



Benevolent & Children's Fund News

January 2026



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

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 20th January 2026. Four Trustees were present in person and three by video conference.

Six awards were made, with grants totalling £41,285 and loans £20,000 in total £61,285. The Emergency Committee had been called into action twice since the previous meeting in November 2025. Loan repayments received amounted to £8,214.

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

RESERVES

	16/11/2025	18/01/2026
Equities	£5,693,873	£5,812,368
Bonds	£881,039	£890,320
Property Fund	£997,755	£998,497
Total	£7,572,667	£7,701,185
Cash held for investment	£219,769	£72,298
Cash at Bank	£111,506	£207,000
Total Reserves	£7,903,942	£7,980,483

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

- Sale of 2,000 shares in Magnum Ice Cream on 12th December, received as part of Unilever's divestment programme;
- Transfer of £200,000 from Cash held for investment to the bank account on 12th December.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A paper was discussed regarding evidence received 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 draft paper will be submitted to the next meeting with a view to distributing it to all members of the Association explaining the Trustees' concerns.

CHANGE TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

Subject to a small number of minor amendments it is hoped to be able to give instructions after the meeting in March 2026 to the Trustees' solicitor to make the required changes to the Constitution and to submit it to the Charities Commission for registration.

The next meeting of the Trustees is on 17th March 2026.