

The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation Grenfell Tower Fund

Listening Project update and next steps

08.05.18

The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation is an independent charity set up in 2008. Since then, we've worked to tackle the inequalities faced by many across the Borough which the Grenfell Tower Tragedy brought into stark relief. We do this by raising funds and resources which are invested in local charities and community groups.

Kensington & Chelsea Grenfell Tower Fund – Phase One

We set up our Grenfell Tower Fund Appeal on 14 June 2017 and have raised £6.8 million with more than £5 million already distributed, with most going to the survivors and the bereaved.

Phase Two – Helping the wider affected community

Our appeal was set up to help those directly affected and the wider community. There is now a huge task ahead to re-build the fabric of North Kensington. As a local charity, we are committed to being part of this task and to stand by those affected and to work with the local community to identify and invest in projects which will help and support local people over the next three years.

Listening to the community and your feedback

Over the past few months we have invited people to tell us what they feel the current and evolving needs are. We have listened to more than 100 individuals across North Kensington including people from the voluntary sector, community groups, faith groups, residents' associations, schools and new groups which have arisen out of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, so that we have a pulse on the way people are thinking and feeling. The table below is a summary of what we heard and ideas people had around solutions.

What we are doing next

Between now and the end of July (when we will issue a further update), we are committed to using what we have heard from local people and organisations to develop guiding principles and processes so that with community buy-in and support, we are able to identify and invest in projects over the next 3 years which provide hope, opportunities or healing for the community of North Kensington.

We are very keen to encourage the type of collaborative, inclusive working that proved so effective during the emergency phase following the fire at Grenfell Tower and is what people tell us they want more of.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support.

Susan Dolton
Director

Young People Aged 11-21	
What we heard	Things you suggested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some are not accessing counselling or speaking to their parents • Some are lacking in hope – ‘feel forgotten about’. There’s no future • Some young people at risk are now falling over the edge • There is anger amongst some teenage boys and young men • There are concerns about substance misuse, gangs and violence. • Some are excluded from school or not going. Lack of provision for those who are excluded to get them back into mainstream schools • Young people are out on the street, with nothing to do, no space for them to go to • Projects need to be led by young people – they need to be listened to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and counselling offers specifically aimed at young people and helping them to access appropriate support • Projects to help teenage boys and young men, especially those who are hard to reach • Employment initiatives, courses, apprenticeships and internships • Mentors and role models • Music and arts – new programmes teaching rap, video editing, drama • Sports and alternative sports • More girls only programmes • Young people need to have horizons broadened – time away, new experiences
Schools	
What we heard	Things you suggested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff don’t have enough support to help young people or access to counselling themselves • Students have lack of awareness of possibilities for their future • Schools are potentially a strong communication channel, currently underused • Children tend to revisit trauma more than adults so support needs to be ongoing • Parents need more input from schools • We need to look at bringing some joy back to children. Everything is ‘dark’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up long-term projects for affected schools • Provide support for teachers to help them support pupils • Projects which help provide young people with confidence in their abilities for the future (preparing for work)
Older People	
What we heard	Things you suggested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaced older people need support groups • Some older people are anxious about leaving their homes, worried it could happen again • Need places for older people to meet and socialise, opportunity to have meals together • Some older people living near the Tower have seen their neighbours move away and are feeling isolated • Some older people are being neglected in all the ‘noise’ that’s around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More befriending and Neighbourhood volunteers • Intergenerational programmes with schools and older people’s groups • Initiatives which bring older people together and are led by them

Families	
What we heard	Things you suggested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are more family break ups post Grenfell • Some families are struggling to be together as families • Accommodation continues to be an issue – hotels, temporary accommodation • Childcare support and creches are needed to allow parents space and time to get other things done • Trips away are beneficial and uplifting for families • Mental health issues are increasing • Adult males and females are dealing with trauma differently • There’s a need for reskilling, confidence building • Encourage/help people to go back to work or get into work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more family mediation • More family activities and places to go • Programmes for young mothers • Therapy and trauma support needs to be provided which is bespoke and respects different cultures and faiths • Programmes to help people back into work • Programmes that encourage integration and togetherness
Space, communication, safety & environment	
What we heard	Things you suggested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There’s a will for people and organisations to work together • There’s a need for a user-friendly directory of services available • There are some good new organisations that need to be supported to get policies and procedures in place • A need for joined up and clear communication and consideration for non-English speakers • There are issues of trust with RBKC • There’s a need for different types of spaces for different groups of people • People still feel unsafe – particularly in relation to fire, fire alarms • Discussion around the future of the Grenfell site needs to be community driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new projects which become embedded in the community • Need more community projects using and enhancing available and affordable space • More support for existing projects which are valued by the community • More collaboration and organisations working together • Projects which strengthen positive community voices and influence