



Benevolent & Children's Fund News

March 2025



[The Catenian Association Benevolent & Children's Fund \(catenianbenevolence.org\)](https://catenianbenevolence.org)

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 18th March 2025. As this was the last meeting in the Catenian year 2024/25, a summary of the Trustees activities in the year is given below, after a report of the meeting itself.

Five Trustees were present in person with three attending by video conference.

Four awards were made, with grants totalling £17,000 and loans £42,143. The Emergency Committee had been called into action on two occasions since the previous meeting in January. Two applications were deferred pending further information.

Loan repayments received amounted to £409,215.

Eight cases were reviewed. These are cases where a loan has been made previously and remains outstanding. The Trustees review such cases at intervals of no longer than two years. Occasionally, a beneficiary might offer to start making repayments: more often, it is appropriate to offer additional assistance: most often the file is put away for a further review in two years' time.

A further 27 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or from correspondence received.

RESERVES

	19/01/2025	16/03/2025
Equities	£5,485,923	£5,191,969
Bonds	£791,967	£792,998
Property Fund	£1,191,600	£1,194,600
Total	£7,469,490	£7,179,567
Cash held for investment	£194,058	£124,871
Cash at Bank	£68,191	£464,959
Total Reserves	£7,731,739	£7,769,397

One transfer of £100,000 was made on 25th January from the investment fund to the current account to replenish cash for immediate needs.

CHANGE TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

The Constitution for the proposed CIO was approved at the meeting. The Constitution is faithful to the commitments made in the Invitation to Consultation issued on 31st January 2024 with some amendments made arising from the responses to the Consultation.

A decision to apply to register the CIO with the Charity Commission was deferred pending discussions with Central Council regarding one outstanding matter.

SUMMARY OF 2024/25

To summarise the activity in the financial year, April 2024 – March 2025 (previous year in brackets):

21 grants awarded - £219,081 (19 - £155,291);

21 loans awarded - £1,197,968 (19 - £1,153,504);

Total assistance offered – £1,417,049 (£1,308,795);
8 loans repaid – £537,882 (6 - £178,010);
58 loans reviewed (47);
18 thank you letters received (19);
1966 items of correspondence received in the office (1515);
1388 items of correspondence sent (1248).

The next Trustees' meeting is on 20th May 2025.