

New Section Grant

Background

Scout HQ used to give £100 to each new section opened, which the County matched with a further £100, and many Districts also contributed £100 towards. HQ replaced this with a £1,000 grant for sections opened in deprived communities and continued with £100 for non-deprived communities, and the County continued with £100 for all sections. HQ now only award £1,000 for new sections in deprived areas, and no funding is provided to new sections in non-deprived areas.

Experience of supporting over 10 years of growth across Berkshire, we know that in many cases additional funding is extremely helpful to open a new section – whether as a new Scout Group, or as part of an existing Scout Group. The choice about what to spend money on is best made locally – in some cases activity equipment is needed, in other places it is best put towards venue hire, and elsewhere to support uniform for new adults and young people.

Experiences in a number of other parts of England have demonstrated that sometimes providing funding to support temporary staff support to enable the new section to operate for an initial period of 20 weeks, or alternatively a shorter period of 10 weeks.

New Section Grant from 2018 onwards

We are keen to support the growth of Scouting through opening new sections, whether as part of an existing Scout Group or as part of a new Scout Group. We also recognise that making a generous amount of funding available for new sections can be encouraging to local teams who will need to support a new section. As such, the County will provide a £1,000 grant to support every new section opening.

The grant of £1,000 can be given in one of the following ways:

1. Bank transfer to a Scout Group account, or Scout District account if a Scout Group account does not yet exist. This transfer would normally be after the new section is registered with HQ, but can be made earlier by agreement.
2. Funding a self-employed Project Supporter, at £50 for 4-5 hours per week over 20 weeks. This would be paid from the County to the individual on production of an invoice after agreement of the role description.
3. Bank transfer of £500 as above, and funding a Project Support for 10 weeks, as above.

New Section Grant

Applying for the New Section Grant

To apply for the New Section Grant, the Local Development Officer (LDO) should be engaged with the project. This can be supporting it directly, or if the Scout Group or District can support, then the LDO will have been engaged in a discussion about the new section opening to provide advice and guidance.

An overview of how the New Section Grant will be spent will be sent to the LDO. These costs do not need to be exact, and receipts are not required, but indicative costs will provide reassurance that thought has been given to how the grant will be used to support the growth of Scouting.

For a new Scout Group, this will be sent by the District Chair or the District Commissioner. For an existing Scout Group, this will be sent by the Group Chair or the Group Scout Leader.

It is strongly recommended that a Group or District engages with the LDO at the earliest opportunity. In our experience involvement of the LDO, even in a supportive or consultative capacity, increases the chances of success.

Local Development Officer: Kim Williams
kim.williams@berkshirescouts.org.uk

April 2018

Pete Jeffreys, Deputy County Commissioner