



Professional development

NEW DipFD SYLLABUS PEGGED TO CHANGING NEEDS OF THE PROFESSION

The details of the new syllabus for the DipFD and how it will be assessed has been launched to tutors, and students are signing up to study for the newest incarnation of the funeral sector's gold standard qualification.

The importance of demonstrating a commitment to continuous professional development among employees has, perhaps, never been more important. In the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) final report, a recommendation that all funeral directors in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (registration of funeral firms in Scotland is covered by the Burial and Cremation Act) was pegged to training and education requirements – highlighting the importance of registered funeral firms having suitably trained, qualified and experienced members of staff to provide high standards of care.

In response, the NAFD has developed a new career pathway, with an ambitious framework of qualifications designed to meet the needs of individuals working in a variety of occupations, businesses and locations within the funeral sector.

The new syllabus for the DipFD reflects these changes – and there are changes to the way students learn and are assessed too. The new DipFD includes revised units of learning and methods of assessment, moving to a

more focused portfolio of evidence and comprehensive final assessments which are more suited to a diploma programme and will robustly assess the technical skills and competence of funeral service employees.

The new DipFD also encompasses online learning, which the world of education has had to adapt to over the last twelve months. This will help to make it more accessible for busy funeral directors working across the length and breadth of the UK as they manage the balance of home life, work and study.

The aims of the qualification syllabus for the Diploma in Funeral Directing are to:-

- enable qualification progression following successful achievement and award of the NAFD Funeral Arranging and Administration certificate, or previous holders of the NAFD Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration;
- develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners employed as funeral directors;

- provide a development option for other employees working in the funeral service wishing to progress into a funeral directing role;
- enable the Association to assess registered learners to ensure they have acquired adequate knowledge, understanding and mastery of the required knowledge and skills associated with funeral directing.

Within each module there are a range of learning units and associated learning and assessment outcomes. Within each learning unit there are a range of embedded knowledge, skills and competencies designed to equip funeral directors with everything they need to thrive in their chosen role.

Karen Vanstone, Education Manager for the NAFD, has led the work to review the syllabus. She said: "The role of the funeral director is pivotal in building and managing an efficient, compassionate, empathetic and trusted team of people to carry out all elements of the funeral from caring for the deceased, arranging the funeral and caring for grieving loved ones, and the new DipFD curriculum instils skills and knowledge that has been designed to facilitate this.

"The DipFD is designed for experienced funeral directors who would like to aspire to the top and study to acquire new skills, improve existing ones and to be the best that they can be in their chosen occupation.

"Studying for the DipFD will allow individuals to improve their knowledge in the processes and procedures relating to funeral directing as well as developing enhanced skills in communication, leadership and teamwork and the modern role of the funeral director in the 21st century."



Students can now register for the new funeral directing qualification. Please visit nafdeducation.org.uk to find out more.