



**Meeting of the Interim Board of Governors – first meeting  
Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1830-2030  
The Curve Community Centre, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP**

**Attendees:**

- Revd Dr Michael Long, Notting Hill Methodist Church
- Abderrahman Elguerbouzi, Making Communities Work and Grow (MCWG)
- Fatai ('Abdul') Towolawi, Healthwatch Central West London
- Fatima Elguenuni, NHS and mother of resident of Grenfell Tower
- Abdurahman Sayed, Al Manaar
- Sid-Ali Atmani, Resident of Grenfell Tower
- Callum Wilson, Head of Service – Assistance Centres (Chair for the meeting)
- RBKC Curve Minute Taker

**1. Pre-meeting discussion**

- 1.1 The group discussed that establishing an Interim Board of Governors (IBoG) should be seen as a positive step and this is something that needs to be communicated clearly with the community. Given the importance of transparency, it was agreed that a message needs to be sent out rapidly. The IBoG agreed to share the papers of all IBoG meetings and to invite Grenfell Speaks to film the summaries of the meetings as is being done with other Transparent Working Groups.
- 1.2 Callum provided an overview as to why it is important that an independent Board of Governors is set up. The Curve Community Centre needs to be accountable to the community, and to be equally accountable to and led by the community, as it is by the Council. It was clarified that it was inappropriate for the permanent Board of Governors to be set up by the council, as this would compromise the autonomy and transparency of the board. Therefore, an interim board was selected in order to devise a process for the appointment of a permanent board (BoG). The Curve management team invited a number of local community leaders to apply, and the interim board was formed from this shortlist. The Curve understands the difficulties of this approach and accepts responsibility for this, and it is for this reason that the work of the interim board is time limited and only transitional. It was noted that the communication from the council in relation to this process could have been better.
- 1.3 There were two residents that wished to join the Interim Board of Governors (IBoG) meeting. However, it was explained that this was a closed meeting as it is an interim board. It was explained that the papers and minutes of the meeting will be available publically after the meeting, and that further work would be done to ensure the work of the group is transparent. The residents were content with this response and the meeting was held in a closed environment.
- 1.4 A member raised why certain groups were not invited to express an interest, such as the Grenfell Muslim Response Unit. Callum stated that the selection of the interim board was the full responsibility of the Council and the IBoG do not need to be held responsible for that process. The interim board have the full control of how they would like to appoint



1.5 the permanent Board of Governors, and over who should be eligible to apply to be a member of the Board.

## 2. Introductions

2.1 The group introduced themselves and provided a brief description of their background.

**A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the Grenfell Tower Fire.**

## 3. Background

3.1 Callum provided an overview of the current senior management structure for the Grenfell Response and the Communities and Peoples directorate, and the proposed future staffing structure for the Curve Community Centre. He provided a background of how the centre had been managed since it's opening in July 2017. There was an interim team in place for a few months that worked on a rotation basis, which was lucky to have been supported by dedicated volunteers. This transitioned to a stable structure in September 2017 that has been evolving ever since to meet the evolving needs of the community.

3.2 Callum stated that a recent consultation took place, where over 3000 local residents were invited to provide feedback on how they would like to shape the future of the Curve. Results were shared with the board.

## 4. Overview of the Interim Board of Governors

4.1 Callum provided an overview of the agenda, explained the Terms of Reference and the aims and purpose of the Interim Board of Governors. Interim Board members were invited to comments.

4.2 *The following points were raised:*

- Some members of the group felt that the centre needs to be run differently, that it needs to be more inviting, welcoming and professional.
- Members of the board discussed who they would be accountable to, which was referred to on page 17. It was clarified that it would be the permanent board that would be accountable to the proposed structure on page 17 of the meeting pack, not the IBoG. There were discussions about whether the proposed structure on page 17 of the meeting pack would result in the BoG being accountable to too many subgroups and if this would create conflicting demands on the BoG. It was suggested that maybe they should only be accountable to the Chief Executive Officer of RBKC via the Grenfell Response Programme Board. It was raised that the BoG needed to work alongside the Residents Steering Group, with the residents group advising on what they want to see in the centre, and the BoG ensuring the Curve delivers on their requests. There was agreement on the fact that the Chair could delegate or rotate their duties rather than take the lead on all elements.



- Members wanted clarity on who is accountable for building compliance issues for the Centre and Callum confirmed that this is the responsibility of the Council, via the role he holds as Head of Service, including ensuring that staff are trained in H&S duties.

## **5. Aims and objectives of the IBOG and the three month proposed plan:**

5.1 Callum talked through the points outlined on page 5 and 6 of the meeting pack and the three key objectives and areas of work for the IBoG. These are to:

- Advise on and oversee the set-up of the permanent Board of Governors
- Advise on and oversee the set-up of the Residents' Steering Group
- Review and make recommendations to improve the structures for reporting and monitoring feedback for services, activities and events delivered at the Curve

The group were in agreement of the three work areas.

5.2 The following additional points were raised:

- The group emphasised that there is a need to communicate the journey and process throughout the 3 months to ensure that there is transparency all along the way.
- The IBoG raised concerns on what financial support is available to run the Centre, as it needs to be delivered correctly. The IBoG raised the point that while the establishment of the BoG would help ensure the Curve was accountable to the community, the Council would still hold the power if there was no devolution of budgetary control. Callum explained that there is a budget available and that budgetary decisions are currently being made across the response, but that he was working to ensure the full budget would be devolved to ensure the BoG had the capability and control to drive the direction of the centre.
- Callum presented the 3-month plan, on page 7 of the meeting pack, and the IBoG discussed the key areas and anticipated deadlines and key decision dates. The IBoG approved the plans, and approved the regularity of the meeting dates.

## **6. Resident Steering group**

6.2 The IBoG agreed that the residents steering group need to be composed of members of the community that reflected the diversity of the local area, in terms of gender, age, and faith, as well as a clear set of criteria for membership. Something that is clear and transparent is needed.

6.3 A decision was not taken on the approach to the proposed resident's steering group meeting scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> of February as outlined in the plan, so instead this open evening will be used to engage with all residents who have registered an interest in being on the group, and hopefully enable more interested people to come forwards.

## **7. Terms of Reference of the IBoG**

7.1 The group talked through the proposed Terms of Reference and it was broadly felt that they were appropriate. It was however decided that a decision on ratifying the document would be postponed to ensure the group has time to consider what else might need to be included, or what may need to be revised.



7.2 The following additional points were raised:

- A member said that in his experience it was often what was not in a Terms of Reference that was the downfall and therefore agreed with the decision to keep them under review.
- The group unanimously felt there needed to be a section in the document on renewing or re-electing the BoG to ensure there was scope for people to get involved at a later date, and for new ideas to be included. There was an equal agreement regarding the importance of ensuring there is continuity in the membership.
- There was a broad discussion as to whether a membership with election process would be more productive and beneficial than an application and selection process. The Curve team was requested to review these options and feedback to the group at the next meeting.

## **8. Appointing a Chair for the Interim Board of Governors.**

8.1 There was an initial discussion on whether a chair was required, however, the group eventually agreed that this was required just to ensure that the meetings and actions were convened and managed appropriately and that the IBoG could ensure it was delivering on its objectives.

8.2 The group was asked who would be interested in being nominated for chairing the IBoG. 3 members said no, and a further member was reluctant. Fatima and Abderrahman were both open to being an interim chair. The group, without the need to vote, made a decision to unanimously appoint Fatima Elguenuni as the interim chair for the IBoG. It was agreed that the group would support Fatima in all of her activities and that the role of Chair could be passed on to another member if Fatima preferred, and the IBoG agreed, in due course. Fatima stated that as the chair she will ensure that the agenda is followed, and that the group complete their objectives in a transparent and timely fashion and feedback to Callum and to the community accordingly. She brings experience of chairing three other boards.

## **9. Current Interim Board of Governors**

9.1 Sid stated that due to personal reasons and other commitments he is currently not able to be part of the IBoG. He informed the group that he had received some positive career news that morning which meant he did not feel able to commit to the IBoG. The group congratulated him on his news and asked if he would like to think about it. However, Sid informed the group that he was sure and would also feel more comfortable applying for a role in the permanent board, if he is interested in it at the time, rather than be a part of the IBoG. The group respected him for his decision and thanked him for his contribution. The group felt that it was important that a voice from the survivors from the tower was part of the board. It was agreed that Fatima would speak to Grenfell United and others about seeing whether they knew of a survivor from the tower who might be interested.

## **10. Items for discussion at the next meeting**



10.1 The following items were agreed for the next agenda:

- What the selection process should be for the permanent Board of Governors, to consider whether a membership and election process or application and selection process would be more appropriate;
- What the criteria should be for being able to be a Governor, for example, demographics, geography, experience;
- Proposals on how to improve the welcoming feel of the centre

10.2 Fatima/Callum will have a conversation with Faisal of Grenfell Speaks to agree initial messages to go out on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

10.3 Everyone agreed that fortnightly meetings are appropriate. The next meeting will be held at the Curve on Tuesday 6 February at 5.00pm -6.30pm

Meeting closed at 20.38.