being blown into nearby areas. If this situation alters as a result of changes to the weather, then we will let you know as quickly as possible.

It is important to note that generally it is not possible to inhale visible dust and, although a nuisance, it does not represent a health hazard.

### Water quality

Drinking water quality has not been impacted by the fire and tap water is safe to drink and use as normal. If anyone has concerns regarding drinking water quality, contact Thames Water.

### Waste materials and debris

If you have waste material or debris from the fire at your property, please contact Kensington and Chelsea Council on **020 7361 3001** to make arrangements for the Council to collect it.

### Air purifiers

Air purifiers, which are generally used to reduce allergens from pets from the air, are not recommended because larger particles produced during the fire will have already settled and will not be present in the air. Larger dust particles settle quickly onto surfaces and are best removed with a damp cloth.

More advice from PHE can be found online at [www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire](http://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, 43 offers have been accepted and 11 households rehoused.

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).

Last week, Kensington and Chelsea Council outlined its approach to allocating permanent homes to Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk residents. To view the policy, letter to residents and FAQs, please visit: [www.rbkc.gov.uk/press-release/kensington-and-chelsea-council-announce-how-permanenthmes-will-be-allocated-grenfell](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/press-release/kensington-and-chelsea-council-announce-how-permanenthmes-will-be-allocated-grenfell)

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