Environmental Learning Support Group

Purposes and Aims

Aim: To develop learning opportunities for environmental sustainability within the bereavement sector.

Goals

- **Increase Environmental Awareness**: Educate employees on key environmental issues and the importance of sustainability.
- **Promote Sustainable Practices**: Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices both at work and in personal lives.
- **Foster a Culture of Responsibility**: Build a culture where environmental responsibility is a core value.
- **Empower Employees**: Equip employees with the knowledge and tools to contribute to sustainability initiatives.
- **Uncovering Environmental Impacts**: To uncover previously unstudied or unexplored environmental impacts of cemetery and crematorium operations to better understand the landscape.

Outcomes

- **Informed Employees**: Employees will have a comprehensive understanding of environmental challenges and sustainability concepts.
- **Adoption of Sustainable Practices**: Employees will implement sustainable practices in their daily activities.
- **Cultural Shift**: A strong culture of environmental responsibility will be established within the organization.
- **Active Participation**: Employees will be motivated and empowered to participate in and lead sustainability initiatives.

The Environmental Learning support group:

To ensure that the membership is supported on this journey towards sustainability it is imperative that the ELSG is a representative group of individuals, drawn from the membership which can engage, shape, and direct the learning support process.

These individuals will have the experience and curiosity to become engaged in determining the road map to be laid out for the sector in its response to the growing sustainability challenges being faced.

The group will meet virtually, supported by both the ICCM and DCSB.

1. **Purpose**
   - **Goal**: To ensure the relevant academic support is available in supporting a programme of professional development and personal growth.
   - **Target Audience**: The membership of the ICCM.

2. **Structure the Group**
   - **Format**: The group will meet virtually initially to be briefed in that meeting they will set a timetable and whether meetings will be in-person, online, or a mix of both.
   - **Facilitation**: The ICCM and DCSB will undertake the facilitation.

3. **Members**
   - **Promotion**: The ICCM will communicate with its membership of this opportunity to attract potential new members.
   - **Inclusivity**: The group is welcoming and accessible to all potential members representing the ICCM.

4. **Create a Safe Space**
   - **Confidentiality**: Adoption of Chatham House Rules to ensure that what is shared in the group stays in the group to encourage the free sharing of information and initiatives.
   - **Respect**: Foster an environment where all members feel respected and valued.

5. **Plan Activities**
   - **Topic**: The development of the ICCM's environmental awareness support and learning programmes.

6. **Evaluate and Adapt**
   - **Feedback**: Regularly seek feedback from members to understand what is working and what can be improved.
   - **Flexibility**: Be open to changing the format or focus of the group based on members' needs.

As a result of the above it is anticipated that the Learning Support Group will access the following benefits:

1. **Enhanced Learning**
   - **Collaborative Learning**: Members can share knowledge and resources, helping each other understand complex topics.

- **Diverse Perspectives**: Exposure to different viewpoints can deepen understanding and spark new ideas.

2. Motivation and Accountability
- **Goal Setting**: Group members can set and track goals together, providing motivation to stay on track.
- **Accountability Partners**: Regular check-ins with the group can help members stay committed to their learning objectives.

3. Emotional Support
- **Sense of Community**: Being part of a group can reduce feelings of isolation and provide a sense of belonging.
- **Encouragement**: Members can offer support and encouragement during challenging times.

4. Skill Development
- **Communication Skills**: Participating in discussions and presentations can improve verbal and written communication skills.
- **Leadership Opportunities**: Leading group activities or discussions can enhance leadership and organizational skills.

5. Networking Opportunities
- **Professional Connections**: Groups can provide opportunities to network with peers, mentors, and industry professionals.
- **Collaboration**: Members can collaborate on projects, research, or other initiatives, potentially leading to new opportunities.

6. Resource Sharing
- **Access to Materials**: Members can share books, articles, and other resources that might be difficult to find individually.
- **Study Tips and Strategies**: Sharing effective study techniques and strategies can benefit all members.

7. Personal Growth
- **Confidence Building**: Regular participation and positive feedback can boost self-confidence.
- **Lifelong Learning**: Being part of a learning group can foster a love for continuous learning and self-improvement.