



The K&C Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

- The K&C Foundation **Grenfell Tower Fund** currently stands at **£4.5 million**
- **£2.5 million** already committed to helping families directly affected
- **100% of the money will go to families and local community**

7 July 2017

K&C FOUNDATION DIRECTOR SAYS FAMILIES NEED LONG TERM COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT

The Director of the K&C Foundation, an independent charity based in North Kensington for nearly ten years, has said today that the families affected by last month's tragic fire at Grenfell Tower needed long-term compassionate support, rooted in the local community.

As the K&C Foundation's **Grenfell Tower Fund** reaches **£4.5 million**, Director Susan Dolton said that there should be no immediate deadlines for accessing funds.

"Although we have already made substantial financial commitments to the families affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy, this is not a situation for quick fixes or immediate deadlines. What is needed, and what we at the K&C Foundation are committed to deliver, is long-term compassionate support and care based locally here in the community. We appreciate that this is an extremely stressful time and that people will want to come forward in their own time to access support. As such, we need to make sure families can get direct support at the right time, and in the right way, and that is what we are delivering by working with partners with the necessary expertise."

Susan Dolton also said:

"We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the K&C Foundation's **Grenfell Tower Fund**. The devastating fire has prompted a truly overwhelming response from both individuals and businesses across the UK and abroad.

Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, have been injured and who have lost their homes and belongings. We are focused on ensuring that 100% of the monies raised goes to these people who have been directly affected by the fire, and to the local community.

The donations we have received have no deadlines attached to them in terms of when they should be spent and our approach will be that people can access support at a time which is most appropriate to them."

The Grenfell Tower Fund

As of today, funds from over 25,000 donors mean that the K&C Foundation's **Grenfell Tower Fund** total stands at **£4.5 million**.

Initial support

An initial **£120,000** was made available within days of the tragedy to six organisations working on the frontline, due to the Foundation's existing relationships with local charities. These organisations - **Rugby Portobello Trust, ClementJames Centre, Venture Community Association, The Harrow Club** and **Westway Trust** working at the Westway Sports Centre and **Latymer Community Church** - were able to quickly pass this funding on in the form of payments to people from Grenfell Tower who had lost their homes or those in the wider area who had been displaced.

Joint action

Donations totalling **£1.2 million** have been committed by the K&C Foundation to a joint charity initiative with **British Red Cross** and **London Emergencies Trust**, coordinated by the **Charity Commission**. These funds enable payments and provide advice and guidance on the following basis:

- **£20,000** for the next of kin of people who have lost their lives or are missing
- Up to **£10,000** to help and support each seriously injured person.

This support is being distributed by the **London Emergencies Trust**, a charity which has the expertise to support the victims of emergencies. People affected in this way can call the **British Red Cross helpline on 0800 458 9472** and will be helped every step of the way.

A new start

The K&C Foundation has set aside a further **£1.2 million** for 'Fresh Start' grants of **£10,000** for every family from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk to help them rebuild their lives. This funding recognises the trauma and stress which the survivors of Grenfell Tower are experiencing and that their wish to find new suitable accommodation is one of their key concerns.

These grants will be made when new temporary or permanent accommodation has been secured and will be paid through the **Rugby Portobello Trust**, a local organisation which has been one of the centres close to Grenfell Tower offering help and support since the early hours of June 14. Rugby Portobello Trust will also be offering follow up visits to families once they are settled into their new homes and have dedicated two team members to this work. They can be contacted **on 0207 229 2928** or email: newhomesteam@rpt.org.uk

The remaining funds

The K&C Foundation's ongoing response will adapt in line with the total amount raised for the **Grenfell Tower Fund** as donations continue to come in. The developing needs of residents and the local community will remain at the heart of any response by the K&C Foundation, who will work very closely with the affected community, local voluntary sector, schools and faith groups to ensure that the donations received are used to best effect and benefit those they were intended for in the medium and longer term.

Notes for Editors

The K&C Foundation

The K&C Foundation is an independent charity with strong local knowledge. Since 2008 we have been working to tackle the very inequalities and hardships faced by many across the Borough and which the Grenfell Tower tragedy has brought into stark relief. Using our local knowledge and experience, we raise awareness of local needs and raise money and in-kind support from local people, businesses and schools. These resources are distributed in the form of grants to a network of on-the-ground smaller charities and community groups which have the expertise and skills to address local challenges.

Susan Dolton - Director, The K&C Foundation

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