

## **REPORT OF THE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report provides members with an overview of the recently agreed MOU (memorandum of understanding), regarding the approach to adopt a fair and consistent approach across Wales, to the fees charged by local Government for the burial and cremation fees of children up to the age of 18 years.

### **Background to the Report**

As you may be aware, the Welsh Government recently agreed by virtue of Memorandum of understanding, between Welsh Ministers, the Welsh Local Government Association (the WLGA) and One Voice Wales, to adopt a fair and consistent approach across Wales to the fees charged by local Government for the burial and cremation fees of children.

This MOU (memorandum of understanding) has been prepared in partnership between the Welsh Government, which oversees the strategic policy and funding framework in respect of local government in Wales.

The purpose of the MOU is that Burial/Cremation Authorities in Wales will not charge any fees in relation to the standard burial or cremation of a child, defined for these purposes as a person under the age of 18. This commitment applies to standard fees that authorities charge relating to:

- The cremation of a person under the age of 18 years (including stillborn and foetal remains).
- The interment of a person under the age of 18 years (including stillborn and foetal remains).
- The Exclusive Right of Burial where required.
- Any other fee directly relating to the burial or cremation of a person, under the age of 18 years (for example, the fees and charged for the permission to erect a memorial).

The commitment does not relate to wider funeral costs, such as the cost of a memorial, funeral director fees, flowers or coffins.

In recognition of the financial implications of waiving the fees as described above, the Welsh Government will, while this MOU remains in force, annually make available the sum of £600,000 for allocation among principal Councils in Wales, who have signed up to the commitment. Principal Councils will distribute appropriate sums to other burial authorities and other providers of the relevant services in this area which have agreed to adopt the commitment.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to review in advance of the financial year 2020/21.

Currently this Authority does not charge for children up to the age of 16 years. However, the requirement with regard to this Memorandum of Understanding is to extend the defined age of a child from 16 years to 18 years and make no charges.

Due to the urgency of the implementation date of this Agreement and the Joint Committee not convening until the 20<sup>th</sup> March, the Chairman of the Joint Committee, Councillor David Isaac, following consultation, kindly agreed that this Committee would implement this MOU should the need arise before the Committee meets and makes a formal approval.

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council also adopted this Memorandum of Understanding, which was implemented on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- That the Joint Committee formally adopts the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, with regard to a fair and consistent approach across Wales, to the fees charged by local government for the burial and cremation of children up to the age of 18 years.
- That this be retrospectively implemented from the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

2. **STATISTICS**

To consider the Crematorium statistics.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Crematorium statistics as detailed be noted.

## Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee

## Report of the Bereavement Services Manager.

## 1 Statistics and Performance

<b>Cremations</b>	
1970-2015	50038
2016	1258
2017	1480
Jan 2018	171
Feb 2018	158
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>53105</b>
<b>Year to 31 March 2018</b>	
Adults	1354
Children	4
Stillbirths	7
NVF's	271
Body organs	1
Scattered	32
Interred	134
Released	1199
<b>Applications for memorials</b>	
Book of Remembrance	117
Memorial Cards	5
Plaques on Plots	183
Plaques in Garden	4
Rose Bushes	13

## RECOMMENDATION:

To note the report

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