

Bereavement Services Career progression framework March 2025



Job Title	Range	Duties	Level A (Developing)	Level B (Practising)	Level C (Accomplished)
Bereavement Service Officer (Cemeteries) Post No: 8821	See Job Profile for full duties. Main duties include: Assisting with the day-to-day operation of Medway Cemeteries including correctly identifying, locating and marking graves, ensuring they are dug to correct dimensions and prepared to meet service standards.	 Activities: Correctly identify, locate and mark graves to ensure they meet the correct standards Ensure that memorials are correctly located and installed with accurate grave references, with experience of liaising with masons and funeral directors with regard to memorial management ensuring legislation is adhered to Clean of cemetery buildings and chapels pre funeral services, with experience of reporting any faults ensuring buildings are locked and secured before leaving site Manage memorial and other safety inspections to ensure that urgent remedial works are undertaken Maintain all burial records, registers and maps with experience in accurately recording activities as necessary to ensure legislation is adhered to Aid visitors, contractors and employees within the cemeteries to ensure a high level of customer service Carry out contract monitoring of Medway Crematorium grounds and Cemeteries as well as grave digging teams to ensure the council are getting value for money from the contractor 			
		Ensure memorials are correctly installed with correct grave references, liaising with masons and undertaking safety inspections.	Requirements at this level: Qualifications Good general level of education with 4 GCSEs	Requirements at this level in addition to level 3A: Qualifications • A horticultural qualification, NVQ Level 2 or	Requirements at this level in addition to level 3A and 3B: Qualifications NAMM Memorial Safety Inspection
			(level 4-9 or equivalent) or equivalent level 2 qualification, including English and Maths	equivalent	
			 Knowledge Good understanding and knowledge of at least one duty * 	 Knowledge Good understanding and knowledge of at least four duties * Good understanding of Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977 & Code of burial practice 	 Knowledge Excellent understanding and knowledge of all duties * Knowledge of identifying diseases of plants and how to treat them appropriately
		Experience • Experience of working within a front-line service or directly with the public	Experience At least two years experience within the bereavement industry	 Experience At least 5 years experience within the bereavement industry Experience of providing guidance on internal policies and procedures to assist in training new staff members Experience of undertaking safety inspections 	
			Skills Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook Full driving licence valid for use in the UK and access to own transport for work purposes Good written and oral communication skills to present varied information in simple terms to a range of different audiences	Skills Ability to work independently within defined procedures, using initiative to find solutions to straightforward situations	Skills Ability to take an active lead in the hard and soft landscaping improvements of cemetery and crematorium grounds to include tree planting, concrete setting and installing new memorials

			 Ability to be calm when dealing with upset customers and the ability to solve problems quickly, effectively and sympathetically Ability to be empathetic having consideration for the bereaved whilst having a clear and positive understanding of customer care Ability to read maps and co-ordinates to locate, select and mark individual graves Able to manage own workload taking account of priorities Excellent attention to detail 		
Job Title	Range	Duties	Level A (Developing)	Level B (Practising)	Level C (Accomplished)
Bereavement Service Officer (Administration) Post No: 0457	Range 3	See Job Profile for full duties. Main duties include: Assisting with the day-to-day operation and provision of Bereavement Services including cremations, burials and memorials, as well as providing support to the Cremation Technicians & Bereavement Service Officer (Cemeteries).	 Manage and process the crematoriums least renewals and audits are processed without for the Produce new grave deeds, ensuring that challine with current legislation Produce new cemetery memorial permits, e Arrange funerals with good knowledge of Seassociations and any friends or family members. Manage stock management and experience system, ensuring the efficient running of ser Processing and management of invoices to fefficiently Undertake full support to the Cremation Teaprotected during times of annual leave / sick Requirements at this level: Qualifications Good general level of education with 4 GCSEs (level 4-9 or equivalent) or equivalent level 2 qualification, including English and Maths Knowledge Good understanding and knowledge of at least one duty * Basic knowledge of Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977, Section 46 of the Public Health Act 1984 and Cremation Regulations 2008 	Insuring that stone masons are on the Councils approaction 46 of the Public Health Act 1984, conducting propers in a timely manner in raising purchase orders and paying invoices in a timely invoices uneral directors to ensure payment is received in a timelation to level and a times. Requirements at this level in addition to level and a times. Requirements at this level in addition to level and a times. Requirements at this level in addition to level and a times. Requirements at this level in addition to level and a times. Good understanding and knowledge of at least four duties * Good knowledge and understandings of Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977, Section 46 of the Public Health Act 1984 and Cremation Regulations 2008	risuring that ordering new plaques/ entries, letters, prised personnel apply for graves to be re-opened in eved list and can work within Medway Cemeteries roperty searches, liaising with banks, housing mely manner using the Councils in-house financial simely manner and any queries to be investigated discremator management to ensure funerals are Requirements at this level in addition to level 3A and 3B: Qualifications
			Experience Experience of working within a front-line service and working directing with the public	2 years experience of working within the bereavement industry	Experience5 years experience of working within the bereavement industry

			 Skills Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook Full driving licence valid for use in the UK and access to own transport for work purposes Good written and oral communication skills to present varied information in an understandable way to a range of audiences Ability to be calm when speaking with upset customers with the ability to solve problems quickly, effectively and sympathetically Ability to be empathic having consideration for the bereaved whilst having a clear and positive understanding of customer care Ability to handle and process cash/documentation relating to considerable financial amounts accurately 	Skills Ability to work independently within defined procedures, using initiative to find solutions to straightforward situations Ability to read maps	 Extensive experience of covering Chapel duties Experience of providing guidance on internal policies and procedures to assist in training new staff members Skills Ability to undertake witness strews, which will include preparing the remains, liaising with the families and leading the process in the grounds
Job Title	Range	Duties	Level A (Developing)	Level B (Practising)	Level C (Accomplished)
Cremation Technician Post No: 0459	Range 3	See Job Profile for full duties. Main duties include: Assisting the Crematorium Manager to ensure that the Crematory is professionally, efficiently and cost-effectively operated ensuring each cremation is conducted in accordance to legislation. The post holder will be responsible for the day-to-day running of funeral services, acting as the Chapel Attendant ensuring the chapel is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the mourners wishes, maintained to the highest standards, to play the pre-selected music	 relevant legislation are complied with as we Monitoring emissions, cremator performance Acting as a chapel attendant, ensuring that the ancillary buildings are cleaned daily and mai Building excellent relations and provision of order to preserve a suitable atmosphere at a maintaining all records and registers, accurate the Ensuring that the premises, fixtures, fittings, 	Il adhering to the Cremation Code of Practice se and stock, in an energy efficient and cost-effective she chapel is prepared for each individual service, the ntained to ensure the highest standards of customer the highest levels of customer care with Funeral Directly times stell times stelly recording activities as necessary to ensure legislation plant and machinery are all properly used, cleaned, a to the strewing of ashes, including those in front of	e days services run on time and that the main chapel and service ectors, Clergy and Officiants, members of the public in ation and Code of Practice is always adhered to

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			 Skills Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook Full driving licence valid for use in the UK and access to own transport for work purposes Good written and oral communication skills to present varied information in an understandable way to a range of audiences Ability to be calm when speaking with upset customers with the ability to solve problems quickly, effectively and sympathetically Ability to be empathic having consideration for the bereaved whilst having a clear and positive understanding of customer care 	 Skills Ability to work within defined procedures and to work independently, using initiative to deal with straightforward situations, only referring to supervisor for unusual or difficult problems Ability to use own judgement and creativity to assess situations, solve straightforward problems and adapts to new ways of working Ability to make decisions as to contacting contractors and other engineers to carry out running repairs and replacements in line managers absence Ability to work as a lone worker, ensuring that the Crematorium Grounds are clear of the public before locking down the site and securing all buildings 	Skills Experience of providing guidance on internal policies and procedures to assist in training new staff members Skills The providing guidance on internal policies and procedures to assist in training new staff members Skills The providing guidance on internal policies and procedures to assist in training new staff members
			Experience • Experience of working within a front-line service and working directly with the public	 Experience A minimum of 2 years experience in Bereavement Industry Experience of having undertaken 100+ cremations without supervision Experience of holding the CTTS certificate for a minimum of 1 year performing without issue Experience of completing the safe exchange of thermal couples 	Experience ■ Experience of holding the CTTS certificate for a minimum of 5 years' experience, performing without issue
		tributes whilst ensuring the smooth running of the services.	 Knowledge and ability to deal with customers face to face Knowledge and ability to run funerals as a Chapel Attendant 	 Good knowledge of thermal couples and when they need to be changed Good understanding of: Cremation Regulations 2008, The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Health and Safety at work Regulations 1992 Knowledge of lone working and health & safety regulations 	

Cemetery Manager Post No: 14940	Range 5	See Job Profile for full duties. Main duties include:	Requirements at this level:	Requirements at this level in addition to level 5A:	Requirements at this level in addition to level 5A and 5B:
		To manage the day-to-day operation of Medway's Cemeteries. To produce an efficient, effective and safe service for users across Medway's Cemeteries within agreed policies, programmes and resources	Qualifications • Good general level of education with 4 GCSEs (level 4-9 or equivalent) or equivalent level 2 qualification, including English and Maths	 Qualifications Working towards certification in appropriate Bereavement industry courses at NVQ level 3 E.g. funeral management or ICCM Cemetery Operative Training Scheme 	 Qualifications Completion of NVQ 3 Bereavement industry courses Working towards and completed at least one unit in appropriate Level 5 Bereavement industry courses in relation to Cemetery management e.g. Core units from the ICCM diploma (Cemetery Management, Cemetery & Cremation Law, Managing Operations & Teams)
		To assist in the management of the Bereavement Service Team, taking responsibility for the smooth running, customer care and safety of all bereavement sites across Medway Line management of Bereavement Service Officers ensuring the teams are performing to service standards, with individuals' performance and development is monitored Maintaining and	 Knowledge Excellent working knowledge of legislation and statutory guidance relevant to the service Good knowledge and understanding of legislation surrounding burials; including: Local Authority Cemetery Order 1977 Public Health Act 1984 Good knowledge of asset management and the requirement for service level agreements with internal departments to meet health and safety statutory duties 	 Knowledge Excellent knowledge and understanding of legislation surrounding burials; including: Environmental Protection Act 1990 Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 Detailed knowledge of the service and the wider organisational context and how this interfaces with Members Good knowledge of and experience of building and developing productive teams, setting clear objectives and identifying better ways of working whilst managing change effectively Good knowledge of the service standards required 	 Excellent customer focussed knowledge of delivering a high-quality service in a diverse range of settings and cultural environments Excellent knowledge and understanding of legislation surrounding burials; including Ecclesiastical Law Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 1992
		developing service standards to ensure high levels of customer service is achieved Ensuring all legal	 Experience Experience of managing a front-line service Good IT skills with experience of managing and developing in house and back-office operating systems 	Experience • At least 2 years experience of managing within the Bereavement industry	 Experience At least 2 years experience excelling at Level 5B Demonstrable experience of developing and maintaining service standards
		processes are achieved to carry out the day-to-day funeral arrangements for Cemeteries Working closely with contractors to ensure that service standards are met in relation to grounds maintenance and grave digging operations	 Skills Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook Full driving licence valid for use in the UK and access to own transport for work purposes Excellent interpersonal and people management skills Sound and effective communication skills with the ability to present complex and sensitive information in an understandable way Ability to manage and communicate with various stakeholders during times of high emotions Ability to work on own initiative with limited access to manager 	Skills Able to build and develop productive teams, setting clear objectives and identifying better ways of working whilst managing change effectively Ability to take a leading role in ensuring partnerships work Political awareness and sensitivity	 Skills Ability to use analytical skills to interpret complex information and situations Ability to use a range of imaginative solutions and responses involving application of fresh and innovatory thinking Ability to demonstrate the advanced theoretical, practical and procedural knowledge across a specialist area

Job Title	Range	Duties	Level A (Developing)	Level B (Practising)	Level C (Accomplished)
Crematorium Manager Post No: 14939 Range 6	Range 6	See Job Profile for full duties. Main duties include: To provide and maintain an efficient and effective service at Medway Crematorium which meets the requirement of the ICCM (Institute of	Requirements at this level: Qualifications Good general level of education with 3 A Levels (A-D) or equivalent	Requirements at this level in addition to level 6A: Qualifications Working towards and completed at least one unit in an appropriate Bereavement industry course in relation to Crematorium management. E.g. Core units from the ICCM diploma (Crematorium Management,	Requirements at this level in addition to level 6A and 6B: Qualifications Certification Appropriate Bereavement industry courses in relation to Crematorium management. E.g. units from the ICCM diploma (Crematorium Management, Cemetery & Cremation Law, Managing Operations & Teams
	Cemetery & Crematorium Management) & FBCA (Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities). To interpret and implement new areas of legislation and guidance from Central Government and other organisations in relation to the statutory and nonstatutory requirements of the Crematorium services. To focus and manage the performance of the service, training and development of crematorium staff to ensure the customer experience is faultless. The management of the Crematoriums Budget and to ensure all income and expenditure is processed and	 Knowledge In depth knowledge of the range of services offered and delivered at Medway Crematorium Excellent working knowledge of legislation and statutory guidance relevant to the service and understanding of legislation surrounding cremations including Cremation Regulations 2008 Public Health Act 1984 The Cremation, Coroners and Notification of Deaths Regulations 2024 Environmental Protection Act 1990 Process Guidance note 5/2 Funerals Market Investigation Order 2021 Strong knowledge of asset management to meet health and safety statutory duties 	Cemetery & Cremation Law, Managing Operations & Teams) Knowledge Knowledge and understanding of wider council agendas, including the One Medway Council Plan, to align with present and forthcoming Bereavement agendas Excellent knowledge and understanding of legislation surrounding cremations including: i) Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 ii) Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 iii) Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 iv) Coroners and Justice Act 2009 Extensive knowledge of and experience of building and developing productive teams, setting clear objectives and identifying better ways of working whilst managing change effectively Knowledge of Council finance system, integra	 Knowledge Knowledge of and the understanding of the need to be customer focused and able to demonstrate a track record of providing high quality services to customers in a diverse range of settings and cultural environments Excellent knowledge and understanding of legislation surrounding burial and cremations including: The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019 Human Tissue Act 2004 Knowledge of implementing new systems or ways of working to develop the service 	
	reconciled in accordance with legislation, financial regulations and audit requirements. To develop initiatives aimed at promoting Bereavement Services and to identify and	Experience Extensive experience in Crematorium Management Experience of managing and developing in house and back-office operating systems Experience of interpreting and advising on complex matters related to legislation and policy, and ability to interpret and apply complex guidelines	Experience Experience of delivering and managing multiple services in a busy frontline service Experience of financial management, budget monitoring and revenue generation Experience of procurement processes and contract management	 Experience Experience of developing and introducing new methods of delivering services within bereavement, as well as additional services for income generation Experience of ensuring that continuous improvement is maintained within the service area 	

optimise opportunities to increase income. To work collaboratively with Funeral Directors, Hospitals,	Strong experience of leading and managing a team or teams and monitoring performance and completion of internal training and development related to line management		
the Coroner and other services to facilitate knowledge transfer, resilience across services and ensure the customer experience is focused on.	 Skills Ability to focus and manage the performance of the service, training and development of the Crematorium staff Ability to confidently liaise with other bodies such as the ICCM and the FBCA to ensure that the service provided meets all statutory requirements Ability to act as a role model to promote equality and manage diversity in the workplace Sound and effective communication skills with the ability to present complex and sensitive information in an understandable way Ability to manage and communicate with various stakeholders during times of high emotions Ability to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders Able to interpret and apply changes in legislation and guidance 	 Ability to build and develop productive teams, setting clear objectives and identifying better ways of working, managing change effectively Ability to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the service and the wider organisational context and how this interface with Members and possess the skills required to take a lead role in ensuring partnerships work Developed project management skills and experience of delivering projects and working in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders Ability to contribute to budget setting negotiating savings through driving efficiencies Ability to work on own initiative Political awareness and sensitivity 	 Skills Ability to use analytical skills to interpret complex information and situations Undertakes work that requires a range of imaginative solutions and responses and involves application of fresh and innovatory thinking Ability to demonstrate the advanced theoretical, practical and procedural knowledge across a specialist area Ability to actively encourage and support creative and innovative thinking to deliver continual improvements