



Finders
Development Hub

PHA Funerals: Choices and Council Duties



Event Information Pack

Everything you need to know about the event
and our speakers

Introduction

We are delighted to welcome you to the second installment of our PHA series, featuring Julie Dunk, Bereavement Services Specialist and former Chief Executive of the ICCM, joined by Debbie Bates, Celebrant, and Sarah Jones, Founder of Full Circle Funerals.

Our panel explores how funeral choices are evolving and what this means for local authorities managing Public Health Act funerals. Bringing together expertise from across bereavement services, ceremony design, and funeral provision, the session offers a practical, discussion-led look at how families navigate decisions and the growing range of options now available.

This CPD-accredited session provides clear, real-world insight into how greater awareness of funeral choices can support more informed decision-making, reduce uncertainty, and improve outcomes for families. Ideal for professionals managing or overseeing PHA funerals, it builds on core knowledge while setting the stage for deeper discussion in future sessions.



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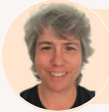
Our Chosen Charities for 2026

Finders International is proud to support Vision21 and The Silver Line as our chosen charities for the year. Please help us in supporting our charities by making a donation at the food stations.



Did you know? As part of our ISO 14001 sustainability commitment, we are offsetting the carbon footprint of this event via a tree planting initiative, minimising the environmental impact of this event for all involved today.

Meet our speakers



Julie Dunk
Former Chief Executive



Julie Dunk is a highly experienced bereavement services professional with a career spanning over three decades across local authority cemetery and crematorium services.

She worked in roles across Cardiff, Lewisham and Bournemouth before joining the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) in 2008, where she was later appointed Chief Executive.

During her time at ICCM, Julie's work has helped shape how councils approach public health funerals, balancing statutory duties with dignity and care.

Julie has since retired from her role as Chief Executive but continues to support the sector through training, knowledge-sharing, and professional development.

She has also been recognised for her contribution to bereavement services, including receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Meet our speakers



Debbie Bates
Celebrant



Debbie Bates is a qualified celebrant with a background spanning frontline emergency services and public administration. Prior to becoming a celebrant, she worked for the West Midlands Ambulance Service and later as a Deputy Registrar, registering births, deaths, and marriages, giving her extensive experience supporting people at significant life moments.

She now specialises in creating personalised funeral ceremonies, working closely with families to reflect the life, values, and personality of the person who has died. Debbie's work provides a direct insight into how families make decisions in real time, and how ceremony choices can influence the overall experience of a funeral.



Sarah Jones
Founder



Sarah Jones is the founder of Full Circle Funerals, an independent funeral provider established in 2016 to bring a health and social care-informed approach to funeral services.

Her work is grounded in the belief that, with the right support, arranging a funeral can be a meaningful and constructive experience for families.

Sarah is also involved in research and sector development, working with academic partners to better understand bereavement, funeral practices, and how services can support healthier grieving processes.

Accredited learning, designed for practice

You're engaging with this event because it delivers relevant, professional insight-grounded in real-world practice and designed to support your role.

As a **CPD-accredited provider**, our sessions are independently assessed to meet recognised standards for continuing professional development.

Our CPD membership reflects how we build our content:

- Focused on practical application, not theory alone
- Structured with clear learning value
- Aligned with the needs of legal & public sector professionals



Continue your professional development

Access the Finders Development Hub and continue to earn CPD points via diving into our accredited, on-demand content library.

Visit the Hub at: www.findersdevelopmenthub.com



Has someone died?
Loss affects us...
We're here to help.



Search **ataloss.org**
for information and services right for you.

AtaLoss

Helping **bereaved** people
find **support & wellbeing**



AtaLoss is the Secretariat
for the newly established
All Party Parliamentary Group on
Grief Support and the Impact of Death on Society.

The purpose of the **APPG** is to bring together bereavement services,
charities, faith communities, health professionals, public sector
organisations and bereaved individuals to:

- raise awareness across Parliament of the impact of bereavement on adults and children
- recognise grief support as a public health issue
- campaign for change for the wellbeing of bereaved people across the UK

You can read more by following the QR code



AtaLoss

Helping **bereaved** people
find **support & wellbeing**

Help us create a fair and sustainable future for Gloucestershire

A local charity working to make Gloucestershire communities more sustainable, robust, and resilient

Vision 21 is a small, yet highly active sustainability charity with 29 years of impact. Operating across Gloucestershire, our projects focus on enhancing health, well-being and the environment. Working with local authorities, businesses and community organisations, all of our projects involve voluntary opportunities.

Our work concerns the Climate Emergency, specifically about how we can help mitigate climate change and assist our society, communities, families and individuals to adapt to living in a warmer world.

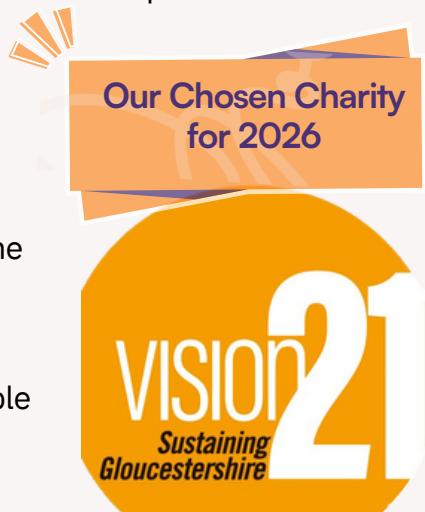
By encouraging people to think and act in favour of the climate and their community, we can all assist the planet's recovery as well as improve our local environment and living spaces. In this way, we hope to make our communities better able to cope with the crisis.

We have five main initiatives:

- CheltenhamZero
- Planet Cheltenham
- Repair Café and Network
- Reclaim furniture recycling scheme
- Planted

All of which contributes towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

www.vision21.org.uk



The Silver Line

helpline for older people

0800 4 70 80 90

Our Chosen Charity
for 2026

We offer friendship, conversation, and support to older people aged 55 and over. Whatever the day or time, you can pick up the phone and speak to one of our friendly Silver Line team members.

Whether you'd like to exchange a quick "good morning" with someone, fancy a chat about how your day has gone, or need a trusted listening ear to share your thoughts and feelings with, we're here to talk.

Our team is also here for you if you have any worries or questions. Depending on what kind of support you need, we can direct you to certain services, groups or resources that may help.

And remember, we're here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Even if you're in touch with family and friends, it may not be possible to reach out to them when it's very late at night or very early in the morning.

But The Silver Line Helpline is here to talk.

www.thesilverline.org.uk | Call us free on 0800 4 70 80 90

**Age UK's Silver Line
is a free, 24-hour
telephone service
for older people**





Leave us feedback
on this event 


Contact the organisers

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