

Press release

Date Thursday 21 September

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GRENFELL VICTIMS TO RECEIVE FURTHER £5.5 MILLION FUNDING: NEXT PHASE OF DISTRIBUTIONS ANNOUNCED

A further £5.5 million of funds raised from public donations are to be distributed to survivors of the Grenfell Tower Disaster – the British Red Cross and K&C Foundation announced today.

Working through the London Emergencies Trust and the Rugby Portobello Trust as distributors, new grants will be made to the 165 households affected by the fire and those bereaved and seriously injured are going to receive more funding.

The decisions on the further funding announced today continues to target those most in need in the community and recognises the continued distress, trauma and material loss faced by householders from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk.

This phase of funding has three parts, specifically:

- a grant of £15,000 will go to each of the 139 households from the Grenfell Tower and a grant of £8,000 will go to the 26 households in Grenfell Walk (totalling £2.293m). Payments will be made by the Rugby Portobello Trust through BACS as soon as possible.
- the next of kin of those bereaved will receive a further £20,000 for every deceased victim on top of the £40,000 already provided through the London Emergencies Trust; and
- people who were hospitalised for a week or more by the fire are in line for an extra £5,000, bringing the total in public donations passed to them from the London Fire Relief Fund up to £25,000.

Mike Adamson, chief executive of the British Red Cross, said:

“We have always said that every penny raised by the British Red Cross for the London Fire Relief Fund will go to the surviving victims of the Grenfell disaster and their families. Today we’re announcing how the next phase of funds raised will be distributed by the London Emergencies Trust, to help those most in need.

“To date, money donated to the Red Cross has been entirely focused on the bereaved and seriously injured as a priority. Through the London Emergencies Trust, we are now going to top up the funds provided to the bereaved and seriously injured and extend funding to the 165 households in the Tower and the Walk who were affected by the fire.”

Rob Bell, Director of the London Emergencies Trust said:

“So far, we’ve been focused on helping families who lost loved ones, and those injured. But we know that many survivors are struggling, and they have said clearly that they want distributors to make funds simple to understand and easy to access. That’s what we’ve done – pooled our funds with the K&C Foundation and worked with experienced and trusted distributor Rugby Portobello Trust who will get money to people quickly without too much bureaucracy.”

Susan Dolton, Director of the K&C Foundation said:

“We are pleased to be part of this joint approach and through it the K&C Foundation will be giving £1.52 million today to Rugby Portobello Trust to distribute to survivors from the Grenfell Tower tragedy. This is in addition to the £1.6 million which we have already provided to surviving households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk. We really hope that these funds, which were so generously donated by the public, will help people to begin the journey to rebuild their lives.

“To date, the K&C Foundation has donated £4.44 million from our Grenfell Tower Fund to those who were directly affected.”

In the coming weeks, the British Red Cross and the London Emergencies Trust will review the situation in order to inform decisions about any future distributions.

As of 15 September, donors to the British Red Cross’s London Fire Relief Fund have contributed a total of £6.2m. This includes £150,000 raised so far from saleable second-hand items that were donated by the public and have been sold through British Red Cross shops (approximately 66 tonnes of items). Money raised from the sale of these items has been ring-fenced for the London Fire Relief Fund and what has been raised to date is being distributed as part of today’s announcement. In effect, today’s announcement confirms that Grenfell Tower victims will receive at least £1,000 per household from the sale of donated goods.

The 41 tonnes of new clothes and new items that were donated by the public were distributed to those affected by the fire.

Today’s announcement is on top of the £4.8 million already being distributed to the bereaved and injured by the London Emergencies Trust on behalf of a collaboration of donors namely the British Red Cross’s London Fire Relief Fund (£2.4m), the K&C Foundation (£1.2m) and the London Community Foundation (£1.2m).

In the initial phase of distribution, £40,000 was given to the next of kin of those deceased (being topped up to £60,000 as of today), the long-term hospitalised received £20,000 and short-term hospitalised, £3,500.

Notes to Editors

A. Payments to bereaved and injured

The London Emergencies Trust is leading on this distribution on behalf of donor organisations listed below:

Phase 1: August 2017

Funding from British Red Cross - £2.4m

Funding from K&C Foundation - £1.2m

Funding from London Community Foundation - £1.2m

Total funding - £4.8m

Distribution:

Next of kin - £40,000 per deceased

Long term hospitalised (a week or more) - £20,000

Short term hospitalised – £3,500

Total anticipated distribution - £4.6m*

*This figure is based on an estimated 100 deceased victims. Funds will continue to be set aside to support that number of bereaved families or next of kin until the official figure is confirmed. Remaining funds (£200,000) have been rolled over into the next phase of distribution.

Phase 2: September 2017

Funding from the British Red Cross - £3.2m

Distribution:

Next of kin - additional £20,000 (taking total payments to £60,000 per deceased)

Long term hospitalised - additional £5,000 each (taking payments to £25,000)

B. Grant payments to households

The new grants announced today for Grenfell Tower and Walk residents are pooled funds from the British Red Cross, the K&C Foundation and the London Emergencies Trust's unallocated rolled over funds from Phase 1. Funds will be distributed through the Rugby Portobello Trust directly to households via bank transfer (BACS).

In September 2017:

139 Grenfell Tower households will receive £15,000

26 Grenfell Walk households will receive £8,000

Funding from British Red Cross/LET £773,000

Funding from K&C Foundation £1,520,000

Total funding - £2.293m

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The British Red Cross helps people in crisis, whoever and wherever they are. We are part of a global voluntary network, responding to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies.

We enable vulnerable people in the UK and abroad to prepare for and withstand emergencies in their own communities. And when the crisis is over, we help them to recover and move on with their lives.

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