

# Everyday Adventure Fund

(Hardship policy)



We recognise that there are circumstances where members of Longford Scouts may be unable to meet the financial commitments of Scouting. This Everyday Adventure Fund (Hardship Policy) outlines the framework for handling cases of financial hardship. Cases are always considered on a case-by-case basis, and only where sufficient funds are available in the group.

## Financial criteria

The Group uses the [financial acceptance criteria employed by Trafford Council for free school meals](#). This provides an independent, known benchmark as a guideline that can help make the best judgement of 'financial hardship'.

## Commitment to Scouting

The young person should be a member of the group and have 4 months of regular attendance (75%+) confirmed by OSM records.

Consideration will also be given to non-member siblings of current Longford Scouts members where financial circumstances prohibit siblings joining Longford Scouts. The established sibling must be in the group for a minimum of six months and be in good standing with payments to the group.

## Application

- Parent should discuss the need for support with the section's Team Leader and discuss the level of support that may be needed (the Team Leader can't commit to a guarantee of funding at this stage)
- Evidence of meeting the above financial criteria must be ascertained by the Team Leader
- The Team Leader should then discuss each case with the Group Lead Volunteer and Treasurer - requests will be only accepted from the Team Leader of the appropriate section
- The Group Leader Volunteer and Treasurer may consult informally with the trustees to help make a decision

## Subscriptions

In cases of hardship, subscriptions may be reduced at a rate agreed by the Group Lead Volunteer and Treasurer. Applications will need to be re-submitted every 3 months and it's the responsibility of the parent/carer, not the group, to reapply.

## Uniform

Used items of uniform will be offered subject to availability. If uniform is provided to a young person it will still remain the property of Longford Scouts and should be returned when no longer needed. When returning the uniform all badges should be removed. Badge glue must not be used on the uniform. The uniform should be kept in a good condition.

## Camps/Trips

As part of the decision making process the Team Leader should present a camp/event budget to the Lead Volunteer along with which badges will be achieved and what skills will be learnt during the event/camp

Camps will not be zero-rated, as a minimum a contribution of £8 per full day (Breakfast, Lunch and Tea) pro-rated across the camp should still be paid.

Apart from exceptional cases, there will only be approval for one event/camp per year for each Young Person.

## Guidance

- Hardship cases will not be dealt with retrospectively.
- The group has an allocated amount per year for Hardship cases; memberships fees will be prioritised. The amount ring fenced by the group will be prorated per quarter to ensure that there is money available across the year.
- The group would appreciate support at DIY days, cleaning rotas, group events etc. from any families receiving support through the hardship policy
- Any emails received will be taken in confidentiality and in line with GDPR. Every case will be assessed and reviewed by the Team Leader of the appropriate section, Lead Volunteer and Treasurer. Cases will be anonymously reported on to the trustees
- When refusing a request, a reason should always be given.
- If the group becomes aware of any abuse of this policy the young person's membership will immediately be terminated from the group.