

# Child burial fees will no longer apply in Wales

The Welsh Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with local government to stop charging for the burial of children, ensuring there is a clear, fair and consistent approach across Wales.

To support local authorities in making this step, the Welsh Government is making up to £1.5m available between now and 2020. This funding will also be available to all other providers of cemeteries and crematoria in Wales who agree not to charge on the same basis.

The MOU comes into force with immediate effect and the First Minister is urging councils to ratify the agreement as soon as possible.

The First Minister said:

“We must do all we can to support families who have lost a child. I am pleased we are able to work with local authorities to take away just one of the stresses and strains on the shoulders of grieving parents during a hugely distressing time.

“Today’s commitment will also end the unfairness caused by charging different fees across Wales and I am grateful to the WLGA and One Voice Wales for their support.”

Mr Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive of One Voice Wales said:

“We have worked in collaboration with Welsh Government and WLGA colleagues in implementing this important government policy – when we surveyed the community and town council sector there was overwhelming support to scrap child burial fees.

“It is hard to comprehend how difficult it must be for grieving families to cope with this tragic circumstance. The introduction of this approach will take away any unnecessary stress and help to ease the pain of grieving families.”

Councillor Debbie Wilcox, WLGA Leader said:

“Local government is very pleased to be able to help to support families who are going through the most difficult period in their lives. Losing a child is a harrowing experience and a trauma that will stay with families throughout their lives. We are pleased to be working with Welsh Government to ensure that there is fairness

and consistency in this regard in all areas of Wales.”