

APSE Cemeteries and Crematoria Seminar 2025

Breathing new life into bereavement services



Thursday 20 November 2025

Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield,
S1 2PP

Programme

10:00 Registration and Exhibition Viewing

10:30 Session one - Green spaces and memorials

Welcome by the Chair

Opening Address

Ajman Ali, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, Sheffield City Council

Delivering bereavement services that meet the needs of the community

- Sheffield City Council Bereavement Service
- Meeting the pressures for burial space
- Developing a Cremation, Burial and Cemetery Green Spaces Strategy

Ellie Fraser, Head of Bereavement and Coronial Services, Sheffield City Council

What does Local Government Reorganisation mean for Bereavement Services

- Considerations and priorities prior to reorganisation
- Workforce, budgetary and governance implications
- The opportunities of a Unitary authority to deliver a compassionate and sustainable service.

Sam Diamond, Head of Bereavement Services and Trading Standards, North Northamptonshire Council.

Audience question and answer session

11:15 Refreshments and Exhibition viewing

11:45 Session two - Past, present and future

Taking at-risk heritage assets out of the past and into the 21st Century and beyond!

- The architectural and historic importance of St John's and Westgate Hill cemeteries.
- Creating a haven for the community and wildlife
- Ensuring long-term survival

Kari Vickers, Deputy Manager, Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust and Rebecca Taylor, Historic Environmental Officer, Newcastle City Council

Planning cemeteries: Their potential contribution to green infrastructure and ecosystem services

- Cemeteries as greenspace?
- A case study of Bristol
- Conclusions and future research

Danielle Sinnett, Professor in Sustainable Built Environments, UWE, Bristol

Taking a more commercial approach to ensure a sustainable future

- Developing new plans and policies
- Creating a new website and social media presence
- Achievements and ambitions for the future

Joanne Halliday, Service Director Commercial Delivery, Newcastle-Under-Lyne Borough Council

Audience question and answer session

12:45 Lunch and Exhibition Viewing

13:45 Session Three – A problem shared is a problem halved

This interactive session provides delegates with the opportunity to:-

- Discuss the challenges facing bereavement services.
- Share solutions and best practice.
- Showcase innovations.

Facilitated by Andy Bond, Service Manager, Parks, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services, Wigan Council

14:45 Refreshments and exhibition viewing

15:15 Session Four - A digital future

AI Powered Safe Memorials

- Making risk assessments more consistent, reducing administrative burden, and improving record-keeping
- Image recognition and automated workflows that highlight flag hazards, track inspections, and prioritise
- Ensuring compliance and public safety

Matt Culpin, Chief Product Officer, Part of the Clear Skies - IEG Group

Our digital ancestry project

- Digitally mapping churchyards
- Creating an online resource
- The exciting educational opportunities going forward

Dr Rachel Askew, Caring for Gods Earth

Audience question and answer session

Summary and closing remarks

16:15 Seminar close

Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

As local authority bereavement services face unprecedented pressure to achieve more with less, authorities are being forced to consider alternative ways of delivering this vital and sensitive service.

This seminar explores the delivery of local authority cemetery and crematoria services and examines examples of innovation in service delivery, the legal environment and the challenges ahead, with expert speakers from local authorities and the wider sector sharing their knowledge and experience.

Who should attend?

- Service Directors
- Managers and officers (bereavement services, funeral services, cemeteries and crematoria, Grounds maintenance, greenspace, climate change and environmental services)
- Performance Management officers
- Health and Safety Managers
- Sustainability and environmental officers
- Trade Union representatives
- Contractors and suppliers
- Voluntary organisation

Venue

Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 2PP

Getting to the venue

By road

From the M1 leave at junction 33 and take the A57 to Sheffield.

Follow signs for the city centre and the theatres.

Parking

There is plenty of car parking near to the Millennium Gallery. The closest is the Britannia car park opposite the Crucible Theatre.

By bike

There is bike parking available in front of the Ambulo café on Arundel Gate. Please be aware that bikes are not permitted in the gallery.

By rail

We are a 5-10 minute walk from the railway station. Leave the station, cross the road and walk straight up Howard Street, by Sheffield Hallam University. You will be able to see the Millennium Gallery at the top of the hill.

By coach

There is a coach drop off point close to the entrance on Arundel Gate at the rear of the Central Library and Graves Gallery.

By bus and tram

The Millennium Gallery is easily reached from any city centre bus and tram stop.

Booking Information

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments.

APSE member delegate fee: **£195 + VAT**

Non member delegates fee: **£290 + VAT**

Commercial delegates: **£420 + VAT**

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to **mbutterworth@apse.org.uk**. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.

