

Guide to making an application to the Brighton Fund



What is the Brighton Fund?

The Brighton Fund is a small charitable trust. We provide one off financial aid to residents of Brighton & Hove. Although Brighton & Hove City Council officers administer the fund and its members sit as trustees it is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1011724).

Who is it for?

The fund was initially founded to aid residents of Brighton who are over the age of 60. We have now expanded our remit to provide aid to any resident of Brighton & Hove. In recognition of the original intention of the fund applicants are sorted into three categories.

- Priority 1) Residents who are over 60
- Priority 2) Residents who are under 60

How do I apply to the Brighton Fund?

A support worker can make an application on behalf of their client using the Brighton Fund application form available from Brighton & Hove City Council's website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brighton-fund or go to www.brighton-hove.gov.uk and search 'Brighton Fund'.

Please note that applications from Individuals applying on their own behalf cannot be accepted. **To assist processing, wherever possible type the or use the on-line application form.**

What sort of information is required?

The Trustees need to be able to justify every award they make from the Brighton Fund. To be able to do this they need to know what your client's circumstance is, why they cannot afford the item and what benefit the item will bring.

What sort of things can I apply for?

The Brighton Fund is designed to pay for one off expenses that are necessities for the applicant. This could be anything from new work clothes and a citizen ID card to a washing machine.

We are not able to fund application for consumer electronics (laptops, phones, etc.), to directly pay debts (although we will fund DRO applications), and anything that requires an ongoing cost.

If the individual is in receipt of income support and the item they require is one that would normally be available via an application to the Social Discretionary Fund (either as a crisis or budgeting loan), the Trustees are unlikely to consider it unless:

- There are good reasons why the applicant cannot apply for a crisis or budgeting loan
- A social fund application has already been refused. If this is the case, you should attach a copy of the refusal letter to the application form.

To assist the trustees, please supply as much detailed information as possible about the items that are required and provide two estimates.

Please rank items in order of importance if you are applying for more than one.

If the item your client needs is expensive and you have managed to get partial funding from another source, the Brighton Fund can help by contributing to the total cost providing that the application meets the objectives of the fund.

I've applied; what happens next?

The Trustees meet once a month to discuss applications. This means that it may be up to four weeks before a decision on your application is made. Once a decision has been reached, you will be contacted by email. If the trustees decide to grant an award, a purchase order will be issued from the Brighton Fund for the Support Worker to take to the supplier with their client. Once the item is supplied they will invoice the Brighton Fund and payment will be made directly into their account by BACS.

An email will be sent confirming that an award has been made, the amount of the award and its purpose.

If you would like more information about the Brighton Fund or check about the suitability of an application, please contact: Nicci Gundry on 01273 291077.

Please note that, due to administrative requirements, it is not possible to discuss applications directly with potential beneficiaries. It should also be noted that the Trustees' decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

More information about the fund

The Brighton Fund was formed in 1984 as an amalgamation of 11 existing funds. Brighton Borough Council became the custodian of the fund with four councillors acting as the Trustees and the current Mayor as ex-officio. The Trustees are appointed for four year terms.

Although the fund is administered by the council it remains an independent charity accountable to the charity commission (reg. 1011724).

The 11 funds amalgamated into the Brighton Fund were:

- The Charity of John Bates for meat, bread and coal, founded 14 July 1874
- The Charity called The Henry Blackman Christmas Gift, founded 8 May 1939
- The Abbey Brigden and Burrows Fund, founded 15 October 1903
- The Charlie Charity, founded 1940
- The Albert Edward Clinch Fund, founded 1940
- The Adolphe Drincqbier Fund, founded 1915
- The Katherine Georgiana Guilford Bread Charity, founded 30 March 1921
- The Charity of Elize Nixon for the poor, founded 19 May 1925
- Albert Edward Peter's Charity
- The Charity of Ema Rosenthal for the poor, founded 13 April 1932
- The Edward White New Century Fund.