

Grenfell Fire Response News

Work to cover Grenfell Tower to begin next month

From mid-August, work will begin to cover Grenfell Tower in a protective wrap in order to help the police investigation and make recovery work easier.

At a Grenfell Tower community meeting on Wednesday night, site manager Michael Lockwood said the recovery operation was likely to last until mid-November.

Mr Lockwood said: "Towards the end of 2018, I think we could start to bring the tower down, if that is what the community wants, and the scaffolding will help us to do that because we can do that within the wrap."

Any decision on what happens to the site will be made in collaboration with the local community.

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Work to retrieve lost possessions to take place

Arrangements are now being made to retrieve possessions from flats at Grenfell Tower which were less extensively damaged by the fire.

The Grenfell Fire Response Team is talking to occupants from 33 properties that escaped the worst of the fire.

Michael Lockwood, site manager, said: "Efforts to get those items back might begin in the next week or so in consultation with those residents, and at the speed that they want, but we would like to get some of those possessions back to them."

Grenfell Inquiry drop-in session

The public consultation on the Terms of Reference for the Grenfell Tower inquiry is open until Friday 4 August. This is an opportunity for people to let the Inquiry team know what they believe the Inquiry should cover.

A drop-in session will be taking place tomorrow, Friday 28 July, 2pm to 4pm at Notting Hill Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH and local residents are invited to attend.

Computers will be available for people 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.

What is this newsletter for?

This is the twenty-eighth 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 regular updates 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

QPR, Westway Sports Centre and other local organisations are providing a free drop-in and play football programme for 4 to 18 year olds, taking 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.

You can pick up a copy at locations across the borough or visit **www.mysummerinthecity.org.uk**

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** 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**. 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**. 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**, or visit **www.grenfellresponse.org.uk**

Residents in temporary hotel accommodation

Residents who are currently in temporary hotel accommodation will be able to stay there until 1 September 2017 while offers of temporary housing are made. If they have not been able to find a suitable temporary home in this time, then arrangements will be made so that they can stay there while you find the most suitable home for you.

This applies to both residents from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk and those from the surrounding blocks who have been unable to return home.

We will continue to work with residents on their rehousing options and we will work with people to make sure that they find the most suitable home for them.

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**

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**

Consultation with residents of Barandon, Hurstway and Testerton walks

Thank you to everyone who responded to Kensington and Chelsea council's letter on 10 July. All responses are being considered and the council will write to residents again soon with updates, including on what the rehousing process would look like. The council is going to develop further information that will be discussed with affected residents so that they are better informed about their future housing options. Please be reassured that responses will have no impact on any request to be rehoused.

Letter from Sajid Javid MP delivered to residents

Sajid Javid MP has written 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 who 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**

Latest advice on air quality and dust from Dr Yvonne Doyle

Public Health England (PHE) has been assessing and monitoring air quality in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower, and Dr Yvonne Doyle, PHE's director for London, attended a public meeting at Notting Hill Methodist Church on Wednesday evening to address concerns on air quality from residents.

Dr Doyle said: "Some people have said that their asthma has been exacerbated and it is important that they seek help for this from your general practitioner if this continues. If you or someone you know is having problems with asthma, please do ring your GP and get an appointment as soon as possible. Your doctor will be able to help you manage your symptoms.

"People have also told us that they have noticed increased dust in the local area. Generally, visible dust can't be inhaled into the lungs, as such the risk to people's health

from dust is considered to be low. We have also monitored the air for respirable dust and we have not seen high concentrations in the areas around Grenfell Tower, however if people do notice any dust within their property it can be safely removed by wiping with a damp cloth.

"People who have been exposed to smoke from the fire may have experienced irritation to their air passages, skin and eyes, which can cause coughing and wheezing, breathlessness and chest pain. People who continue to experience these symptoms should seek medical advice from their GP or on NHS **111**."

If people have waste material or debris from the fire at their property, they can contact Kensington and Chelsea Council on **020 7361 3001** to make arrangements for them to collect it.

If someone does not have a GP, they can register for one online at www.nhs.uk by entering their postcode, or call **020 8962 4600**. The line is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

People can also ring NHS **111** for health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Air quality reports with data collected from around the site is published online every week at www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire

More advice from PHE 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, 45 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

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