



NAFD NEWSCAST

NAFD'S SECOND VIRTUAL MEMBER BRIEFING COVERS A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS



At the end of February, the NAFD held its second Newscast virtual briefing, via Zoom, to an audience of 84 members from across the UK.

Hosted by NAFD President David Barrington, the event opened with an update on the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) from NAFD Chief Executive Jon Levett, who explained how the Association had reviewed the draft Order, which sets out how regulation of the funeral sector will be implemented and which will be published for consultation in March.

There was also a focus on mental health and wellbeing from MIND, part of Our Frontline which is providing support to keyworkers including funeral employees, and an update on NAFD qualifications from Education Development Manager Karen Vanstone, who revealed more about the syllabus for the new DipFD that you can read about on page 20.

The event also featured an introduction to the NAFD's two new team members, Policy & Public Affairs Manager Rachel Bradburne - who explained her role in developing and implementing policy for the NAFD, as well as articulating key messages to policy makers and other stakeholders to help inform public policy – and Cesca Kirtley-Paine, who talked about the Local Association and Area Federation review. You can find out more about both Cesca and Rachel on page 30.

The chat was lively, with more questions posed than could be answered during the session. Key questions included:-

Will the NAFD be providing template terms of business again?

No. The NAFD isn't providing template terms of business any longer, given the challenges of making sure one standard template is right for so many diverse organisations. However, we now have an arrangement with a

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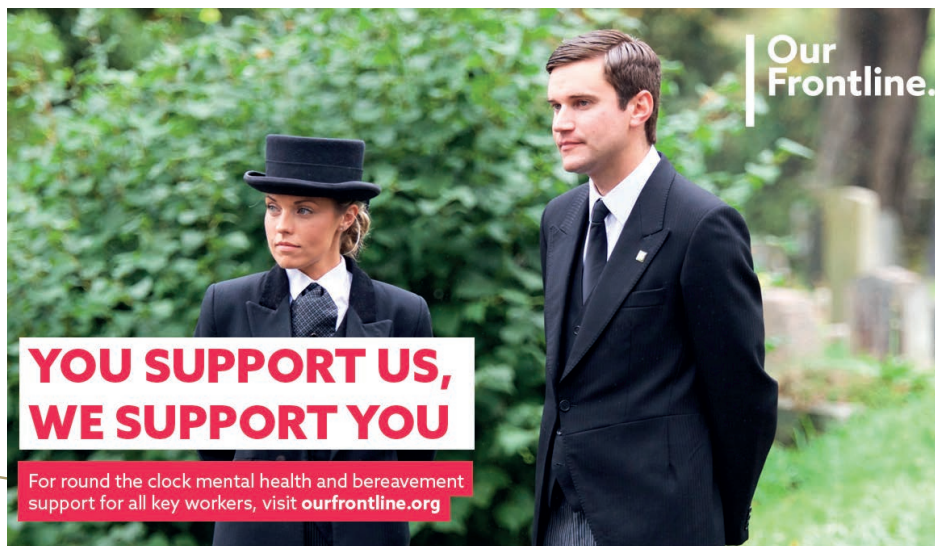
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specialist supplier at special rates (BEB Consultancy) which can assist. For full details please see the information (taken from March 2020's edition of Funeral Director Monthly) that was emailed to members with the recording and slides from the Newscast event.

Will students have to complete the funeral arranging and administration course before studying for the new DipFD?

The Direct Entry Route for the DipFD is being developed for individuals with three years' experience or more in arranging and conducting funerals. If an individual meets the criteria for this route, they will not need to complete the FAA course first. We will be sharing further information on the Direct





Entry Route over the next few weeks and will be looking to officially launch it at the Annual Conference.

Will all courses be available for distance learning? With remote funeral directors in the Scottish Islands will they have to travel on to the mainland away for a few days to sit exams?

Absolutely yes. All education providers have had to adapt to new methods of learning over the past 12 months during the pandemic, and the shift to online and distance learning will be a permanent move in the NAFD. We are also currently looking into new technologies which will see us move our exams online as well, to make them more accessible to students across the length and breadth of the UK. This means students will no longer need to travel to a centralised venue to complete their exams.

If a student has passed the written exam in the DipFAA can they still resit

the oral exam and, if so, what is the timeframe?

Yes, they can still sit their oral exam resit before the end of 2022.

Will there be posters for the Our Frontline Key Worker support that we can download, print and display in the workplace?

Yes, they are being emailed to all member firms and branches.

In terms of Local and Area Meetings that may have closed in the 1990s, does the membership think that web/zoom meetings may be a vital tool in revitalising the regions?

Definitely! We have seen virtual meetings being used extremely successfully during the pandemic and, while it will always be important to meet face to face, there is an important and practical role for virtual meetings too. This is a question we've asked in the Local Association and Area

Federation review questions in the Member Census.

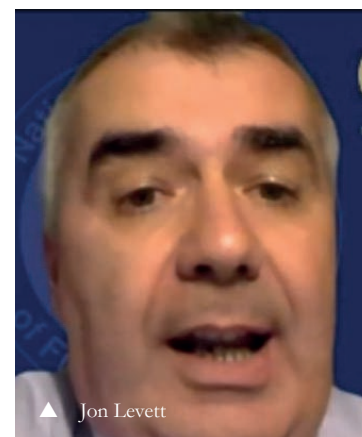
As we get clarity in the Spring from the FCA about what regulation will involve for selling funeral plans, will the NAFD provide any guidance/training for members or do you see that as the sole responsibility of the actual plan provider?

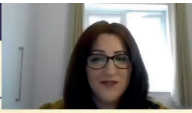
The primary responsibility for training those who sell funeral plans lies with the funeral plan provider. However, NAFD is developing a CPD framework and, as part of that, we may consider some training in this area, possibly in conjunction with a funeral plan provider.

It is worth reading the information at this link:

<https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/regulating-funeral-plans>

The meeting was recorded with the footage and copies of slides emailed to members at the end of February, so that those who could not attend could watch at their convenience. If you did not receive the email and would like copies, please contact Su Lewis (su.lewis@nafd.org.uk or 0121 711 1343).





- Evolution is essential to keep on top of rapid changes within the industry and wider economy in order to meet the needs of bereaved people and adjust to forthcoming regulation. As a result of this, over the last two years a programme of change has begun within NAFD Education
- This started with the launch of a new education website in 2019 and the update of the online introductory Funeral Service Awareness course
- Manual of Funeral Directing
- The DipFD is the first training programme in the new framework to be modernised with a launch being prepared imminently

