

Greater Manchester Authorities Bereavement Services

**Joint Regional Management
of the Covid19 pandemic**

The beginning of a working relationship


AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) Bereavement Services Group.

- Information sharing
- Good Practise
- Industry updates

Nine of the ten GM Authorities
and St Helens!



Growing the network

- Regular meetings throughout the year, sponsored by our partners in the industry.
- Authorities joined from beyond Greater Manchester
- Northwest branch in partnership with  ICCM
- New colleagues welcomed

The support of the group



The AGMA group grew stronger and closer in the way we worked together and a group of colleagues became a group of friends.



Being the new girl

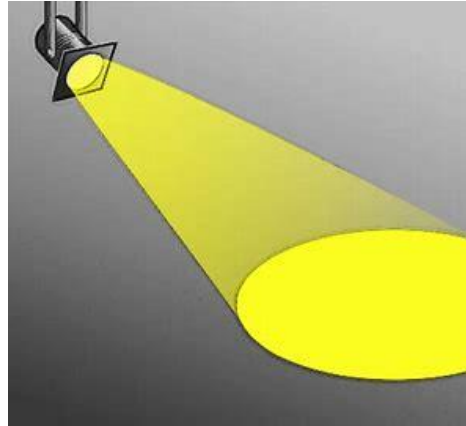
A warm welcome, a supportive network, and a sense of humour!



Work together. Stand together. (2m apart!)

- Numbers of Mourners
- Rules on burials and cremations
- Shared messages to the public & FDs
- Legal requirements for documents
- Bank holidays and weekends (what's that?)
- Staff safety
- Stats, stats, stats!

We were under the spotlight!



The total years service in bereavement for the GM group is...

252

We know what we're doing!

As you can see.. This guy makes up most of those years..



A problem shared...

- Staffing levels
- Machinery malfunction
- PPE
- Risk assessments
- Social distancing
- Numbers of mourners
- Supply chain
- Closure of cemeteries, offices, BOM and toilets
- Suspension of non essential services
- Webcasting
- Press enquiries
- Balloons, bouncers, singing!

Working together with other stakeholders

- Mortality planning groups
- Funeral Directors
- Registrars
- Coroners
- Mortuaries
- Civil Contingencies
- Senior Managers
- Members

The decision to cap numbers of mourners

We agreed to restrict attendance to 10 mourners for cremations and burials.

This was a difficult decision.

The GM Chief Officers Group agreed this.

Sticking to the same number across GM meant no one would get swamped by extra bookings and the message was consistent.

Sharing data

27-Apr	16	14	15	10	15	10	11	7	14	10	13	10	14	10	22	21	15	15
28-Apr	15	15	15	13	15	14	11	6	14	9	13	12	14	12	22	22	15	15
29-Apr	15	14	15	13	15	10	11	8	14	12	13	13	14	8	22	22	15	13
30-Apr	15	15	15	14	15	12	11	7	14	12	13	12	14	11	22	21	15	15
1-May	15	14	15	12	15	15	11	8	14	11	13	13	14	8	22	21	15	15
02/05/2020 Saturday	15	12	12	5	12	5	0			0							9	7
03/05/2020 Sunday	15	0			0	0	0			0								
4-May	15	12	14	14	15	13	11	8	14	11	13	10	16	7	22	19	15	14
5-May	15	15	14	13	15	13	11	9	14	10	13	13	16	8	22	21	15	15
6-May	15	14	14	13	15	17	11	11	14	10	13	13	16	10	22	22	15	15
7-May	15	15	14	13	15	15	11	10	14	11	13	13	16	11	22	22	15	15
08/05/2020 Bank Hol	12	0	0	0	8	5	11	8	5	4	0	0	14	6	3	3	8	8
09/05/2020 Saturday	15	7	12	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0			9	5
10/05/2020 Sunday	15	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
11-May	15	14	12	12	15	15	11	8	15	9	13	11	16	10	22	22	15	14
12-May	15	15	12	11	15	12	11	9	15	11	13	11	16	10	22	21	15	15
13-May	15	14	12	9	15	12	11	6	15	11	13	12	16	5	22	21	15	15
14-May	15	15	12	6	15	14	11	5	15	14	13	11	16	9	22	21	15	15
15-May	15	14	12	9	15	15	11	8	15	10	13	11	16	11	22	22	15	15
16/05/2020 Saturday	15	0	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0			9	4
17/05/2020 Sunday	15	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

Flattening the curve

By working together we have been able to maintain a level of service across Greater Manchester that has met the impact of Covid19.

The unity has given us confidence in how we are facing the challenges.

We travelled through the peak period proportionately, sharing the load.

“we winged it, it worked”

Mental Health

On week 3, someone said “is anyone else worried?” and the flood gates opened.

The support of the group has been invaluable to each of us. It’s kept us going through probably the biggest challenge we’ve faced.



Quiz night

Wednesday night is quiz night. No talking shop but a healthy dose of friendly rivalry!



We have survived the last 12 weeks and are more prepared for the future, should another wave happen.

We've all reaped the value of working together. The strength of our group has been vital to maintaining the services, looking after our staff and the public, and also to our own mental health.

