

Funeral Poverty Alliance

Terms of reference

1. Statement of belief on funeral poverty

Funeral poverty exists when the costs of a funeral are beyond a person's ability to pay, leading to difficult choices about the type of funeral to arrange and how to pay for it. The impact of funeral poverty can be financial, in the form of a legacy of debt and emotional in the form of the distress, shame and perceived stigma of not being able to provide an appropriate 'send-off'.

The Alliance believes that beyond the individual and family, society has a responsibility to ensure everyone has access to a meaningful, affordable funeral.

2. Vision Statement

Our vision is a society where everyone has access to a meaningful, affordable funeral without facing financial hardship. While members are highly diverse, we share a common interest in tackling funeral poverty.

3. Aims of the Alliance

The Funeral Poverty Alliance is a strategic collaboration providing a collective voice for not-for-profit organisations on funeral poverty. Alliance members will work in collaboration to;

- a) Raise the profile of funeral poverty as a social justice issue requiring attention amongst government decision makers.
- b) Raise the profile of funeral poverty as a consumer issue requiring attention amongst the funeral industry.
- c) Support and promote policy solutions to improve experiences for people on low incomes arranging a funeral.
- d) Work across civil society to build the resilience of low income people to funeral poverty.

4. Membership

Membership is open to any not-for-profit organisation or group providing they;

- a) Operate inside the UK
- b) Agree to the vision and aims of the Funeral Poverty Alliance

A not-for-profit organisation is defined as 'a type of organisation that does not earn profits for its owners. All of the money earned by or donated to a not for profit organisation is used in pursuing the organisation's objectives.'

5. Other partners

The Alliance is committed to working closely with other partners including the funeral industry and government to explore and advance solutions to funeral poverty, inviting partners to advise and collaborate on specific pieces of work where appropriate.

6. Role of Quaker Social Action

Quaker Social Action (QSA) will be responsible for coordinating the alliance, although other members are encouraged to play an active role in sharing knowledge across the Alliance.