

# Grenfell Fire Response News

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## Letter from Secretary of State Sajid Javid delivered to residents

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, wrote today to all those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire outlining his commitments to keep residents updated, to engage with the local community on issues that matter to them and to ensure that people are offered the right housing for them.

In his letter, Mr Javid announced the members of the new Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce will assist with the longer term recovery work. They will be based at the Kensington and Chelsea council offices, but will be independent of the council itself, reporting directly to Mr Javid.

### The Taskforce members are:

- **Aftab Chughtai**, Chair of West Midlands Police Independent Advisory Group
- **Jane Scott OBE**, Leader of Wiltshire County Council
- **Javed Khan**, Chief Executive of Barnardo's charity
- **Chris Wood**, Partner at Altair Housing and former director of housing at three London Boroughs.

The Taskforce will work with Kensington and Chelsea council to ensure residents are kept up to speed on recovery plans and that the authority provides the best possible accommodation for residents and works with them to put in place long-term regeneration plans for the site.

To read the letter to residents in full, visit [grenfellresponse.org.uk/letters-to-residents](http://grenfellresponse.org.uk/letters-to-residents)

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### What is this newsletter for?

This is the twenty-seventh 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)

## 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:

- **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.

## 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.

### Sailing Day

On Saturday 5 August, the Play Association Hammersmith and Fulham 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**.

### 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)

### Free Holiday Sport at the Westway

The Westway Fives group will be running four days of free holiday sport in August for boys and girls aged 7 to 15, where they can enjoy wallball, football, basketball and more. The days are run by fully qualified coaches.

The days are taking place on 7, 17, 25 and 31 August at the Westway Sports Centre from 10am to 4pm and are completely free. Young people are asked to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle.

To enrol or request further information, please contact the Westway Sports Centre on [westwayfives@gmail.com](mailto:westwayfives@gmail.com) or **07482 748 716**.

## 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 on **0800 032 4539**.

### 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**.

#### Housing support

If you have any questions about housing or need to want to find out who your housing officer is please call **0800 137 111** or **020 7361 3008**.

#### 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](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)

## Multi-faith vigil tonight

Local faith leaders are inviting the community to join a multi-faith vigil taking place this evening, Thursday 27 July, 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.

## 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.
- 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.

### 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](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/kb5/rbkc/fis/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0)**

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@fulloflifekc.com)**

## Key Workers available to give you support

Key Workers are the first point of contact for affected residents and their families. Key Workers point you in the right direction to the support you need.

Help is on hand for people living on the Lancaster West estate and can be accessed at the Grenfell Assistance Centre, The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP from 10am to 8pm.

Support offered by Key Workers ranges from help to obtain documents such as passports and driving licences, through to psychological support, as well as housing, education and health assistance.

### Additional support includes:

- support for bereaved relatives to attend funerals.
- transporting children from hotels to schools.
- giving people a timeline as to when they will be rehoused.
- replacing key health related items such as new braces, walking sticks and glasses.
- replacing laptops and mobile phones.

To request a Key Worker, change your Key Worker, or if you are unable to reach your Key Worker, please ring the helpline on **020 7745 6400** or email **[GrenfellTowerKeyWorkerHub@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellTowerKeyWorkerHub@rbkc.gov.uk)**. The line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

## 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 12 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](http://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**.

## Home Office scheme to support Grenfell Tower residents

The Home Office has launched a scheme to allow those who have lost their homes in the fire to stay in the UK for up to 12 months. We will make sure that they will be able to access the services they need, including accommodation and healthcare.

If residents are here illegally, do not have an outstanding asylum claim or their stay in the UK is about to end, the scheme can help them. We will not use this tragedy as a reason to carry out immigration checks.

To access the scheme, residents do not need to submit an application but they need to come and talk to us in person. They will need to bring any evidence they have to show that they lived at Grenfell Tower on the date of the fire or close to it. If they have lost their evidence in the fire, we can still help.

Residents can speak face-to-face with the specialist Home Office team at the Grenfell Assistance Centre, The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP from 10am to 8pm. They are welcome to bring someone with them to help and translators are available if needed.

To learn more about the scheme, please call the helpline on **0300 222 0000** to arrange for a call back by the specialist visa and passport teams. The line is open 24 hours a day.

## 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.