

REA Benevolence – Basic Assistance Guidelines

REA Benevolence aims to provide financial and other assistance to serving and former members of the Corps, their spouses, widows, widowers and dependants who are in need through poverty. Benevolence should be seen as 'a hand up, not a hand out'.

The REA is able assist with the following:

- Payment of rent, rates and other utilities bills or arrears that are considered priority debts.
- Bankruptcy fees or Debt Relief Orders where recommended by a recognised Benefits and Money Advisor.
- Purchase of essential needs such as clothing, essential household goods and in emergency situations, food.
- Contributions towards the cost of Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPV) ie scooters or wheelchairs, stair lifts, bath lifts and riser/recliner chairs, and other medical aids not supplied by NHS.
- Contributions towards convalescent/respice holidays for the sick, elderly or infirm and/or their Carers.
- Essential house repairs/maintenance such as rewiring, decorating, replacement doors or windows of private properties that cannot be done by grants from Local Authorities. Apart from essential interior decorating this does not apply to Local Authority or private lets.
- For the elderly/sick/disabled - bathroom or kitchen adaptations that cannot be done by the Local Authority or where unnecessary delay is imposed.
- Small grants towards essential tools of trade, course fees to enable training for other/better employment - from Robert Gabriel Bequest or H&M Trust (small funds administered by the REA).
- Small annuities (£20pw) for people over 70 years of age, living in their own homes on low incomes and in receipt of all eligible state benefits.
- Small annuities (£17pw) for people over 70 years of age as 'top-up' fees for elderly/infirmliving in Local Authority or Private Nursing/Residential homes after all State benefits are in place, and who have savings below the recognised state limits.
- Payment towards spectacles or dental treatment if applicant is in receipt of Income Support/Pension Credit.
- Funeral costs are not normally paid but in exceptional circumstances and where an application for State Benefits has been made, a contribution may be made.

REA is not able to assist with the following:

- Repayment or clearance of debts to Finance Loan Companies, Banks or Building Societies. These are classed as non-priority debts.
- Repayment of mortgage or arrears of mortgage other than in exceptional circumstances such as threat of eviction of elderly/sick people or families with young children.
- Grants to purchase, repair or support running costs for motor vehicles. Rules may be relaxed for deposits on Motability cars for essential medical needs.

- Home improvements or adaptations where there is no medical/compassionate reason.
- Private medical treatment and medicines or appliances available on the NHS.
- Payment of legal fees, fines or Court Orders except for Bankruptcy fees or Debt Relief Orders.
- Anyone serving a prison sentence. Consideration is given to assisting with pre-release courses that enhance the client's employability upon release. Help may be given to dependants at home.
- Private education, though Bursaries are available in exceptional circumstances.
- Flights