

PROFESSIONAL *development*

Introducing Karen and Karen!

The new Education team, Karen Vanstone and Karen Burton, reveal a little more about themselves, what led them to join the National Association of Funeral Directors and their aspirations for the NAFD's education, qualifications and training programmes.

KAREN VANSTONE Education Development Manager

Background:

I worked in training and development in the construction industry for 11 years and have a background in both HR and training. I have a first class honours degree in Psychology and Management Studies and knew from my time at university that I wanted to embark on a career in training and development. I've worked with many training and education providers from across the education spectrum - including schools, colleges, universities, accrediting bodies and professional member associations. I have been involved in all aspects of training and development including recruitment, graduate and apprenticeship programmes, implementing and overseeing quality programmes, educational events and developing and delivering training and competency programmes. My passion is inspiring others to achieve their full potential and be the best version of themselves.

Why the NAFD?

When I came across this role, I felt I had reached the point in my career where I needed a complete change of industry and new challenge. Having worked alongside professional member associations in the past, I saw this as an exciting opportunity to work on the other side of the fence and fully immerse myself in the operational side of professional membership and associated training programmes. I hope to be able to bring some of my experience of training and development in the construction industry into the Association but, at the same time, I can also see there is a lot of potential for self development as I learn and develop within a new industry.

First impressions?

I have been surprised by how interesting and vast the funeral industry is, from learning about the history of the Association, to the processes involved in arranging and conducting a funeral. I am learning something new every day and have been surprised at how diverse the industry actually is, from the range of professions and roles available to the types of individuals working within the industry.

Ambitions:

I would like to build on the foundations that Angela Allen has successfully laid in education over the past 10 years, by bringing a fresh, updated feel to what we do, utilising the technology that is available to us and exploring and developing new opportunities. I think I am joining the NAFD at an exciting time, with a lot of change ahead, as we respond to the outcomes of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) report and await the results of the recent industry review by Scottish Government which will, no doubt, shape what we do in education in the future.

Tell us about yourself:

I am a triplet. I live for music and love watching live bands, ranging from 60's music right through to the modern day. In contrast, I love the outdoors and exploring the countryside and feel most at peace on a coastal path, in a pair of muddy walking boots, overlooking the coastline. I adore cats and volunteer for Cats' Protection, organising fundraising events and meeting and greeting the public and potential new cat owners.



KAREN BURTON

Education Administrator

Background:

I joined the NAFD from a large land-based college (Warwickshire College), where I worked for 16 years - the last ten managing the land-based curriculum for further education, higher education and apprenticeships.

Why the NAFD?

I wanted to remain in education but liked the idea of working for a smaller employer and a different sector.

First impressions:

Learning about the funeral industry is interesting. All the staff working at National office have made me feel part of the team from day one, which was lovely. First impressions are of fantastic people and a great organisation to work for.

Ambitions:

I would like to help grow and modernise education, qualifications and training within the NAFD.

Tell us about yourself:

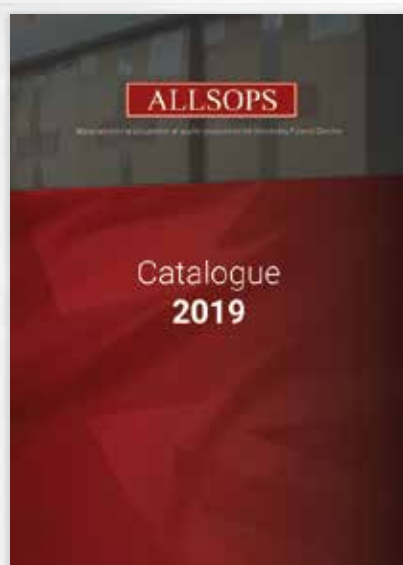
Originally born in Old Windsor, I moved up to the Midlands in 1983 where I settled and had my two girls, who are now 18 and 21. I love Italy and myself and my partner are planning travels around the country. I also enjoy cooking and walking my gorgeous dog.



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