

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

**6 December 2019**

### **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 ([www.brevia.co.uk](http://www.brevia.co.uk))

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

Lorraine Barrett – Wales Humanists  
 Martin Birch - Cardiff County Council  
 Janette Bourne – Cruse Cymru  
 Jeremy Field – National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Gwyneth Sweatman – Marie Curie  
 Morgan Harris – National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Gordon Hector - Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
 Jon Levett - National Association of Funeral Directors  
 Kate Edwards - 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  
 Terry Tennens - SAIF  
 James Tovey – SAIF Charter  
 Peter Hutton - Unllais  
 David Teague – ICO  
 Lesley Parry – NEWCIS  
 Aubrey Kirkham – Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors  
 Wendy Hobbs - Ambassador of Dreams and Wishes Charity  
 Gemma O’Driscoll – Funeral Director  
 Angela Huang – Maggies Centre  
 Sarah Hughes – Maggies Centre  
 Amir Alsisi – White Rose Funerals & Memorials  
 Ahmed Alsisi - Muslim Community Leader; White Rose Funerals & Memorials  
 Emma Kneebone - 2 Wish Upon A Star

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

### **Meeting 1.**

**Meeting date:** 13 March 2019

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Russell George AM, Janette Bourne (Cruse), Philip Blatchly (NAFD), Kate Edwards (NAFD), Gordon Swan (Golden Charter), Morgan Harris (NAFD), James Tovey (SAIF Charter), Amir Alsisi (White Rose/Acceptance) and David Beamer (Secretary; Brevia Consulting).

**Summary of issues discussed:** Death Certification Reforms, Social Fund / Funeral Affordability, Support, CMA Funerals Market Study, HM Treasury Pre-Paid Funeral Plans consultation, and Pacemaker re-use.

### **Meeting 2.**

**Meeting date:** 10 July 2019

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Darren Millar AM, Russell George AM, Janette Bourne (Cruse Bereavement Care), David Emery (Chaplain Assembly), Kim Bird (About the Funeral), Patrick McGlinchey (Golden Charter), Jean Letton (BASW), Gwyneth Sweatman (Marie Curie), Morgan Harris (NAFD), James Tovey (SAIF Charter), Ahmed Alsisi (White Rose Funerals and Memorials / Acceptance), Emma Kneebone (2 Wish Upon A Star) and David Beamer (Secretary; Brevia Consulting).

**Summary of issues discussed:** Children Funerals – financial support, Bereavement Services Review, Funding for Bereavement Services, Social Fund / Funeral Affordability, CMA Funerals Market Study, and HM Treasury Pre-Paid Funeral Plans consultation.

### **Meeting 3.**

**Meeting date:** 13 November 2019

**Attendees:** Mark Isherwood AM (Chair), Russell George AM, Morgan Harris (NAFD), Jon Levett (NAFD), Janette Bourne (Cruse Bereavement Care), Gwyneth Sweatman (Marie Curie), James Tovey (SAIF Charter), Terry Tennens (SAIF), Gordon Swan (Golden Charter), Philip Blatchly (NAFD), Emma Kneebone (2 Wish Upon A Star), Amir Alsisi (White Rose Funerals and Memorials / Acceptance), and David Beamer (Secretary; Brevia Consulting).

**Summary of issues discussed:** Election of Officers, Bereavement Support relating to baby loss and miscarriage, Bereavement Services Review, Funeral Service Consumer Standards Review (FSCSR) update, Social Fund / Funeral Affordability, and MRI Scanners.

**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>About the Funeral</b> 5<sup>th</sup> Floor One Central Square Cardiff CF10 1FS</p>	<p><b>National Association of Funeral Directors</b> 618 Warwick Rd Solihull B91 1AA</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>
<p><b>SAIF</b> 3 Bullfields Sawbirdgeworth Herts CM21 9DB</p>	<p><b>Marie Curie</b> 89 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TP</p>
<p><b>BASW Cymru</b> Wellesley House 37 Waterloo Street Birmingham B2 5PP</p>	<p><b>2 Wish Upon A Star</b> Ground Floor Unit 7 Magden Park Llantrisant CF72 8XT</p>
<p><b>White Rose Funerals &amp; Memorials</b> 27-29 Splott Road Cardiff CF24 2BU</p>	

**Annual Financial Statement.****6 December 2019****Cross Party Group on Funerals and Bereavement****Chair:** Mark Isherwood AM**Secretary:** David Beamer, Brevia Consulting ([www.brevia.co.uk](http://www.brevia.co.uk))

<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>
13/3/19	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	£148.90
10/7/19	A dinner was held in the Welsh Assembly where AM and non-AM members of the Group were invited; paid for by Golden Charter	£169.03
13/11/19	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	£293.65
<b>Total cost</b>		<b>£611.58</b>