



Benevolent & Children's Fund News

November 2025



The Catenian Benevolent Fund – Benevolent & Children's Fund (catenianbenevolence.org)

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 18th November 2025. Four Trustees were present in person and four by video conference.

Ten awards were made, with grants totalling £68,176 and loans £48,750, in total £116,926. The Emergency Committee had been called into action six times since the previous meeting in July. Loan repayments received amounted to £24,061.

Ten 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 28 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or from correspondence received.

RESERVES

	14/09/2025	16/11/2025
Equities	£5,576,283	£5,693,873
Bonds	£1,080,193	£881,039
Property Fund	£997,755	£997,755
Total	£7,654,231	£7,572,667
Cash held for investment	£194,017	£219,769
Cash at Bank	£71,614	£111,506
Total Reserves	£7,919,862	£7,903,942

There had been three transactions in the portfolio since the previous meeting:

- Transfer of £150,000 from Cash held for investment to the bank account on 21st September;
- Transfer of £200,000 from a Royal London Money Market Fund account to the bank account on 30th September;
- Sale of shares on 7th October, raising £137,546.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion paper was presented to the Trustees with some material evidence that a few Circles may be using the availability of the Benevolent Fund as a “marketing tool” for recruitment to the Association. This is of some concern to the Trustees. A paper will be issued to all members of the Association in the near future explaining the Trustees’ concerns.

CHANGE TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

A special meeting of Trustees was held by video conference on 13th November, with all present, to finalise proposals to apply to the Charities Commission to register the CIO. The conclusions were provided to Central Council on 17th November. Subject to a satisfactory response from Central Council, it is hoped to make a decision to proceed to registration very shortly.