Final judgement on Education consultation implementation recommendations

02.12.2024

The purpose of this paper is to deliver a final judgement as to whether or not the Consultation for future support on Education and Training meets the requirements of an effective and trauma informed, and restorative consultation.

The Education Consultation timeline has been staggered to come slightly after the Bereaved and Survivors and Community consultations, and so not all work on implementation plans had been completed at the time that we published our last report in September 2024. In that report we were satisfied that the education consultation process had so far met our four principles for effective consultation (fairness, accountability, transparency, integrity), as well as being trauma informed and restorative, with a few areas for improvement which were not significant enough to alter the overall judgement.

Our final recommendations were:

1. To create a set of principles to guide the implementation of the models to provide as much assurance as possible that the ways that the models are implemented are restorative, trauma informed and sufficiently person and community centred.
2. A transparent plan and process for implementation of the Education Hub, a way of transitioning from the current support to the new support.
3. Ensure that as part of the implementation plans, there is a strategy for how to engage with people that the Grenfell Partnerships Team feel, or have evidence, are under-represented.

Since September 2024, and as of the publication of this report in December 2024, we have seen and reviewed a set of guiding principles, terms of reference and a detailed implementation plan. We have reviewed these and given feedback to the Grenfell Partnerships Team (GPT) in advance of the implementation process beginning, and have also had follow up conversations with GPT about the progress of the implementation group so far.

Our final judgement on the Education consultation

We accept the implementation plans and progress so far as fulfilling our final recommendations made in September 2024.

This means that we have accepted the Education consultation as an effective, trauma informed and restorative consultation in developing models, and one that meets our four principles for effective consultation (fairness, accountability, transparency, integrity). Any weaknesses identified are not significant enough to alter the overall judgement.

Strengths of the approach to implementation

1. The implementation process takes time to gather the views of members of the bereaved and survivors and community, including young people. Current services (such as mental health and wellbeing support in schools) have been extended in timescale to ensure continuity and allow time for implementation decisions to happen.

2. The plans present a set of guiding initial guiding principles to be written and agreed with each of the implementation groups recognising the need for shared power and responsibility in decision making, whilst delivering on the outcome of the consultation. Plans also include co-creating ground rules and ways of working, which are essential elements to sharing power and building trust and shared accountability.

3. Subgroups have been set up to provide focused work on particular areas, including the Education Hub. In particular these groups are responsible for holding the council to account for gathering the views of wider bereaved and survivor, community, residents and stakeholders on questions of interest for the group, and asking the council to reach out to specific groups if it is felt these groups are underrepresented.

Points to further emphasise moving forwards

1. We note that the plans include commitment to use of independent facilitation where needed. We would encourage continuing to check with implementation groups about when they feel independent facilitation is needed, and sharing decision making power about this with groups. It is not always clear when independent facilitation can help, especially to those in the position of power.

2. We understand that updates on the implementation process have been shared with bereaved and survivors and others via email, and that an open meeting was held in November to update residents on implementation progress. However it is unclear how accessible this information is to wider groups and individuals. For the purposes of transparency and accessibility, we would advise that GPT creates a mechanism, for anyone who wants to know more about the implementation process and progress, to access information and updates.

3. Implementation of the Education and Training programme is likely to be time consuming for GPT as it is new and complex (including involving a wide range of stakeholders) and will likely need ongoing adaptation over time. GPT should also ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to implementation of the Education and Training programme so that it doesn't get overlooked or under-resourced compared to the Bereaved and Survivor and Community programmes.

Next steps - Education and Training

The plans that we have seen, and conversations that we have had with members of GPT, indicate to us that GPT have made the changes that we advised and created an effective process of implementation for the Education and Training consultation outcome. As we have now received a final set of implementation plans and response to our recommendations, our scrutiny of the Education and Training Grenfell Future Support consultation is now complete.