



Bereavement & Coronavirus

Local information and guidance to help you if a loved one has died during the COVID-19 pandemic.





Firstly, we would like to offer our sincerest condolences at this difficult time. We know it can be distressing when a loved one has died.

During the COVID-19 outbreak we are, together, facing a loss of life, often under very difficult circumstances.

Any cause of loss is difficult, bereaved people are having to deal with different challenges. They may be isolated from some of their usual support from friends, relatives and normal life. Due to infection control procedures it may not have been possible to be alongside a loved one as they died. We may all feel a wide range of emotions, including shock, disbelief, anger, guilt, fear, relief and sadness. We may feel more than one feeling at the same time. Grief is as unique as you are. People have their own way of expressing feelings and there is no right or wrong way to be feeling. It is ok not to be ok.

Whilst many settings will provide their own bereavement information, this material has been put together to help explain some of the practical issues that have changed under the COVID-19 outbreak, and to share how bereavement and grief may be affected by this pandemic. It offers some practical suggestions regarding the different situations and emotions bereaved people may have to deal with. A list of further information, bereavement support and useful contacts is also included.

Practical Information

Registering a death during the coronavirus outbreak.

This information has been compiled in conjunction with the Somerset County Council Registration Service for anyone who is taking responsibility for registering a death. We hope this is a helpful guide during this distressing time.

Before COVID-19, next of kin needed to register a death with the Registration Service in person. Due to changes in how this service can be provided this now needs to happen over the phone. The process may still be subjected to change as the situation evolves, but the following indicates what can be expected. Further information and any amendments can also be found here:

 <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/births-ceremonies-and-deaths/register-a-death/>

Registration Process

STEP 1

Issue of MCCD

A Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) is completed by the relevant doctor. Completion of this certificate will depend on the availability of a doctor who was responsible for the deceased's care. It will be done as quickly as able but may take longer than normal during the coronavirus outbreak.

STEP 2

MCCD shared with registrar

- The MCCD will be scanned directly from the surgery or hospital etc to the Registration Service.
- Relatives are advised at this point to arrange an appointment to register the death with a registrar over the phone.

STEP 3 and 4
next page

STEP 3

Booking a phone appointment with the registrar

In order to manage appointment space effectively we have temporarily stopped our online appointment booking facility. This may change in time so do check our website for availability for this service. Currently the service is working 9 till 5 Monday to Friday.

- The nominated informant needs to call 01823 282251 to arrange their telephone appointment
- At this point the informant will be asked if they would like to set up a 'code word' to ensure they are confident they will be speaking to official staff
- Once booked, the informant will be sent an e-mail to confirm the date and time of their phone appointment
- This e-mail will contain a checklist of the information that we will require so that the informant can prepare in advance
- This is the information we will need about the person who has died
 - Date and place of death
 - Name, surname and maiden name (if applicable) of the deceased
 - The deceased's date and place of birth
 - Their National insurance number
 - Last occupation of the deceased
 - The usual address of the deceased
 - Their driving licence or driving licence number, if they held one – for Tell Us Once
 - Their passport, if they had one – for Tell Us Once
 - Whether the deceased received any pension or benefits from public funds
 - Name and last occupation of the deceased's spouse (if married or widowed)
 - If the deceased was still married, the date of birth of the surviving spouse.
- The email will ask if this information can be sent to the registration service in advance. This is not essential but can help speed up the process.

STEP 4

Telephone Registration appointment

- The informant will need to have chosen whether it will be a burial or cremation and decided exactly where that will happen before the telephone appointment
- The Registrar will contact the informant and undertakes the registration over the telephone
- A streamlined version of the 'Tell Us Once' service (TuO) will still be offered at the point of registration. This will enable next of kin to electronically notify a range of government agencies and departments of the death. The individual registering the death will be provided with a unique reference number and information to enable them to complete the process online or over the telephone. Before starting this service, we would recommend having all key documents to hand as it can be difficult to save and come back to later
- For administrative purposes we may need to ask informants to limit the number of copies of death certificates to a maximum of 2 at this stage. We have a secure facility to take payment for certificates over the phone
- The certificates and any other paperwork will be posted to the informant.

Our online certificate ordering facility is currently disabled to help us manage the workload. Do check the SCC website to see if this has been reinstated should you need further copies in the future.

Things to consider when planning a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic

Saying goodbye to a loved one is an important part of grief. You may no longer see them physically, but you can remember and celebrate them as you live on with them with you in spirit or mind. The world will feel upside down for a while, but it will not always feel as sad and painful. Your smile will return.

During these times a funeral and all the elements around this can be different to what we might expect and hope it would be. This can affect what you can do as part of the funeral process and sometimes there are alternatives or different ways of doing things.

Before contacting a Funeral Director, it is always worth working through some questions before you talk to them. This can help you consider the type of service you might like to have, how to make it personal and the things you need to understand. At this stressful time, it can be hard to remember things and make decisions. It is always helpful to write things down and take time to make decisions.

If you are unwell or shielding yourself due to poor health, many Funeral Directors have alternative offers of ways to commemorate your loved ones, either through a video of a ceremony or other memorial.

On the next page are some questions to think about and discuss with the Funeral Director. This is not a full list and not all points will be relevant to you.

Before talking to someone about the funeral

- Which sort of coffin would the person have wanted? And what alternative would you be happy with if that is not available e.g. wicker, cardboard?
- Who would like to be able to attend?
- Consider if family members want to give mementos to go with the deceased?
- If allowed, would the family want to be able to view the body in the chapel of rest at the Funeral Directors?

General questions to ask the funeral director

- Can the person be dressed in their own clothing?
- Can they wear jewellery?
- Are they able to have flowers?
- How many mourners are allowed to attend?
- Which crematorium will be used, and can an alternative be chosen?
- How long until the service takes place, and can we choose a date?
- How long until I will get the ashes back and how will they be returned to me?
- How much will it cost and when does this need to be paid?

Specific questions to consider during the Coronavirus

- If I can't be at the funeral can the hearse be driven past my house so I can say goodbye?
- Can I write a eulogy, and can it be read by a celebrant or Funeral Director if I and/or the family cannot attend?
- Could there still be an order of service if no one is attending the funeral?
- Can I still choose music for the funeral if no one will be there?
- Can the funeral be live streamed over the internet if the family are self-isolating?
- Will we see the Funeral Director dressed in Personal Protective Equipment or will they be in their normal funeral attire?

A list of Somerset Funeral Directors and Crematorium can be found in Appendix A at the back of this document.

Preparing for the funeral

It is possible as the pandemic progresses, that funeral or cremation ceremonies will need to be conducted differently. This is to protect the health of mourners and staff and to help contain the spread of the pandemic.

What we do know is that funerals during this time are likely to be different. This could be because people can't attend as they are socially isolating; or because there are government-imposed limits on guest numbers; it could be because you are socially distancing at a funeral so can't hug a family member; it could be that the funeral will be shorter or at an unusual time.

It is still important for us to feel the loss and grief to help us move forward, even if we can't do it in the way we would ideally want to. You will have your own ideas about how to do this but here are some ideas about creating a connection with the funeral of a loved one:

What links can I make using virtual technology?

- Keep funerals as personal as possible. Social media and technology can be used to create a virtual ceremony and maybe even to link with the celebrant or minister. For example: shared music, readings, colours, pictures, objects help it to feel personal
- The service could be live streamed
- For people who are not able to be there or able to access online, get someone to tell you about it or write a description of what it was like – include details so that you can imagine being there (what you would see, hear, etc) or make a recording for later
- Hold a virtual wake. Gather a selection of friends via Zoom, Skype, or WhatsApp. together to share sadness, memories and reflections. Some may even raise a smile. This is ok. Maybe sing a song or say a prayer together – ask for help setting this up if you need it. Perhaps have a glass of something ready to raise a toast to the deceased, have a good old chinwag about the person, reflecting on happy memories. To help break the ice with people who might not be used to talking on video apps, ask everyone to think of something that reminds them of the deceased before the call. It could be a memory of an occasion, something they said, or what you liked about them.

What links can I make and maintain with my loved one?

- Choose the person's favorite flowers and have those as a funeral display. Have a matching display at home or ask the funeral director to bring you the display after the service so you can have them at home or create smaller displays for other members of the family
- If the person who has died wore make up, give the funeral director their make-up bag so you know they are wearing their proper colours
- Read a book, poem, prayer or listen to a song that the person loved
- Ask someone else or the Funeral Director to read a eulogy or reading for you at the service
- Ask if the hearse can drive past home address so people can come out to see them
- Write a letter to your loved one which could be sent to the Funeral Director and placed on or in the coffin.

How can I help family and friends be involved?

- Photographs of people who would have liked to have been at the service could be attached to chairs, so they are visually in the room
- Lighting candles at home at the same time, or all listening to the same song at the same time
- As you are socially distancing at the funeral (or at home if someone is unable to be there) everyone could wear that colour, scarf or brooch to create a bond in a different way
- If you are at home with children due to the school closures and the funeral is for a parent or grandparent, get little ones to paint a picture that makes them think of the person and hang it on the fridge or somewhere for all to see. Not only is it really important to involve children to help them express their emotions and understand grief, but it will also bring a smile to your face.

What can we do once social distancing has passed?

- Create a plan for a larger meaningful thanksgiving event after social distancing restrictions have passed - this is something your funeral director will be able to assist with.

Grieving and Bereavement

Grieving is important to us all, and there is no one way to grieve. It often encompasses a wide range of emotions, including (but in no particular order) anger, despair, sadness, numb, relief, worry, anxiety, frustrated and fear. Here you can find information about how to help manage these emotions, promote your wellbeing and build positive actions into your day.

An important part is the rituals of remembering, yearning and expressing the sadness to a world also isolated from you at present. Grief has been considered as a pendulum rather than a road, it can swing between different emotions on a momentary basis and you may feel more than one emotion at the same time. This is normal. It is still important for us to feel the loss and grief to help us move forward, even if we can't do it in the way we would ideally want to. There are no right or wrong ways to grieve, and no time frame to say when grieving should stop. Life will go on, and we will adapt to our losses. It has been said: Grief is the price we pay for love.

We are all in this together and while we might not be able to be physically in touch right now, it's important to stay connected in other ways. There are fewer distractions from our sadness right now. It is hard to lose a loved one but those who are bereaved during lockdown and in the next months have an unprecedented group of circumstances to deal with.

We will have our own ways to show and process grief, build connections between ourselves and our families and remember those people who have died. Their legacy to us, our families and the world will allow them to live on in our thoughts and lives.

Be prepared for changes to your routine and the way you feel. Grief can change how you feel, your appetite, your sleep, your ability to think and do even simple tasks. Be patient with yourself and ask for help if you need it.

Saying 'Goodbye' in the time of COVID-19: How to soothe the early days when someone dies.

Use sources of support and comfort which you know work for you. If you have a faith, or follow particular beliefs, do what feels meaningful in the best way you can under the circumstances. Contact a spiritual leader for guidance if you need to.

Share your grief, in whatever way feels possible. Mourning on social media is still mourning and sharing grief with others helps us to feel connected to others and to our loss. For example, telephone, social media, and announcements in the newspaper – whatever suits you.

Forgive yourself - guilt may be a common feeling and hard to let go of, even though you know you could not have done more. Suggestions: be kind and understanding to yourself. Accept the best you can do, rather than focus on what you wish you could have done.

Take time to remember your loved one and what they brought to your life. Suggestions: look at photos, videos, important objects. This will be painful but will help you feel the loss and move forward.

Build routines around contacting loved ones, sharing memories or photos. Suggestions: agree a time to light a candle and do this at the same time, even if you can't be together. Choose a picture for people to share on social media when they are thinking of your loved one.

Write letters or talk to the person who has died as if they can hear you. Suggestions: tell them what you wish you could have said. Be honest about the things you miss and the things you may not. This helps them and you stay real.

Do not be surprised if you experience a sense of your loved one near you, or you hear them even when you know they are not there. This can be a common experience when someone close to you dies. Some people find this comforting, others find it scary. Either way it is not a sign there is anything wrong with you. If you feel you are not coping, let someone you trust know.

Children show grief in a different way to adults depending on their age and understanding of what death means. Children often do not understand that death means forever until around 7 years of age. Before this they may still ask to see someone, who has died and throughout childhood may not respond in the way you expect. Children often communicate their emotions through their behaviour. Sometimes they will jump into a puddle of deep emotion, then suddenly be playing happily again. This is normal and does not mean they don't care or feel the loss.

Additional advice for supporting children of different ages

Adapted by Clinical Health Psychology at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust with thanks to the Paediatric Psychology Team, St Georges University Hospital Trust

Supporting children (4-12 years) when a relative has died, or is dying, from COVID-19

WHAT TO EXPECT DEVELOPMENTALLY

As a child 4-7 years:

- I am starting to build an understanding of illness in terms of simple symptoms such as a cough, however, I struggle to differentiate between severity e.g. some coughs are OK and others are more serious
- I may understand that I can catch COVID-19 but may be confused how this happens
- I may believe that wishing and hoping can make things better
- I may not be emotionally developed enough to express my real feelings in words
- I may still see death as temporary and reversible, but this will be beginning to change.

As a child 7-12 years:

- I am starting to see myself as different to others and to understand that others might have a different perspective or different needs, however, I will likely continue to view situations from my perspective
- I have an understanding that illness can have different symptoms, and things can happen in my body without me seeing it
- I understand that visiting the doctors and medicines can help people get better
- I may hold on to my worries for fear of upsetting others. I may also worry I am to blame and feel guilty
- I may not understand the causes of death and am more likely to personify death e.g. ghost or "bogeyman"
- I may be starting to comprehend that death is final, and eventually living things die. I will also begin to realise that death means the cessation of all bodily functions.

As a child, if someone close to me is dying or has died you might see me...

... Show my feelings through play, behaviour regression, or in physical symptoms such as stomach aches

... become more clingy or quiet or experience nightmares

... use my imagination to 'fill in the blanks' and perhaps imagine much worse than reality

... "puddle jump" between appearing distressed and playing normally. This helps prevent me becoming overwhelmed

As a child, I might ask a lot of questions to help make sense of what is happening.

You can help by...

- Be honest e.g. If a child asks if their loved one is going to die, be honest, a sad truth is better than not knowing
- Give simple and honest explanations using short sentences. Be prepared to repeat yourself
- Don't be afraid to use the word "dead". Metaphors can be very confusing
- Encourage talk with children to prevent them "filling in the gaps"
- Encourage families to keep talking about their loved one e.g. sharing stories
- Take time to listen to children and let them ask questions
- Help children understand what death is e.g. "when you die your body stops working. The heart stops beating and the body stops moving, eating and breathing"
- Help children understand that death is permanent and their loved one will not come back.

"will I get it?"
"is my mummy going to die?"

"who is going to look after me?"

I might have a lot of feelings that I don't always understand or have the words to tell you about.

You can help by....

- Encouraging families to maintain familiar daily routines as much as possible
- Avoid false promises but give lots of reassurance such as the child is not to blame and different feelings are OK. That you are there to listen and help and/or someone will always be there to look after them
- Help label and name emotions e.g. "I guess you might be feeling sad because..."
- Encourage emotional expression through drawing or writing a letter to loved one
- Encourage families to find ways to say goodbye e.g. releasing a balloon, drawing a special picture to bury with the person, or creating a memory box together
- Encourage families to keep active to help counteract the build-up of feelings in the body
- Encourage special time with other members of the family to help children feel secure and cared for
- Allow children to grieve and be prepared that they may revisit 'death' periodically as they mature.

"daddy is dying because I didn't wash my hands"

"I don't know where mummy is"

Supporting Teenagers (13+ years) when a relative has died, or is dying, from COVID-19

Adapted by Clinical Health Psychology at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust with thanks to the Paediatric Psychology Team, St Georges University Hospital Trust

WHAT TO EXPECT DEVELOPMENTALLY *

As a young person 13+ years:

- I have a good understanding of time and a well-developed imagination which means I can get caught up worrying about things that haven't happened or might not happen
- I have a good understanding of illnesses and am likely to have a good awareness of the wider impact of COVID-19. This can mean I am more vulnerable than younger children to feelings of distress and sadness
- It is likely I understand the impact of stress and worry on my body
- I may be looking for ways to be more independent from my family and spending my time with friends
- Friends are an increasingly important source of information, support, and a guide for how I think and behave
- I understand that death is final and eventually living things will die
- I am likely to have developed an adult-like understanding of death.

As a teenager, if someone close to me has died, or is dying, you might see me...

... change my behaviours. I could become withdrawn or 'actout' by engaging in 'risk-taking' behaviours

... react differently to others. In general emotional reactions may be more intense in teenagers so be prepared that I will react in my own way

... become increasingly worried about myself, and my family, and what might happen in the future

... try to take on adult-like roles

... prefer to seek support from friends or via social media

... regress in my behaviour if I am feeling overwhelmed

When my loved one has died, or is dying, the ways you can help me are...

- Encourage talking and take time to listen
- There is no right way to talk to a teenager, but the most important thing is to be honest
- Invite questions "Do you have any questions about..." "is there anything else you would like to know about..."
- Use open questions such as "what do you think about...". These types of questions show that you value the young person's viewpoint and create opportunities to explore what the young people knows with space for clarifying misunderstandings
- It is OK to say if you don't know
- Include young people and let them know what is happening. Consider involving young people in the same way you would include an adult but ensure they have the support of a trusted adult
- Encourage young people and their families to maintain familiar daily routines
Encourage families to maintain boundaries

When my loved one has died, or is dying, I might need some extra emotional support. Some ways you can help me are...

- Try to acknowledge worries or concerns and help normalise feelings
- Encourage emotional expression through talking or keeping a diary
- Encourage young people and families to find ways to say goodbye e.g. releasing a balloon, writing a letter to the loved one, or creating a memory box together
- Give reassurance where appropriate but avoid false promises
- Encourage connection to others, help young people identify possible sources of support e.g. a friend, or online communities where they can connect with other bereaved young people such as <http://hopeagain.org.uk>
- Remind young people of natural coping mechanisms such as regular eating and sleeping, talking to friends, exercising, participating in activities they find relaxing (walking, singing, drawing). Maintaining these can help young people regain a sense of control
- Allow young people to grieve and be prepared that they may revisit grief as they mature

What might help

People who have been bereaved say that the following things can help

- **Expressing your feelings and thoughts:**

Finding ways to let your feelings out and having people to listen and accept you

- **Making opportunities to remember:**

This may mean talking about the person, looking at pictures and videos of them, going to places that remind you of them, creating a box with physical memories, writing a journal or blog about them, or continuing doing activities you did together

- **Developing rituals:**

Having a way of marking their life, for example by visiting a special place, by creating a lasting memorial or by simply lighting a candle at the same time each week

- **Participating in activities:**

Do things you previously enjoyed, such as sports, social events and music.

- **Putting your feelings on paper:**

You may not feel ready to talk to anyone but writing down your thoughts and feelings may help you

- **Looking after yourself:**

Eating well, exercise and getting enough sleep

- **Speaking with or reading the words of other people who have been bereaved:**

See details of the range of support organisations at the end of this sheet

- **Developing an emotional first aid kit:**

Collecting together some things that can help when you are feeling sad or mad or bad (a music play list, your favourite chocolate, a ball to kick, pillow to punch etc.).

Further Advice and Support

Somerset Bereavement Support Partnership

Marie Curie Companions Service to provide one to one emotional and bereavement support for all. Additional specialist help will also be available if needed.

Please contact on 0800 3047 412
Monday – Saturday - 09.00 – 17.00

Child Bereavement UK

Support when a baby or child of any age is dying, or a child is facing bereavement.

Tel: 0800 028 8840

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>

Compassionate Friends

Provides support to bereaved families after the death of a child.

Tel: 0345 123 2304

<https://www.tcf.org.uk/>

Cruse

We have taken the decision to offer any new clients support by telephone, access to our national helpline, website, and social media. We have suspended our offer of face to face 1:1 and group support during this period.

National Helpline: 0808 808 1677

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

What might not help

People who have been bereaved say that the following things might not help

- **Avoiding talking about what has happened:**

Although it may be really difficult to start with, talking to someone you can trust can make all the difference

- **Drinking more, taking drugs:**

It can be tempting to try and blot out the pain of what has happened, but the short-term oblivion doesn't take away the sadness and is likely to make you feel worse

- **Hurrying to make big decisions:**

It may be better to let some time pass before making major changes to your life.

- **Taking risks:**

After someone has dies you may feel what is the point? And take risks with your own health, for example driving too fast. Try and talk to someone you trust if you think you are risking your safety or that of someone else

- **Not seeking help:**

You may feel you can't ask for help as you are worried it will make you seem weak, or that you shouldn't bother other people when they may also be grieving or busy elsewhere. But how you are feeling is very important, and there are people who want to help.

Farming Community Network

Supporting farmers and their families.

Tel: 03000 111999

Interfaith Network

Information about different faiths response to the COVID-19 pandemic including funerals <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/covid-19>

Listening Chaplaincy Phonenumber

Representatives of the different faith communities within the Avon and Somerset police area have set up a dedicated phonenumber offering 1-2-1 chaplaincy. This service is open to everyone – of all faiths and none

Tel: 0330 229 1700 from 8am-11pm 7 days a week.

Lullaby Trust
Offers confidential bereavement support to anyone affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or young child

Helpline on 0808 802 6868

support@lullabytrust.org.uk.

Josephine's Star

Support to children and their families when someone special has died

Tel: 0751 021 3262

<http://www.josephinesstar.org.uk/>

Mindline

General emotional support helpline

Tel: 01823 276 892 – open all day, seven days a week

Musgrove Park Hospital- Bereavement Services

We provide the initial practical support and signposting to families who have experienced a bereavement at Musgrove.

Tel: 01823 343753

Rosie Crane

Support for bereaved parents. We have cancelled our monthly drop-in's, supporting bereaved parents, in Taunton and Yeovil until further notice, but we are offering telephone support through our Listening Ear Helpline

Tel: 01460 55120

Saint Margaret's Hospice

We are still offering our Bereavement Service to all family and friends of loved ones cared for by St Margaret's, either in the Hospice or in the community.

During these unprecedented times we are currently not seeing clients face-to-face, we continue to support all our clients via the telephone for counselling and support.

Tel: 01823 333822 or 01935 709480 (24hr)

Samaritans

Samaritans continue to be available on our free number. We offer emotional support to anyone in distress or despair, including those who may be suicidal. Wait times on the phones might be a little longer than usual.

Tel: 116123

Suicide Bereavement Support Service

Support and information for those bereaved by suicide

Tel: 0300 330 5463

<https://suicidebereavement.wixsite.com/somerset>

Information for the Bereaved – COVID-19

UK Government briefing

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880807/Bereavement-Leaflet-digital.pdf

Way Foundation

offers a peer-to-peer support network for anyone who's lost a partner at a young age <https://www.widowedandyoung.org.uk/>

Winston Wish

Supports bereaved children and teenagers

National Helpline is free to call on **08088 020 021**

<https://www.winstonswish.org/>

Yeovil District Hospital - Practical bereavement support and Chaplaincy Service

We provide the initial practical support and signposting to families who have experienced a bereavement at Yeovil District Hospital.

Tel: 01935 384746

Recommended Books from the national 'Reading Well' collection and local experts

- Grief Works: Stories of Life, Death and Surviving by Julia Samuel
- An Introduction to Coping with Grief, Second Edition by Sue Morris
- The essential guide to life after bereavement: Beyond tomorrow by Judy Carole Kauffmann, Mary Jordon
- If All the World Were...by Joseph Coelho, Allison Colpoys
- Mum's Jumper by Jayde Perkin for children who have lost their mother
- The invisible string by Patrice Karst – a story about separation.

Additional Materials to support children who have been bereaved during COVID-19

Here is a link to an animation and a downloadable booklet for children who have sadly experienced a family member die during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many thanks to our colleagues in Northern Ireland for sharing their resources.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnIYObmeAZE>

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/eafec4d8-5699-4f34-8342-9c3de45c26af>

Appendix A List of Funeral Directors and Crematorium

List of Somerset Funeral Directors – this is an alphabetical list of Funeral Directors. We are not able to endorse or make any comments or recommendations about this list.

	Location	Telephone
Taunton & Wellington Area		
Co-Operative Funeral care	Taunton	01823 272139
Crescent Funeral Services	Taunton	01823 530100
E White & Son	Taunton	01823 272183
Leonard E Smith	Taunton	01823 272122
M Regan	North Curry	01823 490224
Nigel K Ford	Taunton	01823 338369
Quantock Funeral Services	Taunton	01823 277 938 & 01823 661 138
St Margaret's	Taunton	01823 322072
Taunton Funeral Service	Taunton	01823 321077
Thomas Brothers	Wellington & Taunton	01823 352916 & 01823 662009
H Tredwin & Sons Ltd	Wellington	01823 672287
Anthony James	Wiveliscombe	01984 624 149
Friendship & Sons	Taunton	01823 618 030
Bridgwater & Burnham Area		
Ashley Edwards	Highbridge	01278 794304
H Biffen & sons	Bridgwater	01278 423333
Bridgwater Funerals Services	Bridgwater	01278 457755
Burnham Funeral Services	Burnham on Sea	01278 793666
Co-Operative Funeral Care	Bridgwater	01278 446161
Co-Operative Funeral Care	Burnham on sea	01278 773847
J E Gilbert & Son	Bridgwater	01278 422344
Grandfield & Son	Nether Stowey	01278 732219
PJ Harris	Burnham On Sea	01278 782886
R Millard & Son	Highbridge	01278 793078
Wallace Stuart	North Petherton	01278 664400
Minehead Area		
Green Undertakings	Watchet	01984 632285
Hedley Price	Minehead	01643 703111
Oak Funeral Services	Williton	01984 248006

Robson And Stephens	Minehead	01643 703 000
Ilminster & Chard		
A J Wakely & Sons	Ilminster	01460 52576
Bishop of Chard	Chard	01460 66909
B Gibbs	Chard	01460 66100
Yeovil Area		
AJ Wakely	Yeovil	01935 479913
Co-Operative Funeral Care inc GH Cook	Yeovil	01935 423463
Eason Funeral Services	Yeovil	01935 422883
Forsey & Son	Somerton	01458 272297
Irish & Denham	South Petherton	01460 240348
Phillip Peppard	Langport	01458 252505
Ian Raby Funeral Directors	Yeovil	01935 414130
David Rivett	Yeovil	01935 433737
Stuart Foster	Yeovil	01935 508 971
Glastonbury & Wells Area		
Forsey & Son	Glastonbury	01458 831020
W B Gibbs	Wells	01749 672550/672450
M Franks & Sons	Ashcott	01458 210627
Hill & Son	Wells	01747 860 361
G Holland & Son	Street	01458 840 658
Trotmans	Shepton Mallett	01749 880271
Unwins	Wells	01749 679927
Hemyock & Cullompton		
Pring & Son	Hemyock	01823 680405
Walter H Squires	Cullompton	01884 252556
Crewkerne & Axminster		
A E Stoodley & Son	Crewkerne	01460 73229
AJ Wakely	Crewkerne	01460 745 47
J F Clarke & son	Axminster	01297 32686
W G Potter Funeral Directors	Axminster	01297 34283
Cheddar		
Cheddar And District Funeral Directors	Cheddar	01934 742 958

M J Sheppard	Cheddar	01934 742885

List of Crematorium		
Mendip Crematorium	Wells	01749 340930/01749 340911
Sedgemoor Crematorium	Bridgwater	01278 680020
Taunton Deane Crematorium	Taunton	01823 284811
Yeovil Crematorium	Yeovil	01935 476718

Acknowledgements:

A number of people have contributed to this information and we thank them all for their careful and thoughtful contributions. In particular we would like to thank:

- Genevieve Branch from Registration Service
- Nick Bray from the Local Medical Committee
- Jennifer Cain from Yeovil District Hospital
- Helen Gilliland, Helen Parsons, the Clinical Health Psychology Team and Charlie Davis from Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Dave Partlow from Somerset County Council
- Kate Williams from Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group

Production Team

Alison Bell, Tom Rutland and Louise Finnis from Public Health with support from Jackie Swabey and Hector Cerdeno

May 2020