

# GRENFELL JSNA REFRESH 2024

## SUMMARY

**2024**

# Background

The Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017 was a tragedy on an international scale, where 72 people lost their lives, including 18 children.

371 residents from the Tower and the Walk lost their homes in the fire, and hundreds of others were evacuated and displaced in the immediate aftermath. This tragedy had profound and wide-reaching impacts, highlighting issues related to social housing, inequality, and social injustice in the borough and beyond.

## Grenfell JSNA 2024 Refresh

The 2018 Journey of Recovery Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) acknowledged the lasting effects of the disaster and the complex path of recovery.

This report is a refresh of the 2018 JSNA. It highlights some of the key health and wellbeing needs of those impacted by the tragedy to inform the next phase of support.

This JSNA refresh combines quantitative and qualitative data from the recovery programme, as well as people's lived experiences. It was important that the voice of the community was reflected throughout this report to capture what matters most to people and what they think is important for supporting recovery. Recommendations were formed within this report based on those findings and views of the community.

We are grateful to everyone who has shared their views and provided challenge to amplify the needs of the community. From survivors, those who have lost loved ones, local residents and grassroots organisations.

## Grenfell Recovery Programme

Agreed in January 2019, both the Council and NHS committed £50M each to support the immediate and ongoing needs of survivors, bereaved and the local community.

The programme was in place for five years and covered a range of interventions which include dedicated and commissioned services across the partnership.

## Environmental and Air Quality Monitoring

Environmental checks and soil testing took place around Grenfell Tower, overseen central government. Similarly, air quality in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower has been assessed and continues to be monitored alongside the Council. Findings show no evidence of harmful contamination due to the fire.

Although promising, this doesn't take away from high levels of anxiety and worry experienced by residents that feel their health has been impacted as a result of the fire.

For more information, please see [Appendix 1](#) pages 1-6.

## Population Health Monitoring

The Council's Public Health team routinely monitor and interpret NHS health data across five wards in North Kensington. The purpose is to look for any key trends or changes in health. The data is anonymised and reviewed by both public health specialists and NHS clinicians. To date, population health monitoring has identified no increases in monitored conditions.

For more information, please see [Appendix 2](#) pages 7-14.

## Survivors and Bereaved

For many survivors and bereaved, Grenfell happened because of a failure to listen. They are still asking statutory agencies to listen to their health and wellbeing concerns.

Concerns continue to be around physical and mental health as it was impossible to prioritise these factors when their focus was housing and family. Communities want more reassurance on the longer-term impact of the fire and smoke on their respiratory health. They are worried about the risk of developing cancers or other long-term illnesses in the future.

## Emotional and Mental Health

We understand that emotional and mental health needs continue to vary and change depending on potential triggers and external factors. Social and cultural norms, alongside a sense of feeling less in control, can impact someone's ability to identify or understand the effects of poor mental health, making them less likely to get support. In some cases, the support available may not always fully resonate with cultural beliefs. A more tailored, proactive but patient-centred approach may be needed for people to feel heard and seen.

## Households

The need for safety and stability underpins everything. While many of the households from the Grenfell Tower and Walk are happy in their new homes, some households have felt unable to settle, and do not feel they can rebuild their lives in their current homes. Issues with ongoing housing and fire safety can cause high levels of anxiety among households of survivors and the wider community. Addressing these concerns remain central to recovery for many.

## Children and Young People

It is important to recognise the specific impacts of trauma on those children and young people most affected by the tragedy and to acknowledge that it will continue to manifest in different ways. It may take time, sometimes several years to stabilise. Additional tailored work with them may be necessary when they experience significant life changes in adolescence and the transition into adulthood.

Schools and educational institutions, youth hubs and grassroots community organisations enable community-based recovery for children and young people, addressing the impact of complex grief and trauma. Community based services can be a lifeline to many, and their approaches should be better understood and supported.

## Health Inequalities

Growing health inequalities are a key concern for our residents and community-based providers. The North Kensington community continue to face challenges related to social deprivation and health equality. There is an imbalance in access to healthcare, quality and relevance of support, behaviours that put health at risk and wider factors that impact on people's health.

Tackling health inequalities requires action across all areas that impact health. We must all continue to work together to build on effective practices to prevent early death, improve living conditions and increase life expectancy for those experiencing the most disadvantage.

## Wider Local Community

Local people were impacted in different ways, even within the area immediately around the Tower. This depends on a range of circumstances, including proximity to the Tower, experience of the tragedy and personal circumstances. It is clear residents feel there is more work to do, with a focus on ownership, accountability, and service availability.

Transparency, true co-design, community-led approaches, and community decision-making should be central to the next phase of recovery and building resilience.

Ongoing engagement is crucial in building trust. Work must be done to understand and embed a representative community perspective, whilst considering engagement fatigue and risk of having people re-live their trauma.

'It's all part of the trigger, we're still living here, still dealing with it. We have not stopped dealing with it and who knows, we may never. It may never end, grief like this doesn't end. It's different for everyone.'

Resident, SMSR Community Insight Research, Sept 2023

# RECOMMENDATIONS 1/3

In response to the findings of the Grenfell JSNA 2024 Refresh we make seven recommendations to support survivors and those bereaved.

<b>Recommendations to support survivors and those bereaved</b>	
01	<p>Service providers need to recognise that there are different experiences within the survivor and bereaved population. Different and overlapping needs should be considered with specific offers of support available based on an individual's current and future needs.</p> <p>Particular attention should be paid to the specific long-term impacts of this public tragedy, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the longer-term justice process; and</li><li>• decisions about the Tower.</li></ul>
02	<p>Services that provide health care to survivors and those bereaved should collect, monitor, and clinically review health information regularly. Findings from this information should be regularly shared with survivors and those bereaved.</p>
03	<p>Provide a consistent offer of enhanced support for children and young people to maximise the health, wellbeing and future life chances of children living in families and households affected by the Grenfell tragedy.</p>
04	<p>Provide suitable permanent housing to all displaced by the Grenfell tragedy and ensure safe, high-quality, culturally appropriate onwards housing management for all survivors and those bereaved that respects their experience.</p>
05	<p>Provide choice, flexibility, and control for families in deciding what support to access, when and how, including the need for a menu of different culturally appropriate options.</p>
06	<p>Service providers should focus on peer support, creating opportunities for people to connect and come together to support one another and to enable onward community-led recovery.</p>
07	<p>Ensure that bereaved and survivor voices are at the centre of plans for the future.</p>

# RECOMMENDATIONS 2/3

In response to the findings of the Grenfell JSNA 2024 Refresh we make seven recommendations to support the immediate local community.

<b>Recommendations to support the immediate local community</b>	
01	Focus health and wellbeing support in a more targeted way on the immediate local community living near the Tower, recognising the continued challenge that living near the tower is creating for some members of the community.
02	Services need to adjust and respond to the needs of people linked to the Grenfell tragedy, as they change over time. Providers should proactively plan for impact of decisions about the future of the Tower on the immediate local community and other key announcements.
03	<p>Ensure the community living in the immediate area can access appropriate high quality mental and physical health services that take into account the impact of the Grenfell tragedy.</p> <p>These services should collate, monitor, and clinically review health information regularly. Findings from this information should be regularly shared with the community and those affected by the tragedy.</p>
04	Provide a specific focus on the mental and emotional wellbeing needs of children and young people that recognises their experience of the tragedy and intergenerational trauma.
05	Support community-led recovery wherever possible in a context of low levels of trust in public authorities.
06	Ensure residents can access support in trusted, community-based settings including through local organisations.
07	Provide suitable homes and housing support to maximise health and wellbeing. Improvements to housing conditions need to be delivered sensitively and with community support.



# RECOMMENDATIONS 3/3

In response to the findings of the Grenfell JSNA 2024 Refresh we make five recommendations to support the broader population.

<b>Recommendations to support the broader population</b>	
01	The Grenfell legacy should not be limited to a narrow focus on 'recovery' and supporting those that still feel impacted by the tragedy. Service providers should be led by communities to address the complex and cumulative interplay of inequalities which pre-date the tragedy.
02	Grenfell highlighted the imbalance of power and lack of engagement with communities and therefore systems should aspire to have a broader equal partnership with the communities we serve and the voluntary and community sector at the frontline of delivery.
03	Improve health equity by increasing the focus on preventive health interventions and proactively building health and wellbeing, acknowledging the impact of deprivation and financial poverty on health.
04	Give every child the best start in life and enable all children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives through fairer access to education, skills development, and good work.
05	A diverse range of ethnic groups were impacted by the Grenfell tragedy. Systems should recognise and respond to the structural disadvantage that is rooted in racism and discrimination. Particular consideration should be given to the steps taken to rebuild community trust and the cultural competency of any services provided.

## Next Steps

Community-led initiatives have had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of people living in North Kensington. There is more to do alongside the voluntary and community sector to understand the impact of this work and what can best serve the community.

We must better recognise the diversity of needs and experiences among survivors and those bereaved to tailor support more effectively.

The recommendations within this report are for all. All partners are required to commit and deliver and remain accountable to the community; with updates provided to the community.

The Council's Public Health team will share the recommendations with the community and health and social care partners, to put these recommendations into action, and continue to monitor residents' health and wellbeing needs. This will all be underpinned by ongoing community engagement and adapting the provision as required.

Contact: [PublicHealthDepartment@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealthDepartment@rbkc.gov.uk)

The Grenfell Partnerships team as part of the Future Grenfell Support, have shared models that have been jointly agreed with the community to tackle the next phase of recovery. This includes physical and mental health provision, as well as education and training. Services are adaptive and an advocacy team will be instated to support residents' ongoing recovery.

Contact: [FutureGrenfellSupport@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:FutureGrenfellSupport@rbkc.gov.uk)

NHS North-West London and NHS England are committed to providing the right services that meet the health needs of impacted communities. The North Kensington Recovery Team are aiming to work with local communities to gather views on what health services and support is needed in the future.

Informed by community feedback and available evidence, the next steps of the North Kensington Recovery Programme make further suggestions on what this support can look like. Residents, community organisations and those impacted will continue to have the opportunity to provide further feedback in the coming months.

Contact: [nhsnwl.nkt@nhs.net](mailto:nhsnwl.nkt@nhs.net)

As set out in the JSNA, any new programmes of support must sit alongside wider support from the NHS, mainstream Council services, community-led provision and the Government, who are responsible for decisions about the future of the Tower and the memorial, alongside the impending inquiry report.

## Conclusion

The Grenfell Tower tragedy has left an indelible mark on the community, with long-lasting physical and mental health impacts. While significant progress has been made in understanding and addressing these needs, the future remains uncertain for many affected individuals.

The refreshed JSNA highlights how important sustained and adaptive recovery efforts are. It shows the value of community-centred approaches and collaboration to improve health and wellbeing for the Grenfell community.

The Grenfell JSNA reaffirms the need for all organisations to prioritise the community in ongoing and future recovery efforts. Effective communication, removal of barriers, and improved coordination among public sector services are crucial for the continued support and recovery of the Grenfell community, alongside a joint commitment to tackle systemic inequalities to make for a fairer borough.

‘Recovery is a process, not a project. It’s about people,  
feelings and rebuilding trust.’

Resident, SMSR Community Insight Research, Sept 2023