

Grenfell Fire Response News

26 July 2017
Issue No: 26

Public meeting at Notting Hill Methodist Church tonight

The next community public meeting will take place tonight, from 6pm to 7.30pm, at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH.

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 Inquiry drop-in sessions

The consultation period into the terms of reference for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry is open until Friday 4 August. This is an opportunity for you to let the Inquiry team know what you believe the Inquiry should cover.

Drop-in sessions are being held this week at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH and local people are invited to attend. The sessions are taking place on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 26 July**, 2pm to 4pm
- **Thursday 27 July**, 2pm to 4pm
- **Friday 28 July**, 2pm to 4pm.

Computers will be available for you to write and submit responses. An independent advisor is available to give more information about what the consultation is about and how to submit a response. The advisor can help with drafting responses if needed.

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.

What is this newsletter for?

This is the twenty-sixth 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.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 this week, QPR, Westway Sports Centre 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 Sports Centre.

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

Sailing Day

On Saturday 5 August the Play Association will be holding a sailing day at Felpham Sailing Club near Bognor Regis. The whole family will be welcome to join the trip and enjoy the seaside but priority for sailing will be given to young people aged 8 to 15.

If you're interested please contact Steve Boeje from the Play Association by Friday 28 July on **07828 123 300**.

The day will be free of charge and will start promptly at 9am at a designated pick-up point, and you will get details of where the pick-up point will be once you sign up.

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

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

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 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

Mental health support

There are lots of services available if you or an adult or young person you know is feeling traumatised by the Grenfell Tower fire.

Support for adults and young people over the phone

- If you require an urgent mental health response for yourself, or on behalf of a young person, you can call the NHS 24-hour support line on **0800 0234 650** or email **cnw-tr.spa@nhs.net**. Please let the operator know you are calling as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire.
- The British Red Cross helpline is also available to anyone affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. For practical or emotional support you can call **0800 458 9472**. The line is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- Adults and young people can also call the free Samaritans helpline on **116 123**. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Read our leaflet on supporting children and young people

If you have questions about how to support a child or young person affected by the Grenfell Tower fire, you can download a leaflet that includes:

- Guidance on how a child might behave or react after a tragic event
- Ideas for how to support them
- Advice on explaining to a child what happened.

You can download a copy of the leaflet at **www.rbkc.gov.uk/kb5/rbkc/fis/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0**

Support for young people over the phone

- People under 25 can call Childline any time on **0800 11 11** and have a one-to-one chat with a supportive, trained counsellor any time, day or night.

Support for children with disabilities and learning difficulties

- Full of Life Kensington and Chelsea is providing outreach counselling to parents of children with disabilities. A programme of short breaks is being put in place for the Summer.

Visit **www.fulloflifekc.com** for more information.

Online services for young people

- **Kooth.com** is a free online counselling service for children aged 11 to 19.
- **NHSgo.uk** provides health information for young people under the age of 25, including advice on coping with stress after a major incident.

Parent and family support trauma sessions

From September, a special programme of therapeutic group counselling will be provided to parents and families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. These sessions will be jointly delivered by experts in trauma care, and by Full of Life, a support group for children and young adults with disabilities and their families.

For more information contact **020 8962 9994** or email **info@fulloflifekc.com**

Art therapy sessions

Throughout the summer, the Grenfell Community Art Therapy Trust will be running free art therapy sessions for adults and young people. Art Therapy is a psychological therapy involving both verbal communication and communication through art and play. All therapists are qualified and DBS vetted.

Sessions for children and young people take place daily at a variety of locations and times within the area.

Adult sessions will also take place Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm at ACAVA Studio Belchymden Street by Latimer Road Station.

Find out more by calling Susan Rudnik on **07932 054 834** or email **s.rudnik@gold.ac.uk**

New opening hours for Family and Friends Assistance Centre

The Family and Friends Assistance Centre (FFAC) provides wrap-around support to those that have lost loved ones in the Grenfell Tower fire. The opening hours are now 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday.

Appointments are made by Family Liaison Officers, and can provide specialist bereavement support, as well as help provide access to other professionals who can help resolve practical issues they may be facing.

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, 44 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-permanent-homes-will-be-allocated-grenfell

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

Legal aid for residents

Legal aid is available to help people made homeless by the Grenfell Tower fire, and funding is also available to families to support them as they prepare for inquests.

We encourage any family affected by the tragedy to apply for funding, which is granted by the independent Legal Aid Agency.

You can find out more about legal aid online at www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

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

How can people find their post?

People can collect their post from Royal Mail's West London Delivery Office, Unit 20–23, West London Delivery Office, Premier Park Road, NW10 7NZ (open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 2pm).

Mail collection is also available by prior arrangement at the Grenfell Assistance Centre at The Curve, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 8pm, and on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 5pm.

Please call **01752 387 055** to make a mail collection arrangement. ID is required to collect their mail.

New times for Red Cross Helpline

The opening hours of the British Red Cross helpline are now 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. Out of these hours messages can be left on an answer phone which will be picked up and responded to in the morning.

The Red Cross helpline is **0800 458 9472**.