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# Supporting Grenfell recovery

**Since January, the Council has been implementing the Grenfell Recovery Strategy to support long-term recovery for those affected by the Grenfell tragedy. We have worked with the bereaved and survivors to co-design a dedicated service, which is now up and running, and they will continue to shape the service as it develops.**

Alongside the NHS, the Council is still providing support to those affected by the tragedy in the local community, including ongoing support in schools, a range of community-based projects run by trusted local providers (including LCAT, Together for Grenfell and Kids on the Green), and specialist support for families with children via the Malton Road Hub.

Earlier this year, we launched a consultation on the future of The Curve, which continues to provide a welcoming space for local residents. The consultation closed on 19 September and there will be more information available soon.

We have been working with the local community to develop a series of initiatives to help local groups and organisations build capacity and develop their strengths to enable a community-led recovery. This includes a Grenfell Community Leadership Programme and a new £600K Grenfell Projects Fund, which you can read more about on page 2.

The Council has committed £50m to support the delivery of the strategy over the next five years. More information can be found on our website – visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search ‘Our Progress on Grenfell Recovery.’

## Draft Housing Strategy

The Council wants to hear your views about our new Draft Housing Strategy, which sets out our vision and key priorities for housing in the borough over the next three years.

The strategy covers our plans to deliver new homes, our work with Council tenants and leaseholders to improve housing management services and our work with residents who are homeless or in housing need.

The strategy sets out six key priorities:

- Supporting Grenfell survivors
- Improving the safety, quality and security of housing
- Increasing the supply of genuinely affordable homes
- Putting residents at the heart of Housing services
- Supporting vulnerable residents
- Tackling and preventing homelessness

We are asking residents for their views to help us develop a final version by the end of the year. You have until the end of October to give us your views.

**You can read the strategy and give your views, visit:**  
 [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search ‘Draft Housing Strategy.’

# Update from Government on environmental checks

## Update on Stage 1 report

At the community event on Saturday 20 July, MHCLG advised residents that the levels of substances found in soil samples around Grenfell Tower were typical of those generally found in London and other urban areas. They also advised that they expected to publish the full Stage 1 report in September. Due to the amount of information, this is taking longer than expected and they now expect to publish the report in full on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) in October. After publication, they will hold a drop-in event with the Stage 1 specialists, AECOM, for any queries on the Stage 1 report.

## Stage 2 procurement

If you would like to be involved in the procurement process for Stage 2 please let MHCLG know by Friday 4 October.

For a more detailed update go to [nextdoor.co.uk](http://nextdoor.co.uk) and search for Grenfell Community Updates – HM Government.

You can contact MHCLG by coming to our regular Tuesday drop-in at The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP between 12 noon and 5pm.

**You can also get in touch by email or phone:**  
 [environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk](mailto:environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk)  
 **0303 444 0078**

# Portobello Wall Public Art Project

The Portobello Wall Public Art Project is an annual commission for a 100-metre long stretch of wall between Portobello and Golborne Road markets, run by the Council's Arts Service. It provides an exciting opportunity for artists to engage with the local community and reflect life in North Kensington through art.

## Rhythm and Sound

If you've taken a walk between Portobello and Golborne Road Markets since Wednesday 7 August, you'll have spotted the 2019 edition of the project, 'Rhythm and Sound', by Tony Thomas. Tony has lived in Notting Hill for over 20 years and created the installation in collaboration with a host of local artists, musicians and organisations. Combining a mixture of photography and illustration, the installation shines a spotlight on the people and places that have contributed to the impressive musical heritage of North Kensington.

QR codes complement the digitally printed panels, which enable you to discover information pages, events listings and even manipulate the images using your phone. Simply open your camera, hover over the QR code and tap the link.

Portobello  
Wall

Public Art Commission

2019

Rhythm and Sound by  
Tony Thomas



QR code to webpage:

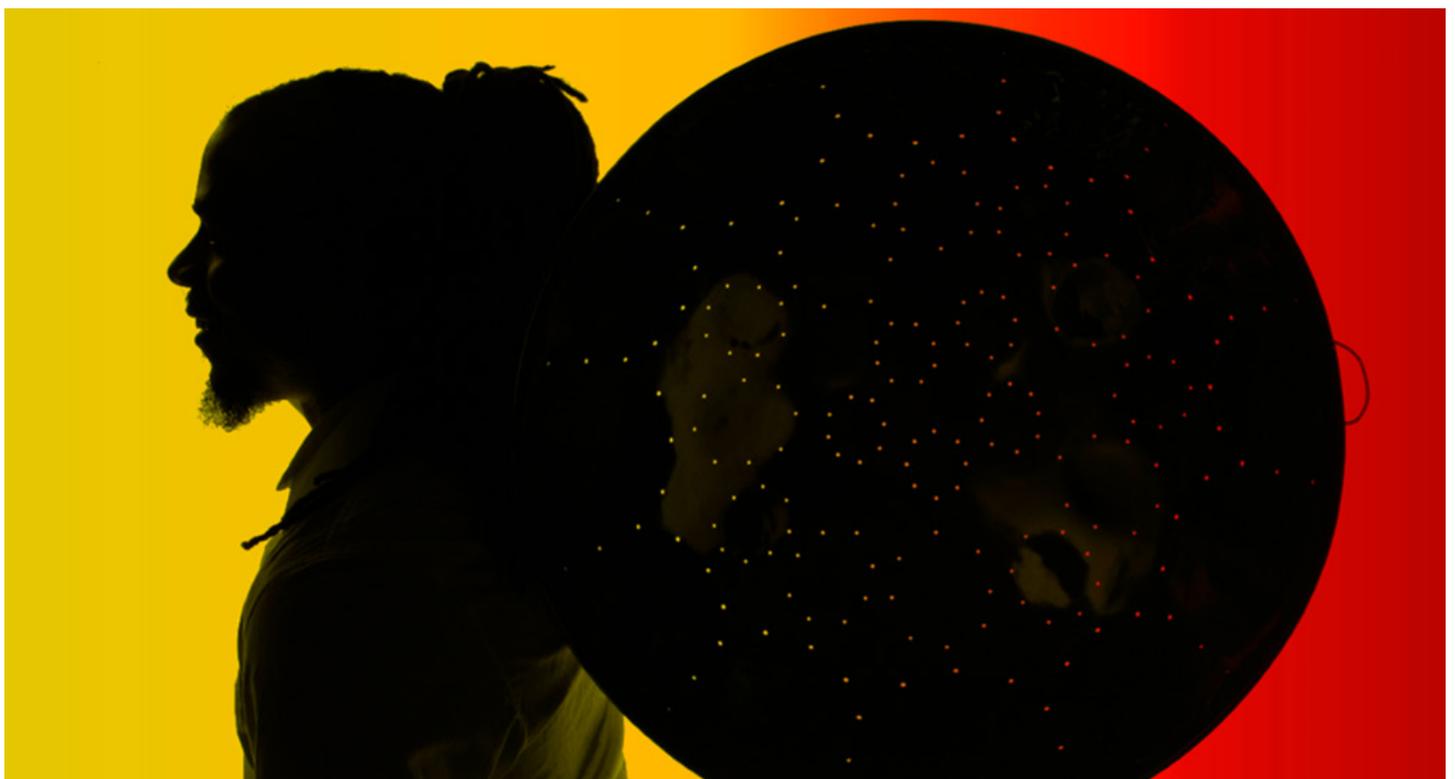
[www.portobellowall.com](http://www.portobellowall.com)

Try it here to access the website

A year-long programme of musical events is taking place as part of this installation, and events this month (October) are part of Black History Month.

For this month only, you can download '25 years of Calypso in London' for free, courtesy of the British Association of Calypsonians, which reflects the legacy of the London Calypso Tent at Notting Hill Carnival. You can also get stuck into music technology at the YAA Centre or try your hand at Steel Pan drumming with the Ebony and Mangrove steel bands at the Tabernacle and the YAA Centre.

Image credit Pan Man © Kevin Joseph





**Here are some installations you might remember from years gone by. How many can you remember?**

**Top: Connections, by Anastasia Russa 2018**

Setting local characters against a backdrop of historic North Kensington landmarks and scenes, Anastasia Russa depicted the connections between the area's past and present. The painted portraits were made on location over a vinyl banner stretching the full length of the wall.

Leslie Palmer and Portrait © Anastasia Russa

**Above: Hollywood W11, by Portobello Film Festival 2017**

Portobello Film Festival worked in collaboration with local historian Tom Vague and the Colville Community History Project to pay homage to the iconic locations in North Kensington used in film over the years.

The original panels are available for display. To find out more email [pff@btopenworld.com](mailto:pff@btopenworld.com)

**Above: Albert Kueh 2016**

From another resident artist in North Kensington, this installation was a co-commission with InTRANSIT Festival. Albert sought to highlight the varied lives of residents in North Kensington by using a technique called lenticular printing. This created a fade effect, where each image transitioned into another contrasting scene as viewers walked past.

**For more details, visit:**  
 [www.portbellwall.com](http://www.portbellwall.com)

# Working together for a better future

**Extra help to get into work and to develop skills and job prospects is being planned for people who have been affected by the Grenfell tragedy.**

Local groups who work with and represent people affected by the tragedy, will be invited to attend workshops this autumn alongside providers of jobs and skills support and health services, to collaborate in designing services for the Council to commission.

The initiative will speak with those who might benefit from this support to understand what works best for them. We will work with local representative groups to design and commission new services.

Further down the line there will be opportunities open to all those who might benefit from these services to get involved and help shape the plans. We'll let you know about these opportunities and how you can get involved once the dates are scheduled.

If you'd like to find out more before then, or if you have ideas you'd like to share, please get in touch.

 **EmploymentandSkills@rbkc.gov.uk**



## Give your job hunt a healthy boost

If your current work situation is leaving you unfulfilled, it could be time to consider a role in the fast-paced and rewarding world of the health and care sector.

On Wednesday 16 October from 12 noon to 3pm, Kensington Leisure Centre (Silchester Road, W10 6EX) will be playing host to Health Works, bringing together employers such as the NHS, Greenwich Leisure Limited, health care providers, social care agencies and childcare agencies as well as the Council itself.

Walk in with a positive attitude and a handful of CVs and who knows, you might just walk out with a job offer. Come and find out about work in the health and care sector in this no-pressure environment. See what's available locally including opportunities with Kensington and Chelsea College to help you get ahead.

**For more information and to book your free ticket visit**  
 [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search 'Health Works Fair'.

## Build your business with Into Enterprise

Next month (November) the Council will be partnering with Portobello Business Centre, K&C Foundation, Turning Point, Chamber of Commerce, PopUp Business School and local housing associations to bring residents a two-week business crash course.

The first week (Monday 11 November to Friday 15 November) will be presented by the PopUp Business School and hosted at the Museum of Brands (Lancaster Road, W11 1QT). The innovative course aims to grow local businesses and teach entrepreneurs how to make money using the free resources readily available to them.

Week two, starting on Monday 18 November, will be hosted by organisations across the borough, offering useful one-to-one sessions where you can test out your ideas, meet industry experts and talk to specialists in licensing, regulation, law and property. For details on both weeks and information on how your business can benefit visit:

 [www.rbkc.gov.uk/into-enterprise](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/into-enterprise)

 [www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/kensingtonandchelsea](http://www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/kensingtonandchelsea)

# Community Spotlight



*"I like living in North Kensington very much, I like the peaceful atmosphere and how friendly and supportive my neighbours are."*

## Emdad Talukder MBE

**This month's community spotlight is Emdad Talukder, a North Kensington local who, through dedication and commitment to his job, is to be awarded an MBE for his contributions to fostering and adoption – a role he has remained devoted to for over 20 years.**

From his home in Dalgarno ward, he told us about the moment he got the news:

"When I opened the yellow letter, I couldn't believe my eyes. I put it back in the envelope and jumped around my house, I just couldn't believe it! I felt completely surprised and speechless, I had to keep checking that I wasn't dreaming."

Originally from Bangladesh, Emdad moved to London in 1989 and to North Kensington in 2004. He began working in fostering and adoption for a London council in 2001 and has been committed to the role ever since.

An issue facing certain faith groups is that the standard adoption process is not permitted in their religion. The Quran bans children from taking the

name of their adoptive father, a rule that meant many in the Muslim community felt unable to adopt. Emdad helped get a new legal tool called 'special guardianship' approved by the Shariah Council of Britain to get over this in 2005.

Special guardianship allows families to look after children until they are 18, with the child keeping some links to their biological parents.

Emdad and his wife Mahfuza have fostered five children themselves since 1999. They fostered a deaf boy in 2003 and later took special guardianship for the boy, who still lives with Emdad's family. He recently completed his ICT level 3 and is now looking for an apprenticeship.

Emdad's friends, family and colleagues have all celebrated his award but the real celebration will take place in November, when Emdad will visit the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

**If you're interested in hearing more about fostering, visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/fostering)**

# What's on at The Curve?

The Curve Community Centre hosts courses, events and programmes as well as continuing to offer support to those who need it. It's located at **10 Bard Road, W10 6TP** and is open **Monday to Friday, 10am to 8pm** and **Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 6pm**.

For the full programme of events at The Curve, visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events)

## Black History Month

The Curve is marking Black History Month with a range of events taking place throughout October.

### Tuesday 8 October from 5pm to 7pm

Come and learn about the local area with A History of the Grove, presented by Claud 'Adisa' Steven using film, games and a quiz.

### Tuesday 15 October from 5pm to 7pm

Come along later in the month and express your creativity with a history of the story teller, historian and musician, Griot. Participants will be able to write and develop their own story, poem or rap.

This and so much more is set to make this Black History Month one to remember. To see the full programme of events visit:

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events)



## October half-term at The Curve

School's out for a whole week!

### Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October

How will you make the most of October half-term? Whether you want to get into the baking spirit and make your own fairy cakes, or if you're more of a budding tennis star looking to refine your racket skills, check out The Curve's October half-term events programme to find out what you can get involved with. [www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events)

## The Curve Gym is here!

You've been enjoying taster gym sessions at The Curve for the past few weeks and now the time has come for the grand opening. Come down to The Curve on Saturday 2 November from 12 noon to 4pm to see the new gym and find out more.

If you'd like more information on any of the events listed here or have any other queries, contact The Curve by phone or email:

 020 7221 9836  [thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk)

## Local NHS invites all to come 'check your health'

The NHS in West London is launching a campaign to invite all adults and children in North Kensington to book their 'Enhanced Health Check'. So far, over 1,000 people in North Kensington have already had one of the checks, which are designed to detect the early signs of any underlying conditions that may present. It is also a time for people to raise any health concerns they may have and ask any questions.

Doctor Meena Nathan, GP and Clinical Lead for North Kensington, said: "The health and wellbeing of our local residents is important to us. We want to encourage people to book an appointment for an Enhanced Health Check and get any assurances that they may need." Following the health check, if any further assessment or treatment is required, people will be referred on to specialist NHS services.

### Book an appointment today

Speak to your GP practice or call Enhance on

 020 3434 2500. For more information visit

 [www.Grenfell.nhs.uk](http://www.Grenfell.nhs.uk)

## Art goes cosmic with ACAVA workshops

ACAVA Flourish will be giving families the chance to work with artist Josh Bilton over a three-day period this half-term. The arty workshops will explore all things celestial and are free to families living in North Kensington. Sessions will take place on Monday 21, Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 October from 2pm to 4pm at Maxilla Studios, W10 6NQ. A teens-only workshop will take place on Thursday 24 October, 2pm to 4pm.

As well as this, 'Hibernation', an all-day open-to-all event will take place on Saturday 26 October at Maxilla Studios, W10 6NQ. This event will feature outdoor gardening in the morning followed by a community lunch and an afternoon art workshop.

More details on these half-term events can be found on the ACAVA

 [www.acava.org](http://www.acava.org)  @ACAVALourish