

For Publication

Recycling of Metals Following Cremation – Donation to Charities

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| Meeting: | Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee |
| Date: | 20 November 2023 |
| For publication | |

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the surplus derived from the recovery of metals following cremation and recommend a proposal for its distribution to a local charity over the next 12 months.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approve the nominations of the following Charities to receive an equal share of the surplus.

| Charity | Bereavement Support | Benefitting Local Constituents |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| SANDS | Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity | Yes – Local Office |
| McMillan Cancer Support | Element of Charity is supporting the Bereaved | MacMillan Unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital |
| Ashgate Hospice | Element of Charity is supporting the Bereaved | Yes - Local Charity |
| Samaritans | Element of Charity is supporting the Bereaved | Yes – local base in Chesterfield |
| Cruse Bereavement Care | Element of Charity is supporting the Bereaved | Yes – local base in Chesterfield |
| Alzheimer's Society | Element of Charity is supporting the Bereaved | Regional Engagement Team – Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire |

- 2.2 That the following Charities who have applied over the past 12 months are not nominated at this time.

| Charity | Bereavement Support | Benefitting Local Constituents |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|

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|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACT Addenbrooks Hospital Charitable Trust, Cambridge | Not Demonstrated | Not Demonstrated |
| Teenage Cancer Trust | Not Demonstrated | Not Demonstrated |
| St Johns Ambulance | Not Demonstrated | Yes – local base in Chesterfield. |

3.0 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 The nominated Charities all demonstrate bereavement support.
- 3.2 The nominated Charities demonstrate support to constituents of Bolsover, North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield areas.
- 3.3 An equally split donation to support as many eligible Charities as possible. The number of Charities contacting the Manager for consideration has grown each year, particularly since the Covid Pandemic. Inflationary pressures, rising operating costs and falling income has seen over half of Charities worrying about their ability to survive in 2023, up from 35% in 2022 (source; Charities Aid Foundation).

4.0 Report Details

- 4.1 A decision was taken by the Joint Committee back in March 2007 to participate in a national scheme for the recovery of metals following cremation (Min. No. 03/07 of 28 March 2007 refers).
- 4.2 Following that decision, recovered metals were retained at the Crematorium for collection by a waste metal recycling company, Orthometals Limited, on behalf of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), the scheme administrators.

Metals are only recovered and recycled with the consent of the application for cremation (usually next of kin and/or Executor).

The terms of that scheme require that any surpluses generated from this process shall be donated to national or local bereavement-related charities nominated by the contributing crematoria.

- 4.3 At the September 2023 meeting, Member's agreed to leave the ICCM Scheme in favour of another similar one, administered by RS Bruce Precious Metal Recycling in Sheffield, endorsed by the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities.

Whilst there is now greater flexibility on how the surplus donations are distributed, the Manager has retained the principle of nominating charities that can demonstrate bereavement support to constituents.

- 4.4 Locally, nominations have previously been approved by the Committee for donations made to CRUSE Bereavement Counsellors, SANDS (Stillbirth and Neo-Natal Charity), Weston Park Cancer Charity, Ashgate Hospice Care, Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, MacMillan Cancer Support, Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team, Alzheimer's Research UK, Nenna Kind Cancer Charity, The Air Ambulance, Sunshine and Shade, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide and Young Lives -v- Cancer.

Historically, the nominated Charities have usually received a share of surplus in the region of £12,000-£20,000 per annum.

It is expected that the recommended Charities will receive an equal share of around £18-20k this year.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 Members could decide to support all the Charities that have applied, and each would then receive a smaller share of the surplus. However, this would move away from the previous principle of only supporting local bereavement related charities.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 9.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been discussed with the climate change team. Since only the beneficiaries are being changed and not the process or amount of metals being recycled, this would have a minimal climate impact.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 11.1 The recommendations in this report positively support charities that assist people with complex mental and physical issues.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

11.1 None.

Document information

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| Report author | |
| Bereavement Services Manager | |
| Background documents These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared. | |
| None | |
| Appendices to the report | |
| None | |