

ORKNEY CHILDREN'S TRUST

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Background

The Orkney Children's Trust came into being in November 1984 when funding was made available to all authorities within Scotland from the BBC Children in Need Appeal under the auspices of the Scottish Welfare Awards Network.

To administer this annual grant in Orkney a local group of trustees, chaired by the Lord-Lieutenant of Orkney, was established. Their remit was to disburse the funds received to those children who were disadvantaged or experiencing financial hardship. It was agreed that application to the fund would be made by a third-party referee on behalf of the child/children.

Funding from the BBC ceased in 2018. However, with the help of generous donations from various locally based organisations, the Trust continues to fulfil its commitment to helping children in need in Orkney.

Structure

The Orkney Children's Trust is a volunteer organisation, comprising our Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary along with three additional trustees.

Eligibility

The grant is available to any child, up to the age of 18 years, resident in Orkney and who is disadvantaged due to any disability, behavioral or

psychological problem, experiencing poverty, deprivation, illness, distress, abuse or neglect.

Criteria

The grant must be used only to directly benefit an individual child. Examples include; contributions towards the cost of clothing, bedding, technology equipment, school trips, resources for children with specific needs.

Items not eligible for grant funding;

Furniture, refurbishing/decorating or permanent floor coverings or white goods.

The maximum individual grant award for each individual child is £300 although exceptional circumstances will be considered.

Individual applications may be made on behalf of multiple siblings. Applications should be itemised with costings.

Application process

All grant applications are made through appropriate third-party referrals, for example from Social Services, Health Service, Education or the Voluntary Sector.

Anyone wishing to request funding is asked to complete a short application form, giving the child's name, age, address, detailing the amount requested, the purpose of the grant and a brief outline of circumstance.

The completed application form is then e-mailed to the Treasurer who in turn forwards it to all trustees for their consideration. On occasions further information may be asked for or queries put out for all trustees to consider. Once a consensus of opinion is reached then the award is made.

Grants are sent directly to the referring agency and an Acknowledgment Of Grant Form is returned by them.

The Trust provides a discrete and confidential service with details of grants and identifiable information known only to the referring agent, parent and trustees.

Payment process

Applications are processed quickly with funds issued often within 24 hours.

When approved, funds are issued directly to the referrer by way of cheque or bank transfer with a receipt form to be completed by the referrer and returned to the Treasurer.

Contact

Orkney Children's Trust welcomes all inquiries and looks forward to working with you in our endeavor to improve the lives of disadvantaged children in Orkney.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Trust if you would like further information.