Benevolent & Children's Fund News
May 2026

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

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 19th May 2026. It was the first meeting in the Catenian year 2025/26. On this occasion there were seven Trustees present either in person (four) or by video conference (three) with two apologies for absence.

It was another busy agenda, with 43 cases being considered including 6 applications for assistance. Six awards were made totalling £125,500,all of which were loans. The Emergency Committee had been called into action twice since the previous meeting in March. Loan repayments received amounted to £152,565.

Five 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 32 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or from correspondence received. This was an unusually high number, primarily due to progress reports being received on the 16 applications received at the previous meeting.

Three letters of thanks had been received since the last meeting, for which the Trustees are very grateful. Such letters are often quite moving but all are received with delight and recorded in the Minutes.

RESERVES

	15/03/2026	**19/03/2026**
Equities	£5,532,471	£5,480,384
Bonds	£883,259	£801,975
Property Fund	£998,497	£1,000,890
Total	**£7,414,22227**	**£7,283,249**
Cash held for investment	£137,387	£435,397
Cash at Bank	£61,128	£129,912
Total Reserves	**£7,612,742**	**£7,848,558**

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

- Transfer of £100,000 from BRI to the Co-op account on 25th March
- Ditto £45,000 on 30th March
- Sale of units in Royal London Money Market raising £69,313 on 30th March
- Sale of 3,690 shares in CRH raising £318,146 on 14th April.

CHANGE TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

A new draft CIO Constitution had been received from the Trustees' solicitor. The amendments had previously been agreed in principle between the Trustees and Central Council, subject to the final wording. At their meeting the Trustees approved the final wording. When Central Council concurs that the final wording of the amendments is an accurate reflection of what was previously agreed, instructions will be given to the Trustees' solicitor to submit the Constitution to the Charities Commission for registration of the CIO.