



WORKPLAN for 2019

Aims:

- To work towards a Scotland where everyone can have access to a meaningful funeral.

Objectives:

- Bring together all key stakeholders associated with funerals in an open and honest forum to enable discussion and sharing of information.
- Explore and discuss funerals and the issue of affordability.
- Promoting and sharing best practice.
- Explore and discuss existing and new research relating to funerals and affordability.
- To inform public policy, legislation and regulation on issues relating to 'funeral poverty' and other areas associated with the issue, either as a group where in complete agreement or as informed individual members.
- Discuss funerals within the context of wider issues relating to dying, death and bereavement.

Specific items for attention in 2019

- 1. Commitment in Funeral Costs Plan:** "We commit to raising awareness of funeral poverty through our networks, websites and publications. This includes highlighting the support available and encouraging people to plan ahead for their funeral."
- 2. Maintain the SWGFP Website:** The website affords an easy access point for information about the group and about funeral poverty.
- 3. Continue Joint working:**
 - a. The group, by definition, acts as a focus for joint working between member organisations
 - b. The group is committed to work jointly with Scottish Government to mitigate the problems of funeral poverty and the regulation of the funeral market.
- 4. Funeral Expense Assistance:** The group has declared a stance on the need to revise the cap on the "other expenses" component in the DWP Funeral Payment and in the Scottish FSP.
- 5. Other issues raised for 2019 include:**
 - a. Promote quality and consistency in Local Authority Funerals
 - b. Promote better governance and transparency in the drafting and selling of funeral plans
 - c. Costs of children's funerals, particularly the variation between what local authorities offer to parents experiencing pregnancy loss or stillbirth
 - d. Support the development of Funeral Costs Guidance
 - e. Support the development of a Scottish Funeral Bond
 - f. Engage with the Competition and Markets Authority, where relevant
 - g. Engage with and keep up to date with research around funerals