

THE MAYOR OF BARNET'S BENEVOLENT FUND

The Mayor's Benevolent Fund offers small one-off grants to **residents of the London Borough of Barnet** who are in financial need.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must:

- have lived in the borough for at least one year
- be in receipt of income-related statutory welfare benefits (such as Income Support).

PURPOSES

Grants are awarded for:

- **HOUSEHOLD GOODS** (maximum award - £200)
 - purchasing or replacing household appliances (such as a cooker, refrigerator or washing machine) or furnishing or equipping a new property (sourcing recycled items where possible)
- **SCHOOL UNIFORM** (maximum award - £100 per child)
 - a contribution to the cost of buying compulsory items of school uniform for children transferring from primary to secondary school or starting a new secondary school (excluding schools which operate their own schemes of financial assistance to parents in need and offer a similar level of funding)
- **FAMILIES WITH A NEW BABY**
 - help with essential items needed to care for a newly born child beyond what might be funded through statutory sources
- **CLOTHING FOR ADULTS**
 - where an applicant can demonstrate exceptional needs, such as for clothes or shoes that must be specially purchased
- **RELIEVING A FINANCIAL CRISIS**
 - where financial hardship has arisen from unforeseen circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be made in writing, either by e-mail to ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk or by letter to Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance Service, Barnet Council, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW. Requests will be accepted from a third party, such as a social worker, a health visitor or an advice agency, so long as the correspondent has first-hand knowledge of the client's circumstances.

Applications should include:

- the applicant's name, address and contact telephone number
- confirmation of how long they have lived in the London Borough of Barnet
- the number of family members resident in the household, including the ages of all dependants

- details of the family's regular income
- proof of entitlement to at least one form of income-related statutory welfare benefits
- a brief summary of an applicant's circumstances in support of the request for help
- details of the item(s) for which a grant is requested, including a quotation of the cost of any household appliance
- reference to other sources of funding that have been approached.

RESTRICTION

Applicants are restricted to a maximum of TWO awards from the benevolent fund.

WHO DECIDES?

All applications are considered by the trustees of the benevolent fund. It usually takes about four weeks to obtain a decision so long as applications contain all the information required. The trustees' decisions are final.

NOTIFICATION AND PAYMENT OF AWARDS

All decisions are notified by letter to the named correspondent. Awards are paid either by an Argos gift card or cheque in favour of the supplier of the goods (or services) in question. Cheques cannot be paid to applicants or any other person.

ENQUIRIES

For further information, please contact Ken Argent on 020 8359 2020 or by e-mail to ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk.