

Hardship Policy

Version 1.0.

Issued: May 2020

Last Review: May 2020

Next Review: May 2022

We recognise that there are circumstances where members of the (Scout) Association may be unable to meet the financial commitments for key Scouting events, but their participation would be both deserving and of significant benefit. This policy outlines the framework for handling cases of financial hardship. Hardship cases are always considered on a case-by-case basis.

Implementation

- When a young person's parents, guardians or carers approach the relevant Section leaders, the Section Leader should enter discussions within the constraints of this policy.
- The Leader(s) may ask the Group Scout Leader (GSL), Group Chairperson, or Treasurer to participate.
- Final approval requires the agreement of the Group Executive Committee.
- The total amount available for support is not defined, but every situation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis

The primary consideration must always be the young person: if they are keen and active members then we should be doing everything we can to enable them to participate.

Commitment to Scouting

The applicant must show a regular commitment to the Group, commensurate with the subsidy requested. The following is a minimum:

- Membership of the Association
- Regular attendance, confirmed by their relevant Section Leader.

Forms of available Support

- Support for members in financial hardship to attend camps/events in the UK or abroad
- Support for members in financial hardship to purchase uniform
- Support for members in financial hardship to support subscription payments
- Support for individual members with special needs to participate in Scouting

The fund will support members in 'financial hardship', something which can be a difficult subject to discuss with young people, parents and leaders.

Evidence of Financial Hardship

The group executive committee may request to see evidence to demonstrate financial hardship. Evidence can help make the best judgement of 'financial hardship'. Examples of evidence include, but not limited to the following items:

- Free school meals
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit
- Working tax credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit

In cases of hardship, cost towards camps/ events, uniform, or subscriptions may be reduced at a rate agreed by the Group Executive Committee, or on a match fund basis, where the group will match the contribution made by the parent/ carer.

Confidentiality

Information relating to individual hardship cases is often highly personal and is treated as strictly confidential. Any record of discussion of a hardship case at Group Executive Committee or its Finance Sub-Committee will be reported in a Confidential Minutes, separate to the normal minutes.