

For Publication

Bereavement Services Manager's Report

Meeting: Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium
Committee

Date: 24th May 2021

Report by: Bereavement Services Manager

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1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To keep Members informed of matters relating to the Operation of the Crematorium.

2.0 Cremation Figures

2.1 This part of the report details the cremation totals, comparisons and which area funerals are being received from for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

	CBC	WEST	NEDDC	BDC	AV	OUTSIDE
APR-MAR 19/20	940	132	607	297	6	153
APR-MAR						

20/21	1120	148	712	337	20	206
+/- PREVIOUS YEAR	+17%	+11%	+15%	+12%	+70%	+26%

		CJCC Cremations	Derbyshire Registered Deaths	England and Wales Registered Deaths
APR - MAR 19/20	-	2126	8444	536,060
APR - MAR 20/21		2544	9825	637,833
+/-		+17%	+15%	+16%

In summary, the number of cremations received from all areas, have increased due to the pandemic. Noticeably Amber Valley, which is surprising following the opening of the Crematorium at Swanwick, and also cremations received from outside of the area - the reasons for which have been previously reported and are due to Funeral Directors from outside the area approving of our response during the first wave of the Pandemic.

3.0 **Extension of Seasonal Gardener Contract**

The Crematorium employs one Seasonal Gardener whose hours were extended over the Winter Period 2020/21 to build resilience against the demands of the Pandemic.

The person who occupies that seasonal role has skills which include mechanical excavation, grounds maintenance, basic clerical, Music System Operation, and front of house chapel

duties and has been invaluable to the service by providing support to various aspects of the service.

The Manager will be reviewing the service design later in 2021 to ensure that it is suitable and resilient for the future, taking into account the experiences and lessons learnt. Any report and recommendations will follow in due course when the time is right to reflect.

Working with the Lead Authority's HR Business Partner, work has also commenced on the future of the service and its employee's, particularly their future development and succession planning.

It is recommended that the Seasonal Gardener's Hours are extended again over this Winter 2021/22. The main reason for the extension is to carry out training and development to become a Cremator Technician whilst also building the resilience of the service for the next Winter and any unknowns including the response to any third wave or the impact of Covid-19 variants. It is unlikely that the Crematorium will be able to call on the Lead Authority for Seconded Staff as most services are now fully operational.

The cost of this would be approximately £12,000.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the report be noted and approval given to extend the Seasonal Gardener Position over Winter 2021/22.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To update Members on the day to day operation of the Crematorium.

8.2 To develop the Crematorium Staff and provide further resilience over the Winter 21/22.

Ross Fawbert
Bereavement Services Manager