

belittle counselling per se but believe that sometimes using a sledgehammer to crack a nut is unnecessary.”

**ANDREW LEVERTON,
DIRECTOR, LEVERTON AND
SONS LTD:**

“From this study, it is reassuring to see that people recognise that the role of funeral directors can be emotionally challenging. Although it is part of our job in this profession to deal with death and the nature of grief, recognition that funeral directors should be entitled full access to counselling is important. At Levertons, as members of SAIF, our staff are able to access free and confidential counselling through their SAIFSupport service. It is run by Professional Help who are accredited members of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP).”

**THE NATIONAL COUNSELLING
SOCIETY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
VICKY PARKINSON:**

“The National Counselling Society (NCS) recognise that anyone who works on a regular basis with distressed individuals is likely to be personally affected by their contact with other people’s pain, confusion and anger. This is an experience familiar to professional counsellors, who have a knowledge of theory and access to clinical supervision to support them. Many other professionals, including nurses and social workers, are subject to similar experiences, and the desirability of appropriate support for them has long been recognised. It seems highly probable that funeral directors, and others working in this sector, will also be influenced emotionally and psychologically by the nature of their work, and we suggest that counselling provided by a properly

trained practitioner will often be beneficial in supporting their continued health and wellbeing.

“It is important to see a counsellor who is on an Accredited Register which has been vetted and approved by the Professional Standards Authority. Counsellors who have met the standards to be on the NCS’ Accredited Register will be listed on the NCS website and will display the quality mark logo.

“Public facing professionals, including those working in the funeral sector, looking to support themselves and their work can access online counselling skills CPD courses. The courses currently include a self-care course and one to support those working with people who have been bereaved.”

Funeral Service Times readers can receive 20 percent off their first online CPD course with the code NCSMAG17.

“Many other professionals, including nurses and social workers, are subject to similar experiences,”

Chief Executive Vicky Parkinson

