3rd Harpenden Scout Group
Hardship policy

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What is this Hardship Policy?

We recognise that some families may encounter difficulties in managing the cost of living and we want to support in any way we can. This Policy outlines our approach to handling cases of financial hardship in order to support a young person's participation in Scouts. We want to do this in a fair and consistent way, without compromising the financial stability of the Group. Support may cover costs such as subscriptions, camps or activities.

Support

There are two main ways we can offer support.

1. **Deferment of payment or payment in instalments**
   This is to help spread the cost, and could apply to all and any significant costs associated with subs, camps or individual activities.
2. **Payment of costs**
   If a parent/carer is finding it difficult to pay the annual subs, or for a camp or activity due to the cost, we can support them by using Group funds to pay the costs. Initially this would be done on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility criteria

There are two criteria for a young person to be eligible for funding.

1. The young person's family is experiencing financial hardship. For example, they might qualify for Free School Meals or be a Young Carer. Or the parents/carers might be eligible for state benefits like Universal Credit.
2. The young person has demonstrated a clear commitment to Scouting, by regularly attending meetings.

How to apply for support

A parent/carer requiring support should first talk to one of their child's leaders.

We recognise that applying for financial support is a sensitive matter. Only a small number of people on the Trustee Board will need to be made aware of the request and of any agreed support put in place.

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Version number 3

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