

## **CPG for Funerals and Bereavement**

Wednesday 21 September 2016

Conference Room 21

### **AGM Minutes**

#### **In Attendance:**

Mark Isherwood AM (Chair)	Martin Birch (Cardiff City Council)	Jeremy Field (NAFD)
Roy Folland (NAFD)	Paul Harding (Marie Curie)	Kim Bird (About the Funeral)
Nigel Lymn Rose (NAFD)	Mandie Lavin (NAFD)	Jean Letton (BASW)
Lorraine Barrett (Humanist Celebrant)		David Beamer (Secretary)

#### **Item 1: Apologies**

Russell George AM	Simon Thomas AM	Janette Bourne (Cruse)
Darren Millar AM	Paul Davies AM	Philip Blatchly (NAFD)
Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM	Julie Morgan AM	
Janet Finch-Saunders AM	Neil Hamilton AM	

#### **Item 2: Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of our last meeting were approved.

#### **Item 3: Election of Officers**

The following officers were elected:

- Mark Isherwood AM (Chair)
- David Beamer (Secretary)

#### **Item 4: Update**

Three responses were received to letters sent following the last meeting of the Group. These were circulated at the meeting.

#### **Item 5: Social Fund / Funeral Poverty**

A discussion was held on funeral poverty and the support offered by the Social Fund.

Nigel Lymn Rose reported on a Westminster Hall Debate held on 14 September 2016 that was secured by Gavin Robinson MP. A discussion then followed that examined the Work and

Pension Committee findings from their recent inquiry. Martin Birch outlined the work of Cardiff City Council and the provision of their funeral service. This was followed by a discussion of the reasons for the Service and how it was established. The definition of funeral poverty was then discussed and how it differed across the UK nations and regions.

It was agreed to write to the new DWP Minister to introduce the Group and raise our concerns.

**Item 6: Use of zero based tender by coroners**

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Group to put this item on the agenda. This followed concerns raised at past meetings of the Group about the use by Coroners of zero based tenders for the removal of the Deceased on behalf of the Coroner.

A letter received from Caroline Dineage MP (Ministry of Justice) dated 28 April 2016 was reviewed at the meeting.

It was agreed to send a letter to the new Chief Coroner to outline the Group's views on the matter.

**Item 7: Coroners' provision in Wales**

At previous meetings of the Group, concerns have been raised at the level of Coroners support in Wales. Roy Folland outlined improvements that he has seen and Martin Birch stated that the new Cardiff service was working well. A discussion was then held about the general level of coroners' provision.

**Item 8: Death Certification**

A discussion was held on changes to the death certification process in England and Wales. The Secretary outlined that in Wales, a consultation was due to published in "due course".

The Chair requested a letter was sent to the new Cabinet Secretary for Health, Vaughan Gething AM, seeking further information on the process in Wales and dates of future consultation activity.

**Item 9: AOB**

Roy Folland raised the issue of hospitals demanding sight of the Green Form. It was agreed to request clarification on the use of Green Forms in hospitals in the letter to Vaughan Gething AM.

**Item 10: Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.