



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

# Grenfell Community Assembly

This is a response/action list as a result of the Assembly held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 on the theme of Employment and Skill. Similar comments and questions made by residents may have been consolidated or amalgamated for ease of response. Feedback details here focus on the areas that residents expression the need for improvement/greater transparency (in their words):

Comment/question from residents	Theme	Owner	Response/action
<p>What is the percentage of unemployed and how many people are furloughed in North Kensington?</p>	<p>Unemployment and furlough</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Overall numbers of unemployed have increased across the borough and also numbers have risen in the more disadvantaged areas which include some of the wards in North Kensington. Percentage wise our figures haven't gone up as much in terms of across London or even nationally, but they are very significant. The number of claimants were last at this level in 1993 across the borough so this reflects to the sort of numbers in the system. <b>Universal Credit claimants</b> all ages: 6545 (6.2% of working age population compared to 8.5% for London and 6.5% for GB) The last three months are December-6255, Jan-6255, Feb-6505)</p> <p>Also, from the NOMIS data from surveys, the unemployment rate amongst BAME minority groups is probably higher as a percentage and that rate is higher than the unemployment rate in other boroughs so there is an aspect there. The ethnic minority employment rate has increased slightly over the last year, however the unemployment rate has risen to <b>16.2%</b> based upon a sample survey ahead of the national 9.5% rate.</p> <p>The number of resident employment furloughed is currently <b>8,900</b> (Feb 2021) this is the lowest LA total in London, next lowest is Richmond at 13,500. The figure is down a little on 9,000 from January and represents 16% of eligible employments. The rate for London is 17%. And fluctuates between Newham 22% and Hounslow 21% and Richmond and Wandsworth down at 14%.</p>

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<p>I have been looking at the courses the college is planning to offer and one of them is Health and Social Care and I know many residents now are unemployed or their job contract just came to an end. A local resident has been working in social care for many years and now she is out of job because the care jobs are getting less and less available as bigger companies taking over the contracts. Is there any intensive training for people looking for a job in social care with wealth of experience in order to meet the criteria for the current job market?</p>	<p>Work experience without qualification</p>	<p>Morley college</p>	<p>The research we have undertaken, and government recognises that the health and social care jobs will be there with massive expansion. Regarding the big companies and agencies taking the big contracts, employment agencies tried to involve in the kick start programmes but it did not work out. We absolutely recognise people's work experience without qualification and as part of an entry requirements to get onto a programme, the government recognises and supports adult education and courses will be available without waiting for the academic year to start in September, Level 2 is now extended to Level 3 and we believe that this is a huge development and that shows that the government has recognised and therefore supporting us to help you with this idea of people wanted to change the direction of their of their employment in the future their career choices and we will provide opportunities to support people.</p> <p>-</p>

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<p><b>Morley College (previously Kensington and Chelsea College)</b></p> <p><b>A resident raised the issue of having to have a level 2 English qualification to enrol on the Health and Social Care course, even though the resident has been doing care work for many years. This is not reflective within this area of work, as employers will employ those without qualifications after they have taken a two-day induction course. Can the induction requirement for the Health and Social Care course be more flexible?</b></p>	Enrolment Criteria	Morley college	<p>It is a valid point about the English level yet the students and the individuals have brilliant work experience, a whole wealth of knowledge and are doing the centrally the job but however they have the English barrier and be assured that you won't come up with that barrier now. We are offering English alongside the health and social care whatever level we offer right from ESOL way up to GCSE level and if the learner needs that as a supplement, then we will provide it but by all means it will never be a barrier for them getting onto the course. I'm sorry that you had to experience that for individuals that you've known but feel so I do have my email in the chat section so please feel free to email me if you need any information about the courses, we have entry requirements or just general queries about know what we're enrolling on.</p>
<p>I wanted to ask the College in relation to environmental situation because it's also concerning our borough suffers from huge pollution</p>	Environment	Morley college	<p>The renovation environmental sustainability is a consistent part of the conversations that we're having and there will be some environmental aspects to the way the building has been redesigned. of course in terms of course, working towards to support people in green jobs and there are no environmental plans and at the</p>

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<p>problem and I don't know if you have any new kind of courses that can address environmental issues, is there any course to have access to Green Jobs</p>			<p>moment however we are in talks with a local entrepreneur quotation Hayden Smith you may know of him he runs a gardening business locally called grow to know which came out of his response to the Grenfell tragedy and he's already done some work with us and redeveloping our gardens which is called Morley heart gardens and he's had a conversation with the college around urban gardening and urban gardening programme in the future so we are in early discussions.</p>
<p>Are there BAME breakdown on figures? given the types of employment BAME surely hit disproportionately. What steps, therefore, are being undertaken to mitigate this disproportionate impact?</p>	BAME employment	Economic Development	<p>The available data and statistics available does not include detailed breakdowns on claimants beyond ward, gender and age. This is a limitation. The impact upon ethnic minority residents is expected to be greater and the unemployment rate shared by DWP indicates this. The employment support for residents needs to recognise this and ensure that supporting ethnic minority residents is a priority both in direct employment support, skills and enterprise/business start-up.</p>
<p>Colleges through the lockdown have been offering online or virtual lessons, is that something going to be continued? because I thought that it allowed a lot of mothers, busy mums and stay home mums to have more access to education so I wonder that something going to be available when you start the new course.</p>	Online learning	Morley college	<p>Regarding further education, in the last 10 years we've been talking about online learning and blended learning and doing a bit inception as a new way forward and we never did anything about it maybe because there just hasn't been the time to sort it out or we are forced into a situation just to get on with it and now we found our feet in that direction we're not going to let that go, that doesn't mean we're not going to come back in to the centre and have physical learning.</p>

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Is there any grants available for families with children those learning from home? Grants for laptops and internet access?		Economic Development	Individual schools and education service has been accessing resources to assist with devices for learning. There is wider work on the issue of digital inclusion and this is also seeking to access further devices and connectivity. The Adult Learning service has secured funds and is providing community learners with access to devices.

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<p>If whether or not the time has come to look at the local taxation for businesses coming in the area to incentivise them to employ local people so in other ways to give some sort of consideration for local however they pay their local taxes whether it be the equivalent of business rates to actually look at how it can be done to bring money into the area because if you employ somebody it was local they know the story P three economics, you pay that person and the person spends the money in the local area so the money recycles .</p>	<p>Employment Opportunity for local people by local businesses</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>The Council does not set the Business Rates and there is a national review of this taxation. There is limited flexibility around business rates because the Council collects and passes the business rates taxation on to central Government. There are merits in considering whether there are discounts or incentives that could be appropriate such as activities to encourage businesses to adopt positive approaches to local recruitment. This would need to be weighed up as it is also a financial loss that the Council and local services would then bear. The Council is seeking to encourage local connections through our business engagement to help develop the access to their opportunities..</p>