

## About the Fund

To support members of Essex Scouting a **Support Fund**, has been established to enable the County to provide financial assistance to those Districts, Groups, Units and Individuals where support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures.

## Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund is to ensure Districts, Groups, Units and Young People most affected by cost-of-living rises can continue to participate in Scouts.

Applications will be assessed and grants awarded on an ongoing basis.

The grant amount will be decided by the County Grants Board.

Grant funding can be used to cover the costs directly incurred by:

- young people participating in Scouts, including:
  - subscription fees (subs) to take part in Scouts on a weekly basis
  - activities, events and camps (in the Group/Unit's programme that requires a payment from the parent/carer over and above regular subs)
  - travel costs (getting to/from Scout meetings)
  - and standard uniform items.
- Groups or Units in relation to their running costs i.e. volunteer expenses, meeting costs etc. And costs of their premises/meeting venue, including increased utility costs, increased rent.

## How the funding is distributed

Grants will be payable by bank transfer:

- direct to the District, Group or Unit for the benefit of the young person, for the District, Group or Unit to administer
- direct to the District, Group or Unit in relation to increased operational/running costs.

## Conditions of the Grant

- Groups, Units and Districts must be operating a Gift Aid Scheme.
- Each individual can only receive one grant in a twelve-month period.
- Each District, Group or Unit can receive only one grant in a twelve-month period.

## Expectations

### Subscriptions

If Groups, Units or individuals experience any financial hardship in connection with payment of the Annual Subscription, the County would look at individual cases, provided assistance had already been given by either the Group, Unit or District.

### Activities

If the Group, Unit or District are planning in taking part in a more costly activity (like a camp, or using an external provider) that they have considered how much they can subsidise this activity for their young people.

If Groups, Units or individuals experience any financial hardship in connection with payment of costs for an Activity, the County would look at individual cases, provided assistance had already been given by either the Group, Unit or District.

### Expenses

That volunteers should be claiming expenses for costs they incur in delivering Scouting – no volunteer should be out of pocket for doing their role.

If Groups or Units experience any financial hardship in connection with payment of expenses, the County would look at individual cases, provided assistance had already been given by either the Group, Unit or District.

Typical expenses will include:

- Carparking & mileage
- Activity expenses for the sections
- Subsidy of major events
- Training fees
- Insurance
- Purchase of materials
- Meeting arrangements and their associated costs (e.g. AGM/Trustee Board meeting costs).

### Sharing

Districts, Groups and Units are encouraged to share equipment etc, where and whenever possible.

As a County, we have a catalogue of all equipment held in the County Store and this equipment is available to Groups and Units for a nominal charge.

# Essex County Support Fund



## Uniform

Encouragement is given to setting up a uniform recycling system in the Group, Unit or District, to offer uniform items at low cost. Groups, Units and Districts should encourage parents/carers to explore second-hand uniform options via local online parent communities or second-hand retailers.

If Groups or Units experience any financial hardship in connection with the purchase of uniform, the County would look at individual cases, provided assistance had already been given by either the Group, Unit or District.

## Premises

Groups and Units which own their own Scout premises may be concerned about the costs of keeping it running.

If a Group/Unit rents a meeting space they may find the rent is increasing. Guidance on rights when renting can be found on the [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Typical Premises costs will be:

- Rent/hall hire fees, if you use other people's premises, or
- the costs of running your own headquarters
- Costs might include:
  - Rates (have the local authority been approached to provide rate relief ?)
  - Insurance (equipment, property and personal)
  - gas, electricity and water
  - repairs and maintenance or improvements. See Other Grants below.
  - cleaning
  - ground rent

If Groups, Units or Districts experience any financial hardship in connection with the running of premises, the County would look at individual cases, provided assistance had already been given by either the Group, Unit or District.

## Other Grants

The County has other grants available and fuller details and application forms can be found on the County website.

These grants include ones for:

- New buildings and repairs
- Activity equipment
- Air activities
- And additional needs