

**August 2020**

**page 3**

Businesses reopen  
in K&C

**page 5-8**

Progress on the Grenfell  
Recovery Strategy

**page 9**

Notting Hill Carnival  
goes digital



**'Day in  
Your Life'  
photography  
competition  
returns**  
Page 11

An entry to last year's Day in Your Life competition,  
shot by Isla Mathieson

# About your North Ken News

**North Ken News is a dedicated newsletter for North Kensington communities produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council.**

## Have you got news for us?

We are always on the lookout for good news stories, whether they are about an event you are running, a local hero who is working wonders in your community or a programme or course that local residents could benefit from.

If you would like to get in touch with an idea or story, please email [northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

## Tell us what you think?

We're interested in hearing your feedback about North Ken News. We want to produce a newsletter which you enjoy reading and you find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at [northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk)

## Staying in touch

There are other ways to keep up to date with borough-wide news as well as news and announcements from Kensington and Chelsea Council.



## For updates on Grenfell



To stay up to date with the latest news and events sign up to our newsletter mailing list, visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search K&C Life

If you would like to opt out of receiving North Ken News or would prefer to read it online, please let us know at [northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk)

## The following foreword has been provided by Michael Ashe, CEO of the Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea.

It feels as if we have entered a new phase in the pandemic response following an extremely difficult initial period. What will we remember in years to come about this first experience of Coronavirus?

We'll remember the people we lost - many older people, those on lower incomes and racialised groups who were disproportionately affected, and those living and working in conditions that exposed them to the virus. There are holes in our lives where cherished friends and family members stood, people who we can never replace.

We'll also remember the thousands of people who reached out to their neighbours (over 2,000 through our Centre alone, as well as through local networks and national schemes) and worked so hard to help with food and medicine, emotional support, advice and education, keeping the community connected, in person and online.

Thank you for every kind thing, for every moment of care, for every helping hand.

**Michael Ashe**  
CEO, Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea

## Subscribe to the Council newsletter, K&C Life

Subscribe to K&C Life, the Council newsletter that brings you the latest information about service updates, events and other news in Kensington and Chelsea. Discover what's on and receive regular updates to help you navigate what new Council services and resources you can access. To join the mailing list, search K&C Life on our website.





# Getting back to business

**More businesses are being reopened under the Government's lockdown rules. We've seen restaurants, pubs and leisure businesses open from 4 July, beauty salons and tattoo parlours from 13 July, and indoor gyms and leisure centres from 25 July.**

Along with welcoming back businesses, new measures have been introduced for them. The Government's Eat Out to Help Out campaign offers 50 per cent off dining up to £10, Mondays to Wednesdays in August, to encourage people to eat out and support local restaurants. Businesses who register to take part will have their discounts refunded so they don't lose out.

Also now in place is the NHS Test and Trace, so businesses can take down details of customers and staff to help control the spread of Coronavirus. It's important that if someone has tested positive, the people they've been in contact can be told straight away.



Getting the local economy back on its feet and reopening safely is a top priority. To help with this, business owners can find out about all the guidance available, plus more information on the other measures, at [www.rbkc.gov.uk/reopening-business](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/reopening-business).

To keep up to date with the latest news, you can also subscribe to the borough's first ever business e-newsletter 'Business Matters'. Just visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk), scroll down and click 'Sign up to e-newsletters'.

## Make sure to wear your mask

The Government has announced that face masks or coverings will be compulsory to wear in all shops, supermarkets and retail premises in England from Friday 24 July. The new rule is in line with regulations on public transport, and means that everyone must comply unless they are under 11 years of age or have a disability that makes wearing a mask cause severe distress. Shops can refuse entry to anyone not wearing a face covering and this can also result in penalty action being taken by police with a fine of up to £100.

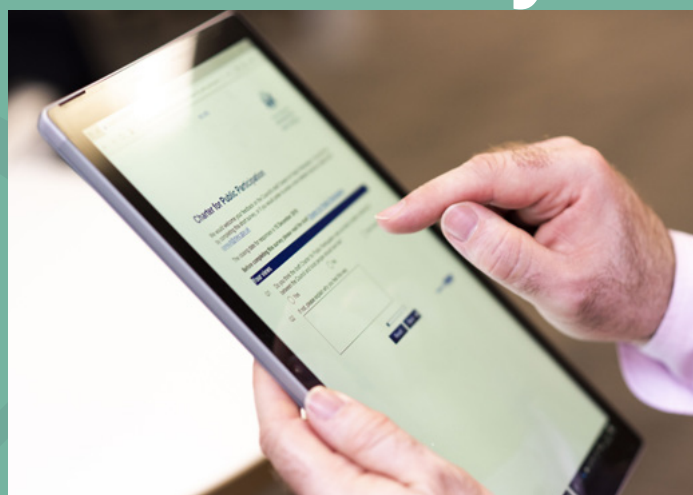


# How has Coronavirus affected you?

**We've launched a survey for residents to have their say about the effect of Coronavirus on their lives. We know this has been an extremely challenging year and want to better understand how your life has been affected, how you are feeling now, what support services you are accessing and how Council services can help support your recovery over the coming months.**

Survey results will be shared with residents and used to inform further conversations and engagement sessions from September/October 2020. These will help the Council have a better understanding of how services can meet your needs.

Please visit the survey link and share your thoughts with us before the survey closes on Friday 14 August.



[www.rbkc.gov.uk/Covid19-survey](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/Covid19-survey)

# Upcoming safety works at Grenfell Tower

**Essential safety works at Grenfell Tower will begin in the coming months. The main works will begin in September and will be carried out in phases over the coming year. The Government took ownership of Grenfell Tower in 2019 and is responsible for keeping it safe and secure until a decision is made about its future.**

## What works are being completed?

Upcoming works have been identified following professional advice from specialist structural engineers working on the Tower. The Tower is stable and safe. These essential works are about ensuring its continued stability until a decision is taken about its future.

- During July, those that live or work close to the Tower may notice early preparatory works. This will include the delivery of equipment to the site and removal of some large items from communal areas to make space for the equipment.
- From September, heavy and damaged items will be removed from the Tower to reduce weight on the building and make space for new 'props'-aluminium, weight-bearing supports that are commonly used in buildings.
- Later in the autumn, asbestos will be removed. Asbestos removal is a common procedure undertaken by specialist contractors. In addition to helping to reduce weight on the Tower, it will ensure the continued safety of nearby residents and those working in the building.
- After this, contractors will install new props to supplement those that were installed shortly after the tragedy.

## Want to find out more?

The site management team is available for individual conversations with all former households from the Tower, or bereaved family members. They are also speaking to individuals and local organisations to help us undertake these works in a way that has minimal impact for those that live, work or study close to the site.

Please get in touch if you have any questions about the upcoming works.

- For the site management team: Email [GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk](mailto:GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk) call **0303 444 0011**
- Join online: The first online Q&A event took place on 27 July and will shortly be available to view on [www.youtube.com/mhclg](http://www.youtube.com/mhclg) Another Q&A event will take place in September, get in touch if you are interested in attending.
- Telephone 'drop-ins' take place on Wednesday from 10am to 12noon: call **0303 444 9086**

Further details about these safety works are available at: [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/grenfell-community-updates)

You can request this information in Arabic, Farsi, French, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Amharic and Italian. Digital signs around the site will also contain the latest updates about the works.

## Grenfell Environmental Checks

On Monday 20 July, residents living close to Grenfell Tower took part in an online event to find out more about the next stage of environmental checks that are taking place close to the Tower. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the scientists who are involved in 'Stage 2' of the checks and to find out what this work will entail.

In case you missed it you can watch a video of the online event at [www.youtube.com/mhclg](http://www.youtube.com/mhclg)

Read more about the checks that have taken place so far around Grenfell Tower:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/soil-and-environmental-checks](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/soil-and-environmental-checks)

**For more information:**

Email: [environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk](mailto:environmental-checks@communities.gov.uk)

Call: **0303 444 9086**.

# Progress on the Grenfell Recovery Strategy

**Supporting the long-term recovery from the Grenfell tragedy remains the Council's number-one priority.**

In January 2019, the Council agreed a Grenfell Recovery Strategy, which committed to the delivery of a wide range of initiatives designed to support the recovery of the bereaved, survivors, and wider community. These included dedicated support services for bereaved and survivors, ongoing community-based support for local residents and a programme for the local area to support community-led recovery.

The strategy was shaped by what bereaved, survivors and local people told us was most important to them and the initiatives funded through the Grenfell Recovery Strategy sit alongside a much wider range of services provided by the Council and its partners.

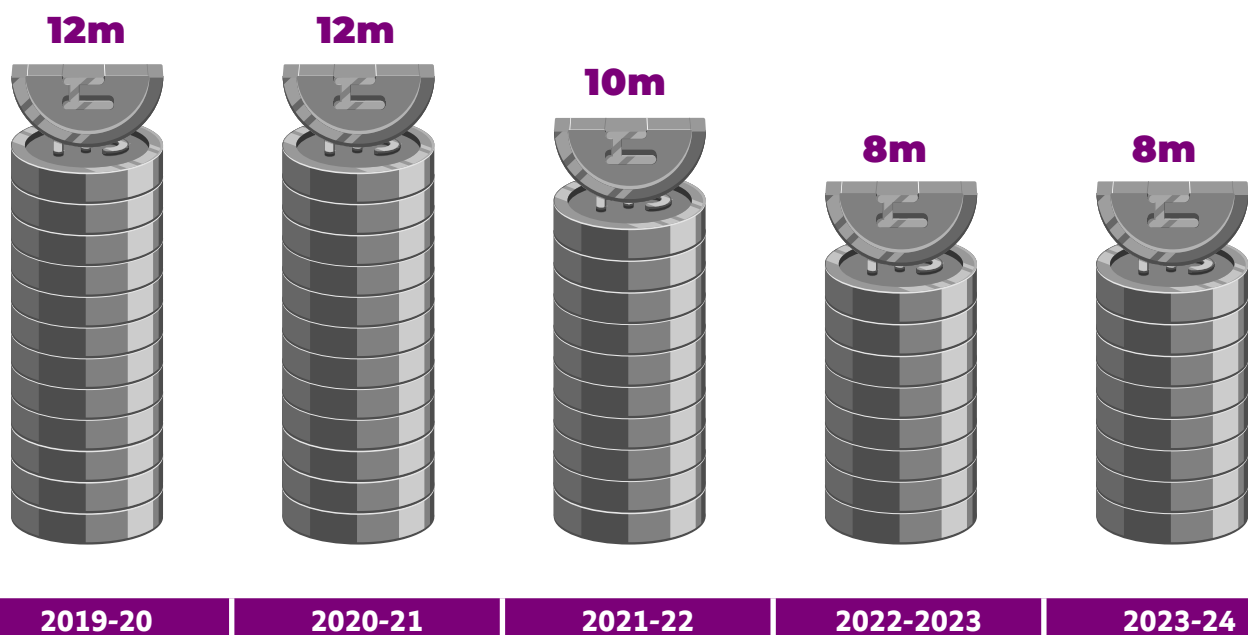
Three years have now passed since the Grenfell tragedy and 18 months from the publication of the Grenfell Recovery Strategy. We have made progress in key areas, but we will continue to work with bereaved, survivors and the local community to ensure that services meet their changing needs.



## Funding for Grenfell recovery

This recovery programme is supported by £50 million of ring-fenced funding over five years, from April 2019 to March 2024. Roughly half of this is to support initiatives for bereaved and survivors and half for the local community. The funding has been profiled as follows over the five years:

### Grenfell Recovery Budget



	Service	Spend (in millions)
<b>Bereaved and Survivors</b>	Dedicated Service	4.5
	Housing support	1.25
	Support costs (including complaints and monitoring)	0.3
<b>Wider community</b>	Commissioned Services	1.55
	Malton Road Hub	0.3
	Community programme (including the Grenfell Projects Fund, Community Leadership Programme & Community Engagement)	1.4
	The Curve Community Centre	1.3
	Housing support	0.2
	Temporary accommodation for Wider Grenfell households	0.45
	Support costs (including complaints & monitoring)	0.45
<b>All</b>	Core Team	0.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>12m</b>

For 2020/21, £12m of the £50m has been allocated to the recovery programme, as shown in the table above.



## Support for bereaved and survivors

### The Dedicated Service

The Dedicated Service has been up and running since April 2019. Alongside NHS partners, it provides a personalised, wraparound service to bereaved and survivors and offers support which is tailored to meet people's individual needs. Named, dedicated workers support bereaved and survivors to focus on the areas that are most important to them for their personal recovery and help them to identify the specific support they need to move forward.

The design and development of the Dedicated Service was shaped by what we heard from bereaved and survivors about the kind of support they wanted to see. A Dedicated Service Steering Group, made up of bereaved and survivors, continues to shape and influence the service to ensure it meets people's changing needs.

### Key stats

- The Dedicated Service is supporting over 95 per cent of the approximately 680 bereaved and survivors.
- The service has supported over 100 children and young people in their learning and formal education.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, the Dedicated Service has been working with bereaved and survivors and NHS colleagues to ensure that those affected by the pandemic receive additional support.

### Housing support for survivors

Ninety-six per cent of households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk who lost their home in the tragedy have moved to a new permanent home, and the remaining seven households are in temporary accommodation of their choosing and continue to be supported by a dedicated housing team to choose a new permanent home.

Grenfell Housing Services support households from Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk to feel safe, secure and comfortable in their new homes. They provide a responsive and resident-led approach to safety, repairs and other housing management issues. The Grenfell Housing Service works alongside the Dedicated Service to provide support with tenancy sustainment.



### Key stats

- Out of a total of 201 households from Grenfell Tower and Walk, 194 have now moved into permanent accommodation. Seven households are still in temporary accommodation of their choosing and the majority of these have now accepted a permanent home.
- Since June 2019, Grenfell repairs service has responded to and delivered over 386 repairs to survivor households, taking on average just under four days to complete them.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, Grenfell Housing Services have continued to provide an emergency repairs service and have supported households who face financial hardship due to the pandemic.



## Ongoing support for the local community

In addition to support for bereaved and survivors, the Recovery Strategy committed to providing ongoing support for residents in the local community.

Alongside the Health service, the Council has continued to provide funding for emotional support and mental wellbeing, both in schools and community-based settings. Following what we heard from residents after the tragedy, we have funded grassroots organisations who have strong connections to the local community.

A Grenfell Provider Forum was established in April 2019 to allow all these services to work more closely together and identify opportunities to work in new ways with Council and Health partners.

### Key stats

#### School-based support

- From September 2017 to March 2020, 750 pupils have been supported through emotional support programmes in 17 local schools across North Kensington. Out of these, 512 children and young people received Grenfell-specific counselling in seven schools. You may have heard of some of these grassroots organisations. They include Catholic Children's Society, Future Men, Latimer Community Art Therapy (LCAT) and Place2Be.

### Community-based support

- Kids on the Green, a key provider, has supported over 490 children and young people
- Latimer Community Art Therapy (LCAT) has provided community-based art therapy for around 200 children and young people.
- Together for Grenfell supported over 100 people in the last year. Together for Grenfell is a group of local organisations that includes Al-Manaar, MIDAYE, Making Communities Work and Grow, and Al Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Project, and provides culturally appropriate health and wellbeing support to men and women.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, residents are being supported remotely wherever possible, via phone calls, Zoom and other therapy sessions, and there have been several online information sessions to help individuals and families manage their emotional health and wellbeing.

#### Support for children and families via the Malton Road Hub

The Malton Road Hub delivers support to Grenfell-affected children and families from the wider North Kensington area. The team, which has supported 59 families since April 2019, offers practical support and liaison with other services and is trained in grief and trauma recovery. Since the Coronavirus outbreak, the Hub has shifted its support services to digital platforms, developing a virtual offer of online activities, activity packs and support, with one staff practitioner on site at most centres to assist in person as required.

#### Employment and skills support (Community Works)

As part of the Recovery Strategy, we committed to using a community-based commissioning approach to design targeted employment and skills support for residents affected by Grenfell. As a result of four community sessions held between October 2019 and January 2020, we worked with residents to identify their key priorities. We have also brought together services from the Council, NHS, Department for Work and Pensions, Residents Associations and local voluntary and community organisations so that ideas and solutions are truly joined-up and centred on meeting the needs of individuals.

A session for participants to help shape the steps for wider engagement and prioritisation of ideas took place in July.

If you would like to more information or to get involved, please send an email to [EmploymentandSkills@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:EmploymentandSkills@rbkc.gov.uk)



## The community programme

Alongside support to the local community, the Strategy also committed to working with residents to design a community programme for the local area, focused on supporting community-led recovery, building community capacity and giving residents a greater voice in addressing key local priorities.

As part of this, we have delivered some of the following initiatives:

### Community Leadership Programme

In August 2019, the Council launched a Community Leadership Programme that aims to provide information, advice and training to individuals and organisations who wanted to help lead their communities in recovery. This programme was designed with input from residents and developed in partnership with a range of local voluntary and community organisations, including the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, Rugby Portobello Trust and the Clement James Centre.

To date, 450 residents have accessed available support from the Community Leadership Programme, in areas such as digital skills, financial management, impact and outcome monitoring, and business planning.

If you are interested in exploring what options are available, please take a look at what's on offer on our website – visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search 'Community Leadership Programme'.

In response to Coronavirus, we have adapted the Community Leadership Programme and have teamed up with some of our voluntary sector partners to provide a comprehensive free online programme which went live on 14 June 2020.

### Grenfell Projects Fund

In September 2019, the Council launched the Grenfell Projects Fund, a £600,000 grants pot designed to support community-led recovery. The Grenfell Projects Fund was co-designed with residents during June and July 2019, with 500 residents contributing to agree the six outcomes for the fund with £100,000 available for each of them. A further £100,000 budget was identified to enable more projects to receive funding.

Over 200 people attended two decision days in January and February 2020, where local organisations and individuals presented their



projects to North Kensington residents who scored them and therefore contributed directly to budget allocation decisions.

This initiative was an example of a completely new way of working for the Council and one that we are looking to build on in other areas.

### Key stats

- Over 100 applications were received for Grenfell Projects Fund
- The full £700,000 budget was allocated to 52 organisations

### The Curve Community Centre

From its establishment in July 2017 onwards, the Curve has provided support to local residents, first as an assistance centre and then as a community centre open to all, with a wide range of activities on offer.

In Summer 2019, a consultation on the future of the Curve was launched. We received 235 responses as well as views from a number of focus groups and community events were held. Eighty-eight per cent of respondents agreed that The Curve was an important and high quality resource for the local community. However, some residents raised issues, in relation to the location and accessibility of the centre, staff attitude and the service offer.

To address the concerns raised by residents, an action plan was developed including amongst other things a staffing restructure of the Curve and a reduction of £200,000 in its budget for 2020-21. It was agreed that this money would be reinvested in other elements of the community programme.

The report containing the consultation feedback and recommendations, and the action plan can be found on our website – visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search 'A review of The Curve'.

The Curve Community Centre closed in March and was used as a food distribution centre during the pandemic.

The Curve is beginning a phased re-opening from Monday 13th July 2020.

Please contact the centre for more details on available courses and [thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk)



# Notting Hill Carnival goes digital

**If you think the August bank holiday weekend will be empty without Europe's biggest street event, the good news is that all the fun of Notting Hill Carnival will be going online this year.**

The Carnival team have been busy planning exciting events to have you whining up your waist as you enjoy the good vibes at home. Mobilising Carnival's two-million strong community to take part in a live, digital and interactive experience that celebrates the event's diversity and its cultural roots, you'll be in great company!

More information was shared at the 16 July launch, so you can still get your fix of sound systems, masquerade performances and steel bands.



Visit [www.instagram.com/nhcarnivalldn](https://www.instagram.com/nhcarnivalldn) and [www.nhcarnival.org](http://www.nhcarnival.org) for more information.

## Get active in nature this summer

**Families looking to venture out into nature this summer are in luck thanks to the Naturally Active booklet produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council and Westminster City Council as part of our local Change4Life programme.**

The booklet features activities that children and families can do safely in their own time in and around their local green spaces. You're bound to feel closer to nature after giving some of these fun activities a go, whether you choose to organise your own treasure hunt or create a hanging sculpture made from twigs, stones, acorns and other natural decorations you can find.

Booklets were sent to local schools before the end of term, but if you weren't able to get one you can find printed versions in our three open libraries and community centres and digital versions on the Council website. Have a Naturally Active summer!

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/change4life](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/change4life)



# Rocket launch your business to the next level

**Portobello Business Centre is giving local entrepreneurs the chance to take their business ideas or start-up to the next level with the second round of its free 'Rocket Launch Your Business' project.**

This project is part of the Community Leadership Programme funded by the Council. Participants will have the opportunity to improve their business, presentation, digital and financial skills as well as their confidence in starting and growing their own business.

Courses will run in September and November this year and are free to Kensington and Chelsea residents aged over 18. They will be delivered online using Zoom and the majority of sessions will be delivered as 'webinars', meaning no personal information will be visible to other attendees. This will enable the sessions to be recorded, so if you miss one you can catch up at a more convenient time

You will need access to the internet, a tablet, computer or a smart phone and will get a chance to meet other participants at a networking session, which will not be recorded.



For information on how to get involved, or if you would like to discuss the programme before you register, call Marianna on **020 7460 5056** or send an email to [marianna@pbc.co.uk](mailto:marianna@pbc.co.uk).

More information [www.pbc.co.uk/projects/rocket-launch-your-business](http://www.pbc.co.uk/projects/rocket-launch-your-business)

# Football to boost your mental health with Minds United



**People around the world look to football for fitness, community togetherness and an escape from regular life. Tarik Kaidi, founder of Minds United FC, started the club to provide football sessions for adults in the community facing issues with their mental health.**

For those facing issues with their mental health, a football club that promotes fitness and activity while making considerations about broader issues faced by adults relating to their mental health is an effective and important route towards mental clarity and peace.

Minds United FC work tirelessly to support those working in football to ensure that those offering training have the most effective and up-to-date information to share with members of the club.

Tarik, who was recently named Adult Coach of the Year by Middlesex FA's Grassroots Football Awards, said: "Football was a massive part of my recovery and can be used as ongoing therapy. We have grown into an FA Chartered Standard Adult Club and have helped more than 100 adults in the community with mental health issues."



The club secured almost £3,000 from the Grenfell Projects Fund allocated by members of the North Kensington Community and is running football leadership and football respect courses as part of the Council's Community Leadership Programme.

Other courses available through the Community Leadership Programme include sessions on adventure play and keeping young people healthy run by the Venture Centre, a project management workshop from the Foundation for Social Improvement and a barbering masterclass from Mo Better Cutz.

Find out more by searching Community Leadership Programme at [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)



# A chance to win big for budding photographers

**Local budding photographers are being asked to capture a day in their life for the chance to win top prizes and have their work featured in local gallery spaces.**

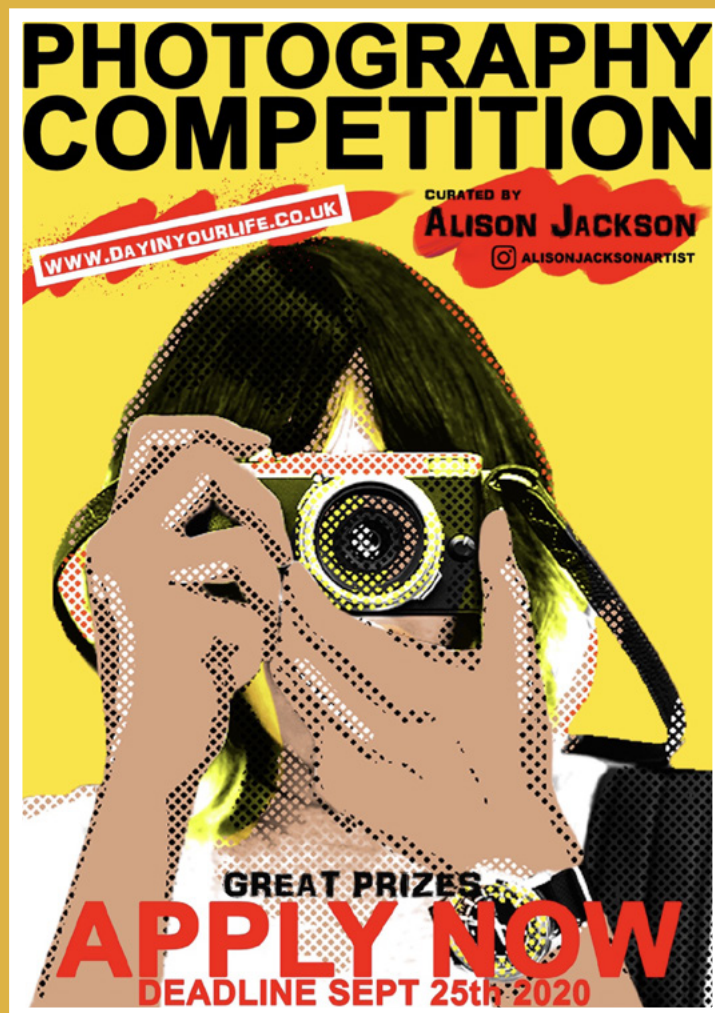
'A Day in Your Life' is presented by renowned photographer, Alison Jackson, whose work uses celebrity look-alikes to create hilarious and shocking scenes. There are categories for those aged 13 to 18, 18 to 30 and 30 plus.

Applicants must share a photograph that creatively and artistically captures a day in their life. Maybe lockdown has brought your family back together to isolate, or maybe you're living with a loved one to support them. You might've had to build a creative working-from-home set-up or perhaps you're working out and about around the borough. Whatever a day in your life looks like, if you think you can capture it in a gripping and unique way, this opportunity is for you.

Last year, winners had their work exhibited at the world-famous Saatchi Gallery while others won camera equipment, courses and subscriptions to respected photographic publications and journals.

Entrants must live in Kensington and Chelsea except if they are submitting for the Chelsea Society Prize, which anyone can enter as long as the photograph is of Chelsea. The deadline for submissions is the end of September 2020.

**For more information and to find out how to enter, visit [www.dayinyourlife.co.uk/competition](http://www.dayinyourlife.co.uk/competition)**



## Need to see your GP?

**If you need medical treatment, contact your local GP by calling them or using AskMyGP. If you do not have a GP, please contact NHS 111.**

Provide your symptoms and they will be able to discuss what steps you should take, including arranging an appointment. While they remain open, please do not turn up to a GP surgery without an appointment as they are trying to control the number patients at any one time for the safety of staff and other patients.

**If it is an emergency call 999.**





# West London Zone and partners keep youngsters creative

**This summer, West London Zone (WLZ) is working alongside Rugby Portobello Trust (RPT) to deliver activities for children during the holidays. The local community centre has been operating in North Kensington for over 130 years offering youth clubs, cooking, homework support, educational activities and discussion groups for young people and their families.**

WLZ and RPT have worked together on several programmes, including the launch of a personal development group programme for boys and young men: 'Boy Cave' for boys aged eight to 11 and 'Man Cave' for young men aged 12 to 18.

RPT are launching a virtual creative arts programme through their new Amplify Studios. They will be running online projects for young people including mobile film making, music production sessions and a creative writing course.

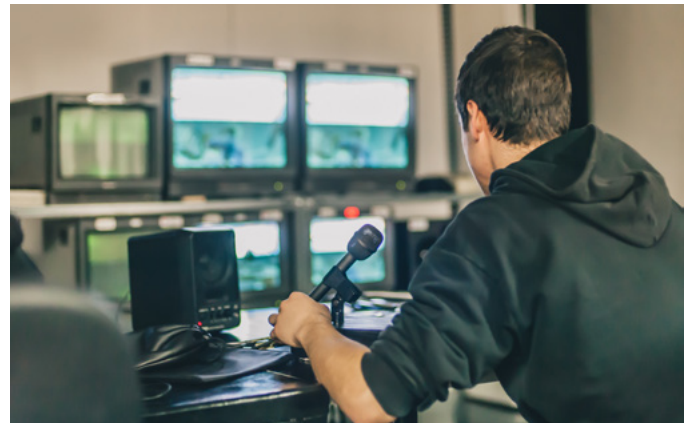
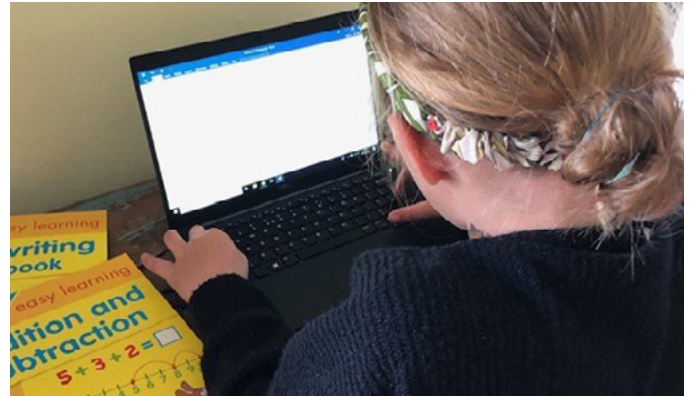
Young people can take part in virtual music and film sessions through Base@theReed, run by the Octavia Foundation. This programme offers digital media skills to bring out young people's creativity through photography, music production, film making, DJing and more.

All these opportunities and more are up for grabs this summer, so don't delay in finding out more.

For more information on West London Zone's work see [www.westlondonzone.org](http://www.westlondonzone.org)

For more information about Rugby Portobello and Amplify Studios see [www.rugbyportobello.org.uk](http://www.rugbyportobello.org.uk) and [www.amplifystudios.co.uk](http://www.amplifystudios.co.uk)

For more information about the Octavia Foundation and Base@theReed see [www.octaviafoundation.org.uk](http://www.octaviafoundation.org.uk)



## Summer bank holiday waste collection

**As Notting Hill Carnival is not to proceed as usual, there will be normal rubbish and recycling collections on Monday 31 August.**

Garden waste collections will continue as normal on Wednesday 2 September. There will be no Too Big for the Bin bulky waste collections on Monday 31 August.

Please make sure you put your rubbish and recycling out before 7am on your day of collection (not the night before), or in the waste storage area if your property has one.

For more information about recycling and rubbish, Too Big for the Bin bulky waste collections, food waste and garden waste collections, visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/binsandrecycling](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/binsandrecycling)