

1st Pocklington

Hardship Policy

AGREED: 17/06/24

TO REVIEW: September 25

Purpose

We recognise that there are circumstances where members of 1st Pocklington Scout Group may be unable to meet the financial commitments for key events, but their participation would be both deserving and of significant benefit. This policy outlines the framework for applying and for handling cases of financial hardship. Hardship cases are always considered on a case-by-case basis, and only where sufficient funds are available.

What we may fund

- Support for Parents/Guardians in financial hardship situations to purchase uniform.
- Support for Parents/Guardians in financial hardship with Subscription fees.
- Support towards the cost of a Young Person attending an activity that they may not otherwise be able to take part in.

Eligibility

All applications are made on behalf of a specific Young Person. To qualify for support under this Policy, the Young Person must:

- be an invested member of their Section.
- have a record of Regular Attendance (80% plus).

Evidence that can help make a best judgement of financial hardship would be if an applicant is in receipt of one of the following:

- 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 (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs*
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

*Free school meals are provided to all pupils in primary schools in a few areas of the country, so the other indicators are more valid in these circumstances.

Priority will be given to those in receipt of pupil premium and are eligible for Free School Meals. However, applications are considered from those who are not in receipt of government funding, but who find themselves in need of assistance.

Procedure & Implementation

Financial constraints will, of course, need to be taken into account, but the primary consideration shall always be the needs of the young person.

Uniform

Support may be provided for members in financial hardship to purchase uniform. Where an award covers the purchase of new uniform, items will be ordered and paid for by the Group directly. Used items of uniform may also be offered subject to availability.

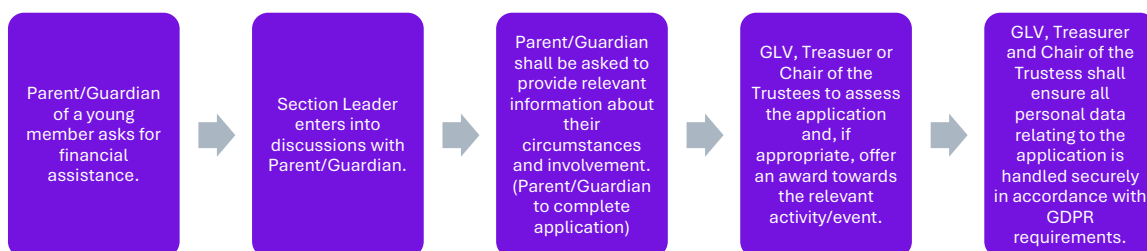
Subscriptions

Subscription fees for members in financial hardship may be offered at a reduced rate agreed by the Group Lead Volunteer (GLV), Treasurer or Chair of the Trustees or waived completely. The Group Treasurer shall be responsible for the administering of awards, which shall be uploaded against subscription charges.

Activities

Activity fees for members in financial hardship may be offered at a reduced rate agreed by the GLV, Treasurer or Chair of the Trustees or waived completely. The Group Treasurer shall be responsible for the administering of awards, which shall be uploaded against activity charges.

The flowchart below shall be used to consider all applications:



The total amount available for support (the Hardship Fund) in a given calendar year is set by the Trustees and reviewed annually. The Trustees will not routinely allocate support beyond this total.

How to Apply

What is most important is to have a clear idea of what you want funded and why, what are the total costs, how much you are able to contribute yourself, what the Group/Section is funding and how much you are asking for.

You can apply by talking directly to the Section Leader or by contacting the Group Treasurer at Treasurer@1stpocklingtonscouts.org.uk. You will then be asked to complete a Hardship application form which should be returned to the Section Leader, GLV, Group Treasurer or Chair of the Trustees.

All applications are confidential, and names will not be disclosed. Please don't assume the answer will automatically be "Yes" – funds are limited, and applications may often be in competition with others equally or even more deserving.

All applications will be considered by the GLV, Group Treasurer or Chair of the Trustees. The Group Treasurer will report to the Trustees Board at each meeting on the number of people helped and by how much.

How will the fund be financed?

Unlike schools who receive funding to help people in hardship, we do not. We therefore cannot guarantee the availability or amount of funding will be the same each term/year. Funds that are made available will be from the Group funds i.e. a proportion of subscriptions collected each term shall be diverted as well as fundraising or other outside sources.

Each year the Trustee Board will set aside a sum (subject to available income) to be used as a Hardship Fund. This amount may change year on year.

Guidance

Except in exceptional cases, an award shall only be given approval for one event or camp per year for each Young Person.

When a request is refused, the Trustees will be under no obligation to state their reasons.

