

Beyond state funding

Public spending cutbacks mean that many individuals in need are struggling to receive statutory support for anything that is considered peripheral or not deemed a basic necessity. They may have been supported in the past but the economic squeeze has deposited them on the margins of public care. The good news is there is an alternative, says **Sarah Johnson**

Sources of non-statutory help

Often state funding cannot cover all the costs for individuals in need. But there are charitable trusts and foundations whose sole purpose is to provide sustainable help through financial aid, in-kind support and advice.

Their aim is to help individuals whose needs lie beyond the scope of state support.

In the UK there are 2,220 charities offering over £300 million in grants for individuals in need and their carers. The wide range of support available includes financial grants for welfare purposes (i.e. weekly allowances, travelling expenses) and the provision of items (i.e. clothing and household items, food, utilities, and education).

It is worth noting that they also offer general advice and support for family members.

In the same way that state funding has limitations, some charitable trusts have narrowed their scope to individuals in need from religious groups, service and ex-service backgrounds, particular occupations and geographic locations.

Sixty five of the trusts specifically cater for people with chronic illness, disability, or who are

convalescent.

They can cover the cost of essentials such as entering and leaving hospital expenses, out-patient consultations, house adaptations, telephone installation charges, travel expenses and so on.

Many of the trusts also provide support for family members who care for them, alleviating the everyday struggles they contend with.

All of the trusts, including contact details, are listed in the new edition of *The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need*, published by the [Directory of Social Change](#) who have been providing funding information to the voluntary sector for over 30 years. Their Great Giving campaign aims to promote best practice among grant-making organisations.

How to secure funding

It is important to note that every charitable trust has its own scope of interest and funding criteria. Some will cover holidays and respite breaks while others will focus on house adaptations and requirements of day-to-day life. Some may be interested in offering recurring grants while others may prefer to give one-off grants.

1) Before making an application, it is important to explore all

sources of state funding first, as trusts can only give once this avenue is exhausted.

2) Only apply to trusts which offer support relevant to the need. Once the appropriate trust has been identified, request an application form and find out who should apply - the individual or a third party.

3) Include a specific description of the person and the need. Explain how much money is requested and what it will be used for.

4) Medical information should not be presented without an accurate diagnosis to support it and it is often necessary to explain why a financial need arises from a particular condition.

5) Be realistic about how much money the trust can give. It may be useful to break down the costs and apply to several trusts for smaller amounts as this could increase the chances of securing the right amount of funding.

6) If you are applying to more than one trust, make sure you mention it and tailor the application to the trust's criteria as many experienced trustees sit on more than one board.

A full list of the trusts and tips for applying can be found in *The Guide to Grants for Individuals*

in *Need*, published by the [Directory of Social Change](#) (www.dsc.org.uk).

CLIC Sargent offers unique support for children and young people under 21 who have cancer or have been under treatment in the past six months. They provide grants of up to £170 to alleviate a crisis or help with the quality of life of the child, and their family, during treatment.

Today around 75 percent of people with childhood cancer survive. But survival often comes at a price. Survivors face huge challenges – medically, socially and emotionally. "They may have ongoing health problems, with their kidneys, heart or lungs, restricted growth, or infertility," says CLIC Sargent campaigns and public affairs manager Emily Bird.

"Their work or education may suffer, due to so much time in hospital. They may find it hard to reintegrate with their friends and peers too."

CLIC Sargent aims to operate in the space between where treatment ends and life continues. They are continually urging the government to do more to recognise and act upon the diverse needs of the UK's 20,000 childhood cancer survivors.

