

Guidance to Funeral Directors - Funeral Benefit Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to support individuals and families whose incomes are slightly higher than the qualifying income for support via the Government's Social Fund, but for whom the cost of arranging a funeral would be a substantial financial burden.

In these circumstances the Council's Funeral Benefit Policy may offer financial support towards the Council's charges for burial or cremation.

Available Benefits

Support will consist of either a standard burial in a public or private grave at no charge, or a standard cremation at no charge (see note 1).

Support will not include, for example, any additional charges for non standard burial or cremation, including any premium for non standard times of burial or cremation; charges for the purchase of an exclusive right of burial in a private grave; the burial of cremated remains; the purchase of any memorialisation; or charges for the erection of any memorialisation.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for consideration for benefit will be based on meeting ALL of the following criteria:

- The deceased must have been a resident of Preston (within the boundary of the City Council) for at least a year immediately preceding death.
- The applicant must ordinarily be an immediate relative of the deceased (see note 2).
- The applicant has applied and been refused funeral cost support from the UK Government's Social Fund.
- The applicant has applied and been refused a loan to pay for the funeral from Lancashire Community Finance on the grounds that they could not afford to make the repayments.
- There is insufficient value within the deceased's estate to pay for the funeral.
- The applicant has insufficient savings and no other reasonable means of paying for all the funeral costs.

Accessing Funeral Benefits

Persons organising and paying for a funeral involving either a cremation at Preston Crematorium or a burial at Preston Cemetery must complete an application for the funeral benefit and provide supporting evidence meeting all of the eligibility criteria. These application forms will be available on the Cemetery and Crematorium web pages on the Councils website or will be available to collect at the cemetery office. (A copy of the application form can be seen at the end of this guidance note.)

Where necessary, Council Officers will assist applicants in making their application and once this has been completed it can be handed into the Cemetery Office with the appropriate evidence that is required or mailed to the address on the application form.

Although every effort will be made to process these applications in a timely manner, the approval will be made by The Cabinet Member whose portfolio includes the responsibility for the Cemetery and Crematorium.

Notes

Note 1 - A public grave is a grave where there is no exclusive right of burial

Note 2 - An immediate relative means the permanent partner, parents, children or other dependent relative of the deceased. The eligibility criteria may be extended to include others with responsibility for arranging the funeral where there is, for example, no immediate relative.

Nothing in this policy shall negate the Council's responsibilities under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 for the disposal of dead bodies.

Funeral Support Benefit

Application for approval of the Funeral Support Benefit

Please return the completed application to the Preston Cemetery Office or mail to Preston City Council, Environmental Health Department, Town Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2RL.

A.

Full name and address of applicant:

Telephone number:

Email address:

B.

Full name and address of the deceased:

Has the deceased been a resident of Preston for a year or more? Yes/No
(Please circle)

Relationship to the deceased: Partner, Parent, Child or Other
(Please circle)

If other, please detail:

C.

Please answer **all** the following statements and tick the appropriate box:

	Yes	No
1. Have you applied and been refused funeral support from the UK Government Social Fund (evidence will be required)? <i>(Note 1)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have you applied and been refused a loan to pay for the Funeral from Lancashire Community Finance on the grounds that you could not afford to make the repayment, (evidence will be required)? <i>(Note 2)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are there any funds within the deceased's estate to pay for the funeral?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please declare the amount: (Evidence may be required) <i>(Note 3)</i>	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="£"/>	
4. Have you got any form of savings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please declare the amount: (Evidence may be required) <i>(Note 3)</i>	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="£"/>	

I declare that all the information contained within this application form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

Dated:

Notes:

1. A copy of the Social Fund refusal letter will need to be submitted with the application.
2. A copy of the Lancashire Community Finance refusal letter, detailing the reason for refusal will need to be submitted with the application.
3. The Council may request to see a copy of any statements associated with the estate or savings.