Grenfell FOI

Timeline

- 20 June –Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner, emailed Department for Communities and Local Government, to arrange visit to site. Children's Commissioner was passed to representative of the Gold command team on ground.
- 2. 20 June Call with representative of the Gold command team on ground advised to visit the family centre (out of borough) once opened.
- 3. 21st June Call with Claire Chamberlain, Executive Director Children's Services, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) to discuss the boroughs response and also the Children's Commissioner's visit to childcare provisions near site
- 4. 21 June Calls & emails with member of staff, (RBKC) and Action for Children to arrange a private visit to Claire Gardens Nursery and possibly a Childrens Centre.
- 5. 22 June Children's Commissioner's visit to Claire Gardens Nursery with Action for Children, to talk to families and charity family workers
- 6. 23 June Letter from Children's Commissioner to Claire Chamberlain, DCS RBKC.
- 7. 26 June & 27 June- Response received from Claire Chamberlain, DCS RBKC
- 8. 27 June & 31 July Childrens Commissioner emailed Andrew McCully, Director General, Infrastructure and Funding Directorate, Department for Education, response received same day
- 9. 3 July Children's Commissioner visit to Urgent Family centre (Holborn) organised with Grenfell Tower team
- 10. 19 July Call with member of staff, (RBKC) re holiday activities
- 11. 7 August Children's Commissioner made contact with British Red Cross following visit to family centre, re holiday activity provision in North Kensington.
- 12. 31 October Children's Commissioner will meet with Secretary to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry and QC for the Inquiry.

Please note there are no notes of calls were taken



Subject:	Grenfell Visit	
F		Department for Communities and Local
Government Sent: 20 June 2017 20:59		Department for Communities and Local
To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Ch	ildren's Commissioner <	
Government		Department for Communities and Local
Cc:		Department for Communities and Local
Government; Subject: RE: Grenfell Visit	Children's Commissioner pa	
Hi Anne		
Apologies for the delay. The briefing at HQ.	nere is very little I can tell you sorry	as I have not been based on the ground but coordinating
	to give you a briefing on the issues	on the ground to give you a call tomorrow morning. She schildren are facing than me. also suggests that several visits and some protest marches already planned
If you don't hear from her	please let me know and I will chase	e up
Thanks and best wishes		
From: LONGFIELD, Anne -	Children's Commissioner	PREMISE SERVICE PROPERTY.
Sent: 20 June 2017 17:25 To: Department	ent for Communities and Local Gove	ernment
Cc:		unities and Local Government; Children's
Commissioner pa Subject: RE: Grenfell Visit		
-		
Thanks – if you can give utoday if possible.	us a call on please. It is	would be great to have a quick chat as soon as you can
Thanks very much		
Anne		
Anne Longfield Children's Commissioner's	s for England	

From:

Department for Communities and Local Government

Sent: 20 June 2017 17:21

To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner

Cc:

Department for Communities and Local Government

Subject: Re: Grenfell Visit

Thanks Anne. I think that would be an excellent thing to do.



- would you call Anne or team to talk through and advise.



to see for info.

From: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 05:15 PM GMT Standard Time

To: Department for Communities and Local Government

Subject: Grenfell Visit



I wondered if your team might be able to help advise us on possible visits to speak with families affected by the Grenfell fire. I'm keen to talk to children and families to find out more about their current situation and the help they need.

We would like to visit on Wednesday or Thursday this week and are in touch with local primary schools and the children's centre. This would be a private visit with no publicity.

Really grateful for any advice or introductions to local groups

All best wishes

Anne

Anne Longfield

Children's Commissioner for England





Direct Line:

Email:

Post: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Online: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk



Subject:	FW: Anne L's potential visit to K and C
From: Sent: 21 June 2017 12:34 To: Subject: RE: Anne L's poten	actionforchildren.org.uk] actionforchildren.org.uk>; Children's Commissioner pa actionforchildren.org.uk> tial visit to K and C
Dear ,	
	uction, it would be really helpful to agree timings for Anne private visit to see staff y tomorrow, would you be able to give us an indication of this as soon as possible.
Many thanks Kind regards	
From: Action Sent: 21 June 2017 12:18 To: Action for Childre Subject: Anne L's potent	Children's Commissioner pa;
Dear Good to touch base re An I am linking you up with who you need to speak w Best wishes	
Sent from my Windows F	Phone
**********************	**************************************

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Subject: Children's Commissioner Visit to Clare Gardens Nursery
From: Children's Commissioner pa Sent: 21 June 2017 15:01 To: Action for Children Cc: Action for Children Subject: RE: Children's Commissioner Visit to Clare Gardens Nursery
Hi 💮
Just to update you that Anne has agreed with Clare Chamberlain that she will also visit the children centre tomorrow.
Head of Advice and Assistance will also accompany Anne tomorrow.
If you do need to contact Anne tomorrow her number is
Best wishes
Personal Assistant to Anne Longfield, Childrens Commissioner for England
From: @actionforchildren.org.uk] Sent: 21 June 2017 13:42 To: Children's Commissioner Da Action for Children Subject: RE: Children's Commissioner Visit to Clare Gardens Nursery
Hi 💮
Yes 10.30 should be fine, and are included in this E Mail so they can confirm that this is suitable for the centre. Thank you for being understanding about the importance of privacy for the staff and children. We would also ask that no photographs are taken during the visit. I trust that will be ok.
I will be at the centre to greet Anne but if anything changes on the times etc. please do let me know.
Managing Director Children's Services
Action for Children 10 Great Queen Street Holborn London WC2B 5DG Tel No: @actnforchildren actionforchildren.org.uk

From:	Children's Commiss	sioner pa	祖/学院/李四克	REINDEALERS	
Sent: 21 June 20 To:		nildren.org.uk>			
Cc:				Ac	ction for
Children Subject: RE: Chil	dren's Commissioner Visit	to Clare Gardens N	lursery		
Ні					
Yes of course we	completely understand t	he sensitive nature	of the visit and agree it	t will remain completely pr	ivate.
The Commission	er was hoping to arrive at	approx. 10:30 tom	orrow – would this be o	convenient?	
I am also in discuis confirmed	issions with to comb	oine a visit to the at	tached Childrens Centro	e. I will keep you informed	once this
Best wishes					
Personal Assista	nt to Anne Longfield, Child	drens Commissione	r for England		
	-				
From: Sent: 21 June 20 To: Cc:		ctionforchildren.org	<u>g.uk</u>]	Δ	ction for
Children Subject: Children Importance: Hig	n's Commissioner Visit to h	Clare Gardens Nurs	ery		
Dear					
understand that	aking contact with our nu Anne has also spoken wit between yourself and		ens requesting a visit by the visit and that there	y the Children's Commissio has been some E Mail	ner. I
has been a very have been killed		off, children and fame	nilies, many of our staff who remain	tending. As you can appreci f have both family and frien n missing, we therefore fee will understand this.	nds who
	dance at the visit so if you rd to meeting Anne.	ı could please infori	m me of the details for	the visit I would be most g	rateful
Managing Direct	tor Children's Services				

Action for Children Tel No:	10 Great Queen Street Holborn London WC2B 5DG @actnforchildren actionforchildren.org.uk
******	**************************************
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Promoting & protecting children's rights

By email: clare.chamberlain@rbkc.gov.uk

23rd June 2017

Claire Chamberlain
Director of Children's Services
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Dear Claire,

Thank you again for your assistance with my visit to the Children's Centre in Kensington yesterday. It was very helpful to talk to children and the support workers helping families involved in the terrible tragedy.

I was pleased to hear about the package of support for families being put in place and it is clear that the staff I met were working very hard and in a very compassionate way in extremely distressing circumstances.

As the public announcements have focused on the support being offered to adults though, I would welcome further reassurance on three points relating to the support being offered to children.

- 1) I was concerned to hear reports in the press over the weekend of children housed in sport halls, or informally with friends, but separated from their immediate family. Can you assure me that all affected children are now placed in suitable, safe accommodation with their families and are able to attend their usual school?
- 2) It was very good to hear that children are going back to school. Can you let me know what plans are in place to ensure that families with children are provided with suitable long-term accommodation within the community which enables children to remain at the same school?
- 3) Staff said that therapeutic support for families was planned. I am also pleased to see that the NHS has set-up a dedicated helpline for those affected. I would like reassurance that all children and young people affected get access to the help they need. In particular, we know that older children will often miss out because they don't self-identify or are reticent to seek out support. I would be grateful if you could let me know how you are planning to deliver support and whether you will be seeking to do this in part through schools for older children where we know more will be able to access. I would like to be reassured that all surviving children previously living in the block have been identified and offered this support?

Children's Commissioner for England: Anne Longfield OBE









I would like to reiterate that if there is anything I can do to help your work in response to this tragedy, or to support the children affected directly, please don't hesitate to ask. In particular, my helpline team are ready to offer advice to any child living away from home. Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

Anne

Anne Longfield

Children's Commissioner for England







Subject:

FW: Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield

From: Children's Commissioner

Sent: 27 June 2017 09:26

To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner

- Children's Commissioner pa

MILES, Alice - Children's

Commissioner, Director of Strategy

Subject: FW: Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield

Please see full response from Kensington DCS

Thanks

From: Chamberlain, Clare: CS: RBKC

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Sent: 26 June 2017 17:29

To: Children's Commissioner

Subject: RE: Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield

See below for a fuller response to Anne's letter.

Dear Anne

Thank you for visiting our services last week following the terrible fire at Grenfell Tower. We were all devastated by this awful tragedy and staff have been working very hard to help the families in every aspect of rebuilding their lives.

In response to your specific questions:

1. To reiterate that none of the children who have been placed in hotels providing emergency accommodation have been separated from their families. On the first day following the fire, we were alerted to a but they were re-united the following day.

The latest update about housing of families is that 373 households are in emergency accommodation, mostly hotels. At this stage we have not got an aggregated figure for the number of children in this cohort. This number includes both households who have been displaced from Grenfell Tower and also a number who lived in the surrounding area, some who cannot go back to their homes because the hot water system has been affected, and others who feel too traumatised to return to the vicinity. The housing department are undertaking individual assessments of each household's needs and offering temporary and permanent accommodation. They are trying very hard to provide accommodation as close as possible to their previous home, but there are limitations on supply. At this stage I don't have a figure for those households who have accepted any of these offers.

We have provided162 keyworkers (mainly social workers but some other social care practitioners) who are supporting people affected, the priority group of just over a 100 people who lived in Grenfell Tower. We are providing practical, emotional and financial support to this group. There is a designated Family and Friends Centre which is providing specialist support to bereaved families and we are working closely with the centre.

2. Children have been attending their usual schools and we have offered transport for those who may not be placed close by. Two schools were closed on the Wednesday of the fire as they were in the cordoned area:

St Francis of Assisi Primary school which relocated to Sion-Manning school and opened the following day (Thursday). The school moved back to their own location this morning (26th June).

Kensington Aldridge Academy relocated to Burlington Danes school and re-opened to students on the Friday following the fire. This school is located right next to Grenfell Tower and is likely to operate out of Burlington Danes until the end of term.

As stated in Qu 1, the housing department is doing all they can to offer long term accommodation to families as local as possible to their previous home and school.

3. Therapeutic support for children and for their parents in helping their children will be provided through two routes:

Firstly, individually through the key workers referred to above. Every family will have a social worker for as long as they need help, and these social workers will assess the changing needs of the children over time. We have had clear clinical advice that at this stage, children need emotional 'first aid' i.e. be enabled to do normal things, play, go to school, see their friends etc and only talk about the terrible event that they witnessed if they choose to do so. At a later date, every child will be assessed for further therapeutic support and provided with specialist help according their needs.

Secondly, all schools have received support from our Educational Psychologists who were on school sites from 8 AM on the morning of the fire. We have provided daily support to schools and helped with assemblies, provided resources to help teachers talk to children, and have clear referral routes for those who need specialist grief counselling or CAMHS input. We have been mapping out the potential needs and the services which we have available or will need to commission to meet those needs.

This e mail provides a broad outline of the work we have been doing and plan to do to support the children who are bereaved or who survived or witnessed this terrible event.

Do let me know if you would like further detail on any of these areas or further updates at a later date.

Clare

Executive Director of Children's Services

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the City of Westminster Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, LONDON W8 7NX

Tel: 020 7361 3300

From: Children's Commissioner

Sent: 26 June 2017 15:20

To: Chamberlain, Clare: CS: RBKC <

Subject: RE: Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield

Dear Clare

Many thanks for your swift response. I have passed your note onto the Commissioner.

Kind regards







Direct Line:

Email:

Post: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Online: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

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Subject:	Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield	
From: 2017 15:30	Children's Commissioner	
Sent: 26 June 2017 15:20 To: LONGFIELD, Anne - C Children's Commissione Subject: PE: Letter from 6	Children's Commissioner	
Subject. NE. Letter Home	Children's Commissioner Affile Longfield	
Note from Clare- Kensi	ington DCS	
	e: CS: RBKC (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea)	
	6 Children's Commissioner < Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield	>
- please could yo	ou pass this on to Anne.	
Anne,		
Apart from one families are sleeping in the	letter on Monday but I just wanted to assure you about the facts relationship to the rest centre and have not been since last Thursday morning i.e. after dren who have been placed in hotels providing emergency accommodanilies.	, no the first night following
There are a number of re	eports in the press which are simply not true.	
Clare		
_	ildren's Services mersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the C ornton Street, London, W8 7NX	City of Westminster

From: Children's Commissioner <

Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 4:53 pm

Subject: Letter from Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield

To: Chamberlain, Clare: CS: RBKC <

Dear Clare

Please find attached letter from Anne after her visit to Kensington Children's Centre.

Kind regards







Direct Line:

Email

Post:Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT Online:www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

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To:

MCCULLY, Andrew; andre

Subject:

Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety

From:	Deputy Director, Grenfell Response Team, Department for Education)	
Sent: 31 July	2017 14:01	
To:	Department for Education; LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner	
	>; MCCULLY, Andrew	THE REAL PROPERTY.
Director Gene	eral, Infrastructure and Funding Directorate, Department for Education)	
Cc: MILES, Ali	ce - Children's Commissioner, Director of Strategy <	>;
		7

Subject: RE: Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety

Dear Anne

Thank you for your email asking for an update on our work in relation to the fire safety of school buildings.

As you may know, we have contacted all bodies responsible (local authorities, academy trusts, diocesan bodies etc) for safety in schools instructing them to check and identify any buildings which may require further investigation. We are continuing to analyse the data received in responses and where further information is needed, are contacting schools to gather this and provide any support required.

While we are finalising our analysis, so far cladding from only two school buildings has needed to be tested by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the body carrying out checks on all buildings on behalf of the government.

Results of these two tests confirmed that the cladding was not of limited combustibility and the affected schools have been informed. The schools are:

- London Enterprise Academy, Tower Hamlets; and
- The Bridge School, Islington (primary special school) part of a residential block which has the relevant ACM cladding.

The advice endorsed by the National Fire Chiefs' Council makes clear that the fire risks posed by the cladding in those buildings can be mitigated by other actions and additional checks.

Further to that advice, both schools have already been inspected by the Fire and Rescue Service, who confirmed that as appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risks from potential fire, the buildings are safe for continued use. Both schools have been designed to meet stringent fire safety requirements and evacuation procedures are routinely tested as part of fire drills.

We are continuing to work closely with the schools concerned to support them and ensure all the necessary steps are taken to ensure the continued safety of the buildings.

You also asked about progress on the review of the Department's fire safety guidance.

In addition to a public inquiry, DCLG has also announced an independent review of building regulations and fire safety to be led by Dame Judith Hackitt. The review will work closely with other government departments,

including DfE. It is expected that the review will present an interim report before the end of the year, and a final report no later than spring 2018.

Due to this wide ranging review that will encompass educational buildings, we are not planning to publish a revised version of our current fire safety guidance (Building Bulletin 100) at this time. We will take a considered view, in light of the findings from both the public inquiry and the independent review of building regulations and fire safety, of any changes required to our existing guidance.

Alongside the rest of government, the department will take forward any findings from the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire and ensure any recommendations for schools are implemented.

I hope that answers your query but do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best wishes

Deputy Director, Grenfell Response Team

Department for Education | Fourth Floor | Sanctuary Buildings | Great Smith Street |

London | SW1P 3BT | Tel: Web: www.gov.uk/esfa
Twitter: @educationgovuk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/educationgovuk

Education & Skills Funding Agency

From: Department for Education

Sent: 31 July 2017 12:21

To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner; MCCULLY, Andrew

Cc: MILES, Alice - Children's Commissioner, Director of Strategy;

Grenfell Response Team, Department for Education Subject: RE: Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety

Anne

Copying in who is leading our work and can bring you up to date.

Education and Skills Funding Agency

4th Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1H 0ET

Institute for Apprenticeships

151 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SZ

Tel:

From: Children's Commissioner pa On Behalf Of LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner

Sent: 31 July 2017 12:12

To: MCCULLY, Andrew

Cc: MILES, Alice - Children's Commissioner, Director of Strategy

EF

Subject: RE: Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety

Dear Andrew

May I please have an update on your findings in relation to the safety of school buildings. Was the Department informed of any buildings requiring further investigation, which were those buildings, have those investigations been undertaken, what are the results and where relevant, what remedial action is planned before the start of the autumn term?

Could you also inform me about progress with the review of the Department's fire safety guidance, any proposed changes, what these are and how the costs of them to schools will be met.

Best wishes,

Anne

Anne Longfield

Children's Commissioner for England





Direct Line:

Email:

Post: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Online: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

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Promoting & protecting children's rights

From: MCCULLY, Andrew	
Sent: 27 June 2017 07:23	
To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner	
Cc: Children's Commissioner pa	MILES, Alice -
Children's Commissioner, Director of Strategy;	
DfE Officials; ESFA	
Subject: RE: Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety	

Dear Anne

Thank you very much for your email asking for our assessment of the safety of any cladding around school buildings, and whether all schools have sprinkler systems and fire exits adequate to cope with any sudden conflagration.

"You will recognise, I am sure, that the safety of children and young people in our schools is of the utmost importance to the Department. As has been made clear elsewhere the full causes of the Grenfell fire are still under investigation and a full public inquiry has been commissioned. I can, however, assure you that all school buildings are required to comply with strict fire regulations to ensure that children are safe and can exit school buildings quickly in case of fire. The Department's position has always been that where a risk assessment shows that sprinklers are necessary, they must be fitted in new buildings. The materials used in new school buildings, or refurbishments, must also comply with building regulations. Existing schools are also required to comply with fire safety regulations, including having a current fire risk assessment and having an emergency evacuation plan and regular fire drills.

"The Government is taking the potential impact from the tragic Grenfell Tower fire very seriously and the Department will review its fire safety guidance. Building owners across the public sector estate are being contacted to ensure any risks are managed and dealt with appropriately and promptly. As part of this, we are contacting all bodies responsible for safety in schools instructing them to carry out checks to identify any buildings which may require further investigation. We wrote to all such bodies on Friday to begin gathering this information. We will consider the responses carefully and, in line with the government wide approach, take any further steps necessary to ensure children's safety.

We will make sure you are kept in touch with our growing understanding of the picture across the whole school estate and of the longer term review of the fire safety guidance. I am copying your email to because of the central role of the ESFA is this work.

Best wishes

Andrew

Andrew McCully

Director General, Infrastructure and Funding Directorate

4th Floor, Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street SW1P 3BT

Tel:		
Ema	il:	

www.gov.uk/dfe



From: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner

Sent: 22 June 2017 17:14

To: MCCULLY, Andrew

Cc: Children's Commissioner pa

Children's Commissioner, Director of Strategy

DfE official

Subject: Grenfell Tower Fire: School safety

Dear Andrew,

I know that the Government is doing all it can to identify quickly any residential tower blocks clad in similar material to that used in Grenfell Tower, or in cladding which may be highly flammable. I am also concerned about the building materials used in schools.

; MILES, Alice -

Would you please let me have your assessment of the safety of any cladding around school buildings, and whether all schools have sprinkler systems and fire exits are adequate to cope with any sudden conflagration.

I would be happy to meet and discuss this with you in person or to receive assurance by email of the steps you are taking to ensure children's safety.

Best wishes

Anne

Anne Longfield

Children's Commissioner's for England





Direct Line:

Email:

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5	ub	je	ct:

FW: Holiday activities in north Kensington

Children's Commissioner pa On Behalf Of LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner From: Sent: 07 August 2017 17:34 @redcross.org.uk' Subject: Holiday activities in north Kensington Dear When we met at the family support centre in Holborn we talked about the importance of holiday activities for children and young people in the Grenfell Estate area. I undertook to follow up with children's services in Kensington and Chelsea and let you know more. I have been in touch with who can be contact at has led the development of holiday activities which have been funded by and via the authority. She has told me that more activities have been made available and that information about the programmes have been given to all families who are in temporary accommodation as a result of the fire and advertised more widely locally. I hope that is helpful and do contact if you would like further information. Best wishes

Anne

Anne Longfield

Children's Commissioner's for England





Direct Line:

Email:

Post: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Online: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

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Subject:

FW: Grenfell Tower Inquiry - engagement with children who have been impacted by the

Secretary to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Sent: 22 September 2017 12:48

To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner <
Cc: Children's Commissioner pa; ; ; ; Officials Grenfell Tower Inquiry ; Queens Counsel for Inquiry

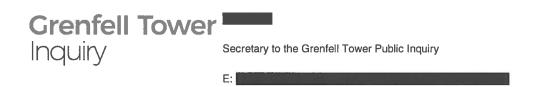
Subject: Re: Grenfell Tower Inquiry - engagement with children who have been impacted by the fire

Anne

many thanks. Will ask here to help sort a time. Will bring QC, who lis leading on engagement of vulnerable witnesses

it will be good to see you

best wishes



On 22 September 2017 at 12:44, LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner wrote:

- yes very happy to meet – will help us find a time and I will invite Alice Miles from my Office too.

Best wishes
Anne
Anne Longfield Children's Commissioner's for England
From: Sent: 20 September 2017 13:54 To: LONGFIELD, Anne - Children's Commissioner Cc: Official Grenfell Tower Inquiry; Queens Counsel to Inquiry Subject: Grenfell Tower Inquiry - engagement with children who have been impacted by the fire
Dear Anne,
Do hope you are well. As you can see I have a new role, and I wanted to ask you a favour, if I may. We've been discussing the next phase of our Inquiry's plans for community engagement: one aspect of this is how we interact with children who have been impacted by the Grenfell fire.
This will include those who are carers or interpreters for their parents or may have spoken to fire fighters or have been involved in the aftermath. We anticipate they will have a wealth of information relevant to proceedings.
Could I put some time in your diary to discuss further, along with QC who is counsel to the inquiry and leading our work to engage in the local community?
Best wishes,
Grenfell Tower Inquiry Secretary to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry E: