

28 June 2018

**Mountsett Crematorium Performance
and Operational Report****Report of Graham Harrison, Bereavement Services Manager****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Members of the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee with an update relating to performance and other operational matters.

Performance Update - Number of Cremations

2. The table below provides details of the number of cremations in April and May 2018, with comparative data for the same period last year:

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
April	88	114	+ 26
May	118	129	+ 11
TOTAL	206	243	+ 37

3. There were 243 cremations undertaken during the period 1 April 2018 to 31 May 2018, compared to 206 in the comparable period last year, an increase of 37 year on year.
4. The increase is consistent with Office for National Statistics data which shows there were nearly 20,000 more deaths in England and Wales in the first five months of 2018 compared to the same periods in the previous five years, prompting calls for a Government investigation. Some statisticians believe it can be attributed to the problems being experienced within the NHS and cuts in social care, along with a winter flu outbreak.

The profile of where families came from can be seen below:

Gateshead	77
Durham	145
Outside Area	21
Total	243

Memorials

4. The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period April to May 2018 compared to the same period the previous year.

	(Apr - May) 2017/18		(Apr - May) 2018/19	
	Number	£	Number	£
Large Plaques	3	1,206	2	804
Small Plaques	4	1,044	6	1,566
Total	7	2,250	8	2,370

5. In the first two months of this financial year there were 8 memorials sold, with a value of £2,370, compared to 7 / £2,250 in the same period last year – a year on year increase of 1 / £120. There is now a wider choice of plaques available at the crematorium, which is proving popular with service users.

Staffing

6. Members may recall that the vacant Business Admin Apprentice position was advertised on the National Apprentice website with a closing date of 18 April 2018. Shortlisting was undertaken and six applicants were invited for interview, however 5 failed to attend the interviews. We are therefore arranging to re-advertise this position again.

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2018

7. As in previous years, the necessary arrangements will be made for representation at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition which is to be held at Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common, Nr Thame, Oxfordshire from 1st to 3rd October 2018. It is proposed that the Bereavement Services Manager and the Chair attend this conference as representatives of Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee.

Recycling of Metals Scheme

8. Members may recall that the Crematorium received a cheque relating to the recycling of metals scheme from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management to the sum of £5,000 for Cruse Bereavement Care. Arrangements were made for the Chair to present the cheque to the charity and a photograph of the presentation and letter of thanks is attached at Appendix 2.
9. Additional funds from collections in 2017 have resulted in an extra round of nominations being made available and we have just received another cheque to the sum of £5,000 for Marie Curie. Arrangements are to be made for the cheque to be presented to the charity by the Committee Chair, Vice Chair and the Bereavement Services Manager.

Replacement of Cremators and Installation of Mercury Abatement Plant

10. Members will recall that an update was given at the last meeting regarding the installation of the 2 new cremators with Mercury Abatement equipment to replace the existing cremators.

11. The position remains unchanged and we are still working with A.T.I. to try and resolve ongoing issues.

Recommendations and Reasons

12. It is recommended that Members of the Mountsett Joint Committee:

- Note the current performance of the crematorium.
- Note the re-advertising of the Business Admin Apprentice post.
- Note the attendance of the Bereavement Services Manager and Chair to the Learning Convention and Exhibition.
- Note the distribution of recycling income received to the respective charity.
- Note the progress with regards to the cremator replacement.

Contact: Graham Harrison, 03000 265606

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

As identified in the report.

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Risk

There are no implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications

Accommodation

There are no implications

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications

Human Rights

There are no implications

Consultation

Officers of Gateshead Council were provided with a copy of the report and given opportunity to comment/raise any detailed questions on the content of the report in advance of circulation to members of the Mountsett Crematorium.

Procurement

There are no implications

Disability Issues

There are no implications

Legal Implications

As outlined in the report

Appendix 2: Recycling of metals cheque presentation



On behalf of the Tees Valley & Durham Area Management Committee I thank you for the most generous donation of £5000 from the recycling scheme. This donation could not have come at a better time as Cruse Tees Valley & Durham Area are now starting to feel the effects of the austerity measures that the local authorities are facing and our income is not meeting our needs.

This money will go a long way to help the bereaved people of County Durham this year and will enable our volunteers to travel to the wider areas of the county and hire rooms for the client's convenience.

The Committee would also like to thank Cllr Owen Temple for his support.

regards

Sarah McDermott
Area Coordinator (Finance, Administration & Training) Cruse Bereavement Care Tees Valley & Durham Area