

## 1st Locksheath Scouts Hardship Policy

*Effective Date:* 18/03/2026

*Review Date:* 18/03/2027

*Version:* 1.0

### 1. Purpose

At 1st Locksheath, we believe that every young person should have the opportunity to participate in Scouting, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. This Hardship Policy aims to provide short-term financial assistance to families facing temporary financial difficulties, ensuring that no child misses out on the benefits of Scouting.

### 2. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all parents or guardians of young people who are members of 1st Locksheath and who are experiencing short-term financial hardship. Support may be provided for:

- Weekly/monthly membership fees
- Camp or event fees
- Uniforms and essential gear
- Transport to/from activities (where applicable)

It should be noted that the funds available for this purpose are finite, and it may be that otherwise eligible applications may be turned down if allocated hardship funds are exhausted. Likewise, it may be necessary to terminate arrangements made if available funds are exhausted.

These funds are not available to support longer term issues, but the group will assist individuals on a case-by-case basis to look for other sources of funding if appropriate.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

Hardship assistance may be considered when a parent/guardian is experiencing financial difficulty due to reasons such as (but not limited to):

- Loss of employment or reduced income
- Illness or injury
- Unexpected major expenses
- Bereavement
- Other significant life events causing financial strain

Support is intended for short-term relief and is not a substitute for long-term financial support.

## 4. Types of Assistance

Assistance may include:

- Full or partial fee waivers
- Deferred payment plans
- Subsidised costs for camps, trips or uniforms
- Access to loaned uniforms or equipment

Each case will be considered individually and confidentially, and depending on the available resources the group has available for this purpose.

## 5. Application Process

### 5.1 Initiating a Request

Families should contact the Group Leader or Treasurer in confidence to express their need for support.

### 5.2 Information Required

The group's representative may request:

- A brief explanation of the situation
- The type of support needed
- Confirmation that the issue is temporary (where possible)

### 5.3 Assessment

The Group Leader, Treasurer, and one other committee member will review the application promptly and compassionately. All applications will be treated with **strict confidentiality**. (See below)

### 5.4 Decision and Support

A decision will usually be made within 7 days. The applicant will be informed privately, in writing / by email and appropriate arrangements will be made. This decision will also include specifics of how long the support can remain in place without further review.

## 6. Confidentiality

All applications and discussions will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality. Only those involved in the decision-making process will have access to the information.

## 7. Funding Sources

Hardship support may be funded through:

- Group fundraising
- Donations
- External grants or subsidies
- Discretionary group budget

We welcome any donations from individuals or businesses to help sustain this support initiative.

Review and Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Group Executive Committee to ensure it remains fair, effective, and financially viable.

## 8. Contact

**We are here to support our scouting families.** If you're unsure whether you qualify for assistance, please reach out—we are always willing to have a confidential and respectful conversation.

**Group Lead Volunteer, 1st Locksheath Scout Group**

Gordon Kidson-Petlem

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07920 816 457

## 9. Approval:

**Approved by:**



Robert Williams

Group Chair, on Behalf of

The Board of Trustees for

1<sup>st</sup> Locksheath Scout Group

**Date:**

18/3/2026