

Designated Fund	SPECIAL NEEDS FUND
Purpose	To support 'special needs' projects or initiatives in Berkshire
CTB Approval/Update	March 2017, updated May 2018, updated January 2020, updated February 2023, updated August 2026
History	The Fund was originally set up as a 'restricted fund'. Despite strenuous efforts through historic information held by the County or with the Auditors, no information was found as to the criteria for funding. The matter was also discussed with the Charity Commission. The County Trustee Board (CTB) decided in May 2018 to re-designate this Fund as a 'Designated Fund' with a wide purpose.
Funding	The Fund is believed to be from an original donation, which has not been added to. The Fund is open to other donations or any additional funds allocated to it at the discretion of the CTB on an ad hoc basis.
Managers of Fund	County Programme Lead, County Youth Lead, County Treasurer (any two to agree funding).
Details	The Special Needs Fund supports individuals Scouts with Special Needs and the development of special needs scouting in general. • Improving physical building access, linked to the provision of an Accessibility Audit; • Provision of portable equipment; ramps, wheelchairs, induction loop systems, play equipment and similar items and mobility or other equipment in order that individuals can participate in scouting activities; • Translators, signers for large events or adult training, provision of appropriate signage and information systems at events.
Funding Criteria	The fund is relatively small so grants will be limited, and generally on a matched funding basis, other than in exceptional circumstances.
Restrictions	As detailed above.
Funding decision	At the discretion of the Fund Managers, based on the criteria above.
Application process	Email to grants@berkshirescouts.org.uk
Other information	None.