

# Tamworth District Scout Council (“TDSC”)

## Hardship Fund Policy



### **Background**

Tamworth District Scouts Council (“TDSC”) have decided to create a special fund which will encourage the growth of Scouting in our District. Our aim is to give every young person who wants the opportunity to be a Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer Scout or Network Scout Member the chance to do so, whatever their circumstances may be.

It is the view of the TDSC Executive Committee that Groups/Units should be the first port of call for help to those families experiencing financial hardship. We recognise, however, that this is not always the case and that some groups already have huge strains on their resources.

We aim to ensure that families experiencing difficulties will have an equal opportunity of obtaining support regardless of where they live in the District.

### **What may we fund?**

- Support for young people in financial hardship situations to purchase uniform.
- Support towards the cost of a youth member attending an activity that they may not otherwise be able to take part in.
- Training for Young Leaders

### **Things we will not fund include:**

- General scouting equipment e.g. camping and other activity equipment, craft materials and scout publications.
- Grants for a whole Section or Group to undertake an activity or a deficit arising on an activity or event.
- The repayment of loans, or any kind of retrospective funding.
- Contributions to international scouting expeditions (applications to the International Fund set up for this purpose should continue to be made to the District Treasurer)

**The above lists are not exhaustive and will be regularly reviewed by the TDSC Executive Committee.**

### **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/Unit is funding and how much you are asking for. If you do not have the balance, where will it come from?

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You can apply by contacting the District Treasurer at [peter.seedhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:peter.seedhouse@hotmail.com) or by downloading the Hardship Fund Application Form from the District website and returning it to the above named person. 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 than yours. If you are not sure about anything, ask!

All applications will be considered by the District's Finance Sub- Committee, generally via e-mail/telephone. The District Treasurer will report to the TDSC Executive Committee at each meeting on the number of people helped and by how much.

### **How will the Fund be financed?**

The Fund will be financed from fundraising and from specific funds designated as such and from outside sources.

### **Advice on individual 'financial hardship' from HQ – (for Group Executive members to refer too)**

Financial hardship can be a difficult subject for individuals to discuss within their Group with other parents and Leaders. Evidence that can help make a best judgement of financial hardship would be if a family 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.

Extract from Parents' Frequently Asked Questions about scouting (Scout Association website):

**“Cost should not be a barrier to anyone taking part in Scouting and if this is an issue, you can speak to the local Section Leader in confidence”.**