

## **Cross-Party Group Annual Report**

**27 November 2017**

### **Cross Party Group on Funerals and Bereavement**

#### **1. Group membership and office holders.**

**Chair:** Mark Isherwood AM

Julie Morgan AM  
 Neil Hamilton AM  
 Darren Millar AM  
 Russell George AM  
 Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
 Paul Davies AM  
 Andrew RT Davies AM

**Secretary:** David Beamer, Brevia Consulting

#### **Other external members and the organisation(s) they represent**

Lorraine Barrett - British Humanist Association  
 Martin Birch - Cardiff County Council  
 Janette Bourne – Cruse Cymru  
 Andrew Davies - Dignity  
 Paul Harding – Marie Curie  
 Gordon Hector - Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
 Jeremy Field – National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Carol Humphreys – Care for the Family  
 Jean Letton - BASW-Cymru Committee Member & Independent Social Worker  
 Kim Bird - About the Funeral  
 Philip Blatchly - National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Carys Moseley - Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru  
 David Beamer - Brevia Consulting  
 Nigel Lymn Rose - National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Gordon Swan – Golden Charter  
 James Tovey – SAIF Charter  
 Peter Hutton - Unllais  
 David Teague – ICO  
 Lesley Parry – NEWCIS  
 Aubrey Kirkham – Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors

## **2. Previous Group Meetings since the last AGM.**

### **Meeting 1.**

**Meeting date:** 15 February 2017

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Russell George AM, Jeremy Field (President, NAFD), Mark Binnersley (Membership Marketing and Communications Manager, NAFD), Kim Bird (CEO, About the Funeral), Jean Letton (Committee Member, BASW), David Beamer (Secretary; Managing Director, Brevia Consulting), Will Smith (Secretariat; Senior Account Manager, Brevia Consulting)

**Summary of issues discussed:** Death Certification Reforms, Social Fund, Funeral Poverty, Bereavement Benefits, Coroners Provision in Wales, and Coroners' removals.

### **Meeting 2.**

**Meeting date:** 20 June 2017

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Jeremy Field (Past President, NAFD), Mandie Lavin (Chief Executive, NAFD), Martin Birch (Operational Manager Bereavement & Registration Services for the City and County of Cardiff, Cardiff Council), James Tovey (SAIF Charter), Gordon Swan (Director of Communications, Golden Charter), Simon Wilkinson (Policy Officer, WLGA), David Beamer (Secretary; Managing Director, Brevia Consulting), Philip Blatchly (Past President, NAFD)

**Summary of issues discussed:** Local Authority funeral and cremation charges, child funeral costs, training of local authority staff, Death Certification Reforms, Social Fund, Funeral Affordability, Bereavement Benefits, Coroners Provision in Wales, and Coroners' removals.

### **Meeting 3.**

**Meeting date:** 18 October 2017

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Russell George AM, Nigel Lymn Rose (Past President, NAFD), James Tovey (SAIF Charter), Gordon Swan (Director of Communications, Golden Charter), Janette Bourne (Director, Cruse Cymru), Jean Letton (Committee Member, BASW), Philip Blatchly (Past President, NAFD), David Beamer (Secretary; Managing Director, Brevia Consulting)

**Summary of issues discussed:** AGM (Election of Officers), Bereavement Support Payments, Death Certification Reforms, Social Fund, Funeral Affordability, Bereavement Benefits, Coroners Provision in Wales, and Coroners' removals.

**3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year.**

<p><b>Brevia Consulting</b> 5 Salamanca Place London SE1 7HP</p>	<p><b>Cruse Cymru</b> Ty Energlyn Cwrt Llanfabon Caerphilly CF83 2TP</p>
<p><b>BASW</b> 1 Caspian Point Pierhead Street Cardiff Bay CF10 4DQ</p>	<p><b>National Association of Funeral Directors</b> 618 Warwick Rd Solihull B91 1AA</p>
<p><b>About the Funeral</b> 5<sup>th</sup> Floor One Central Square Cardiff CF10 1FS</p>	<p><b>Cardiff Council</b> County Hall Atlantic Wharf Cardiff CF10 4UW</p>
<p><b>Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)</b> Local Government House Drake Walk Cardiff CF10 4LG</p>	<p><b>Golden Charter</b> Canniesburn Gate 10 Canniesburn Drive Bearsden Glasgow G61 1BF</p>
<p><b>SAIF Charter</b> 3 Bullfields Sawbirdgeworth Herts CM21 9DB</p>	

**Annual Financial Statement.****27 November 2017****Cross Party Group on Funerals and Bereavement****Chair:** Mark Isherwood AM**Secretary:** David Beamer, Brevia Consulting

<b>Group's Expenses.</b>	None.	£0.00
<b>Costs of all goods.</b>	No goods purchased.	£0.00
<b>Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies.</b>	No benefits received.	£0.00
<b>Any secretariat or other support.</b>	David Beamer (a Director of Brevia Consulting; <a href="http://www.brevia.co.uk">www.brevia.co.uk</a> ) provided secretariat support on behalf of the National Association of Funeral Directors - cost to the organisation of £500 plus VAT per month.	£6000 per annum
<b>Services provided to the Group such as hospitality.</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Description and name of provider</b>	<b>Cost</b>
21/9/16	A dinner was held in the Welsh Assembly where AM and non-AM members of the Group were invited; paid for by the National Association of Funeral Directors	£167.65
15/2/17	Sandwiches and light refreshments were provided to attendees of the Group meeting; paid for by the National Association of Funeral Directors	£112.50

20/6/17	A dinner was held in the Welsh Assembly where AM and non-AM members of the Group were invited; paid for by the National Association of Funeral Directors	£123.23
18/10/17	A dinner was held in the Welsh Assembly where AM and non-AM members of the Group were invited; paid for by Golden Charter Ltd	£232.05
<b>Total cost</b>		<b>£635.43</b>