

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund.

Annual Report of the Chairman 2024/25

The Trustees have continued to meet six times a year at regular intervals at the Catenian Head Office, Prologis Park, Coventry. The majority of Trustees attend in person and there is a video link to allow attendance when travel difficulties or other circumstances arise. There is an Emergency Committee on call to act quickly if urgent requests for assistance are received and funds can be made available in as little as 48 hours.

The names of the nine current trustees are detailed in the Annual Report and Accounts and comprise eight members of the Catenian Association and a lady Coroner. The senior offices previously held by the eight members of the Association are: GBNP/CC Chairman, Grand Secretary, Grand/Association Treasurer, four Directors one of whom is a former Director for overseas development (Grand & Central Councils). There is a wide range of experience amongst the Trustees including, accountancy, insolvency, investments, legal, medical, pensions, social security benefits, taxation, and working for various charities. Many of the Trustees have served on Circle Benevolent Boards (CBB) and also dealt with a large number of applications for assistance whilst previously serving as Provincial Directors.

Loans to Beneficiaries are reviewed every two years and as many of these were made over ten years ago the knowledge and advice of Trustees holding office for many years proves invaluable. Confidentiality and sensitivity are the overriding principles of both the Trustees and the CBBs when dealing with applications for assistance from a Member or their dependents. Circles have an obligation by rule to have an effective Circle Benevolent Board of which the responsible Director is an ex-officio member. The Trustees would ask every CBB to be vigilant of members and their dependents where assistance may be required and the Charity's Website contains all the information necessary for potential applicants.

As can be seen from the table of statistics over the last three years the total value of monies dispersed by the Fund has increased by 57% since 2022/23 and Members are asked to continue and, in some cases start making regular donations to ensure the Fund can meet the needs of applicants assuming this trend will continue. The large majority of income has come from investments held but this will decrease as these are cashed in to meet demands on funds

	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
New applications	20	15	18
From members	19	11	15
From dependants	1	4	3
Re-applications	30	38	26
From members	25	36	21
From dependants	5	2	5

Awards			
Grants	£219,081	£155,291	£115,450
Unsecured loans	£1,197,968	£1,153,504	£785,524
Total	£1,417,049	£1,308,795	£900,974
Number of meetings held in the year	6	6	6
Loans reviewed in the year	55	47	66

CIO PROJECT.

In 2023 accepting Solicitors advice and recommendations by the Charity Commission the Trustees voted to incorporate the Charity. Following a Consultation period talks have been taking place with the Trustees Appointing body, Central Council, and patience is requested to ensure the final documents reflect both the interests of the Members of the Catenian Association, the Beneficiaries and their dependents and the independence of the Charity which is enshrined in law

CONCLUSION

The Managing Trustees wish to thank the following for the efficient and effective help and administration of the Fund during the past year: Brother Phil Roberts, Clerk to the Trustees, Brother Mark Allanson, Chairman of the Investment Committee and all the Committee members, Gill, Janet, and all the Staff at Head Office, the Fund's Solicitors and the Circle Benevolent Boards and Directors involved in dealing with new cases and providing detailed information to enable the Board of Trustees to review existing ones.

Finally, I personally wish to thank my fellow Trustees for their diligence, care and excellent advice received throughout my period as Chairman.

John Hogan

CHAIRMAN 2024-25