

GRANT-MAKING POLICY

THE AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY BENEVOLENT FUND

A charity registered in England and Wales (number 1085497)

Adopted by the Charity Trustees on 05072023

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1. About this policy

1.1 This policy applies to The Avon and Somerset Constabulary Benevolent Fund (**Charity**), a charity registered in England and Wales with charity number 1085497.

1.2 The charitable objects (**Objects**) of the Charity are:

“The prevention or relief of poverty, suffering, distress, ill-health or financial hardship amongst the Beneficiaries, in particular but not exclusively by providing grants, loans and/or or such other financial assistance and support to those individuals in such ways as the Trustees see fit from time to time”

‘Beneficiary’ and **‘Beneficiaries’** means the individual or individuals who qualify as beneficiaries of the Charity in accordance with the Objects, namely:

- (i) *servicing members of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary (each a **Servicing Member**) and pensioned members of the Constabulary or of the Former Police Forces (Bath City Police, Bristol Constabulary, Somerset Constabulary and Somerset and Bath Constabulary) (each a **Retired Member**);*
- (ii) *any spouse, or civil partner (as such term is defined in section 350 of the Charities Act 2011) or any widow or widower of a Servicing Member or a Retired Member.*
- (iii) *any other person who in the opinion of the Trustees is wholly or partly dependant of a Servicing Member or a Retired Member; and*
- (iv) *such other categories of persons closely connected to the Constabulary which the Trustees shall from time to time determine.*

1.3 The Charity is governed by the charity trustees of the Charity (**Charity Trustees**) who have a duty, acting at all times in the best interests of the Charity, to apply the Charity's assets to advance the Objects and have ultimate responsibility for all grant-making decisions.

1.4 The purpose of this policy is to set out the principles and procedures that guide the Charity Trustees when they are making grants to further the Objects. It also provides information about the Charity's grant-making process to anyone who is applying to the Charity, or would like to apply to the Charity, for a grant.

1.5 In this policy references to persons who are "connected" with a Charity Trustee mean:

- (a) a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, brothers, or sister of a Charity Trustee.
- (b) the spouse, unmarried partner, or civil partner of a Charity Trustee or of any person falling within paragraph (a) above.
- (c) any person who is in a business partnership with a Charity Trustee or any person who is in a business partnership with any person falling within paragraph (a) or (b) above; and

- (d) any company, business, trust, or organisation in which a Charity Trustee (or any other person connected to them) has an interest as a beneficiary or through ownership, control, or influence.

2. Our funding priorities

2.1 The Charity Trustees are keen to support activities that advance the Objects in an effective way. However, they recognise that a limited amount of funds is available to distribute each year. The Charity Trustees' current funding priorities are:

Activities connected to the health and wellbeing of the members of the Avon and Somerset Police Family, in particular any grant that would contribute towards keeping or returning Serving Members back to work.

In relation to Retired Members, any grant that would assist the quality of living to that member or ease contact with family and friends.

2.2 The Charity Trustees will not normally support:

Debt consolidation applications, unless supported by financial advice from a recognised charity, or organisation specialising in this. (Staff associations can signpost to these if needed)

Any application that can be covered by existing funds available to the applicant.

2.3 The Charity Trustees will occasionally award grants that fall outside the priorities stated in this policy, provided that they are satisfied that the grant will further the Objects and is an appropriate use of the Charity's funds.

2.4 The Charity Trustees will review the grant-making priorities and principles set out in this policy annually.

3. Who can apply for a grant?

3.1 The Charity Trustees welcome applications from, or on behalf of, individuals who are Serving Members, Retired Members, any spouse, or civil partner or any widow or widower of a Serving Member or a Retired Member, any other person who is wholly or partly dependant of a Serving Member or a Retired Member.

3.2 The Charity Trustees also welcome applications from, or on behalf of:

Any member of the Avon and Somerset Police Family as outlined above, who is currently not a donator to the benevolent fund operated by the Charity, but on successful application of a grant is willing to become a donator.

3.3 The Charity Trustees also welcome applications from charitable organisations to support projects which will help achieve the Objects and support Beneficiaries that either:

- (a) are registered as charities with the Charity Commission for England and Wales; and/or
- (b) qualify as charities under the law of England and Wales but are not required to register with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

However, the Charity Trustees will also consider proposals from charities that are established outside the UK and non-charitable organisations that are established either in the UK or elsewhere.

- 3.4 The Charity Trustees will not usually award grants to an applicant that has:
- (a) previously submitted a proposal where the applicant failed the Charity Trustees' due diligence checks and the issues identified at that time have not been addressed.
 - (b) previously received a grant from the Charity at any time during the immediately preceding financial year of the Charity.

4. What we will fund

- 4.1 The Charity Trustees usually make grants of between £50 (fifty) and £10,000 (ten thousand) although in exceptional circumstances larger grants can be made.
- 4.2 All grants awarded by the Charity must be used to cover costs that are directly connected to carrying out the charitable activities that the Charity Trustees have agreed to fund.
- 4.3 We will not fund:

Any activities that go against the College of Policing's code of ethics or could be seen as bringing the Charity or the Avon and Somerset Constabulary into disrepute.

Debt consolidation applications, unless supported by financial advice from a recognised charity, or organisation specialising in this. (Staff associations can signpost to these if needed)

- 4.4 The Charity Trustees will award grants to fund up to 100% of the cost of a proposal. However, the Charity Trustees:
- (a) will consider funding part of the cost of a proposal where the total cost is shared with one or more other funders; and
 - (b) encourage applicants to seek additional sources of funding for their proposal.
- 4.5 If a grant covers part of the cost of a proposal, the Charity Trustees may require the applicant to provide details of the other funder(s) and the funding that they have secured or applied for (including any loans or other commercial funding).

5. How to apply for a grant

- 5.1 All grant proposals must be made in writing. Proposals must explain in detail how the grant will be used and put forward a strong case for support. In particular, a proposal must:
- (a) set out the purposes for which the grant is intended to be used.
 - (b) demonstrate how the activities funded by the grant will benefit the intended Beneficiary or Beneficiaries and advance one or more of the Charity's funding priorities.
 - (c) provide details of the applicant's household income and expenditure, debts/liabilities, and savings/capital.
- 5.2 Where appropriate, especially for applications to fund projects, the proposal must also:

- (a) set out how use of the grant will be managed.
- (b) give details of the key individual(s) who will be responsible for the management of the grant and delivering the proposed activities.
- (c) provide a budget for the proposed activities.
- (d) give details of any other funding that has been awarded or that is being sought for the activities to be funded by the grant.

All proposals must be made on the form that can be obtained from the Police Federation office.

5.3 If the application is made by or on behalf of an organisation, the following must also be provided with the proposal:

- (a) a complete, up-to-date copy of the organisation's governing document.
- (b) if the organisation is a UK charity:
 - (i) its registered charity number(s) as issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator and/or the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; and/or
 - (ii) if it is a charity under the law of England and Wales that is not required to register with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (because it is either an exempt or excepted charity, or has income below the registration threshold), evidence of its charitable status (such as an HMRC reference number);
- (c) if the organisation is a charity established outside the UK, evidence:
 - (i) of its charitable status. This might, for example, include evidence of registration with a non-UK charity regulator and/or written confirmation from an appropriately qualified professional that the organisation is established as a charity in the relevant jurisdiction; and
 - (ii) that all the activities in the proposal will qualify as being charitable for the public benefit if they are undertaken by an organisation that is registered as a charity in England and Wales.
- (d) the organisation's most recent set of accounts.

5.4 If the applicant is a non-charitable organisation the proposal must also:

- (a) provide evidence that the organisation has a bank account with at least two unrelated signatories; and
- (b) demonstrate that all the activities in the proposal will qualify as being charitable for the public benefit if they are undertaken by an organisation that is registered as a charity in England and Wales.

6. How we make decisions about grants

6.1 The Charity Trustees have ultimate responsibility for all grant-making decisions and for ensuring that all funds awarded are used to advance the Objects.

- 6.2 The Charity Trustees must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which could, or could be seen to, prevent them from making a grant decision only in the best interests of the Charity. Situations in which a conflict of interest may arise include where:
- (a) a Charity Trustee (or a person connected to them) stands to benefit from a grant from the Charity (see paragraph 7 (Grants to Charity Trustees or connected persons)); or
 - (b) a Charity Trustee has a duty of loyalty to a third party that conflicts with their duty to the Charity.

Any such conflict of interest must be declared and managed by the Charity Trustees in accordance with the Charity's conflicts of interest policy.

- 6.3 The Charity Trustees may delegate certain decision-making responsibilities. In particular:
- (a) the Charity Trustees have appointed a grants committee to review grant proposals and make recommendations to them.
 - (b) individual Charity Trustees may be asked to review grant proposals and make recommendations to the Charity Trustees; and
 - (c) before deciding to award a grant, the Charity Trustees may ask anyone they consider has relevant expertise or experience to provide them with information and to join in their discussions, but not to take any part in the final decision.

6.4 In all cases where a recommendation is made to them to award a grant, the Charity Trustees may (in their absolute discretion) refuse to approve that recommendation, particularly if they consider that a grant would not be an effective way to further the Objects or would conflict with the Charity's policies or interests.

6.5 The Charity Trustees may take up to 3 months to consider grant proposals and decide if they will award a grant or not.

6.6 The Charity Trustees will inform applicants of their decision in writing.

- 6.7 If an applicant is awarded a grant, the Charity Trustees will:
- (a) set out the key terms of the grant and any conditions that are attached to it in a grant agreement letter; and
 - (b) ask the applicant to sign the grant agreement letter to indicate that they accept the terms and conditions.

6.8 If the Charity Trustees decide not to award a grant for a proposal the Charity Trustees are not obliged to give the applicant reasons for their decision.

6.9 The Charity Trustees' decision whether to award a grant is final.

7. Grants to charity trustees or connected persons.

7.1 Article 8(2)(a) of the Charity's articles of association authorises a Charity Trustee or any person connected to them to receive a benefit from the Charity as a Beneficiary of the Charity, provided the benefit is available generally to Beneficiaries of the Charity.

- 7.2 If an application for a grant is made to the Charity by or on behalf of a Charity Trustee, or a person or an organisation connected to them, the non-conflicted Charity Trustees may therefore consider making the grant in accordance with this policy.
- 7.3 If a Charity Trustee, or a person or organisation connected to them, applies for a grant (or an application for a grant is made on their behalf) the conflicted Charity Trustee must:
- (a) absent themselves from any discussion of the grant application by the non-conflicted Charity Trustees; and
 - (b) have no vote and not be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the non-conflicted Charity Trustees on the grant.

8. Due diligence

- 8.1 When the Charity Trustees are considering a grant-funding proposal, they will undertake due diligence checks on the applicant and/or proposed Beneficiary as appropriate. The checks that are undertaken will vary according to the Charity Trustees' assessment of any risks associated with the proposal or the applicant.
- 8.2 Due diligence may include requesting details of, and taking such steps as the Charity Trustees consider to be reasonable to scrutinise, any of the following in the case of an applicant organisation:
- (a) the applicant's governing documents.
 - (b) if applicable, the applicant's status as a charity, including (where it is required to do so) evidence that the applicant has been registered with a charity regulator.
 - (c) the applicant's latest accounts and financial position.
 - (d) the identity of the applicant's directors, trustees, executive committee, or other key personnel, in particular, to seek to establish whether they are authorised to act in that capacity.
 - (e) the applicant's governance and operational structures and practices.
 - (f) the applicant's internal financial controls.
 - (g) relevant operational policies and procedures that the applicant has in place, for example, in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and on equality and diversity.
 - (h) the applicant's aims and values; and
 - (i) any external risk factors that might affect the proposal.
- 8.3 In cases where the applicant will receive support from another funder, or works with a partner, the Charity Trustees may undertake due diligence on that funder or partner.
- 8.4 The Charity Trustees will keep a written record of any due diligence that they undertake.

9. Reporting requirements and monitoring

- 9.1 The Charity Trustees will take steps to monitor the use of the grant and verify that the grant is used for the purposes that have been agreed. The arrangements for monitoring will vary

according to the nature of the grant, but the Charity Trustees will always seek to ensure that the arrangements are appropriate and proportionate.

- 9.2 Arrangements for monitoring use of the grant may include asking the recipient to provide any of the following:
- (a) copies of formal records such as receipts, invoices, bank statements and management accounts to show that funds have been used for the purpose for which they have been awarded and in accordance with the terms of the grant.
 - (b) regular written or verbal updates showing progress to date, summarising key achievements or problems encountered, indicating whether targets have been met and giving reasons for any delay in implementing work funded by the grant.
 - (c) a final written report on completion of the work funded by the grant, showing how funds have been spent, evaluating where the work has been successful and identifying lessons that can be learnt; and
 - (d) information about any proposed changes to the proposed activities.
- 9.3 If appropriate, the Charity Trustees may also visit Beneficiaries and/or grant-funded activities and interview individuals involved in running those activities.
- 9.4 Basic monitoring requirements will be set out in the grant agreement or letter. However, the Charity Trustees may take any additional steps to monitor the use of grant funds that they consider appropriate.

10. Clawback and repayment

The Charity Trustees may require repayment of all or any part of the grant if:

- (a) the project or purpose for which it was awarded does not proceed;
- (b) part of the grant remains unused when the activities or purposes that the grant was intended to fund have been completed; or
- (c) the grant is used for a purpose other than that which has been agreed.

11. Reviewing and amending this policy

11.1 This policy will be reviewed by the Charity Trustees at least annually.

11.2 The Charity Trustees may vary the terms of this policy from time to time.