

GUIDANCE NOTES NO:

**9.3**

# **THE FA'S BENEVOLENT FUND — AND FOOTBALL'S OTHER DISCRETIONARY FUNDING SOURCES**

**FOR ALL**

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# THE FA'S BENEVOLENT FUND — AND FOOTBALL'S OTHER DISCRETIONARY FUNDING SOURCES

Within the football family, there are various discretionary funding sources to support those in need and/or to mitigate financial hardship.

These Guidance Notes focus on The FA's Benevolent Fund in relation to survivors of abuse in football. The Notes also list contact details for other relevant football organisations that operate discretionary funds.

## THE FA BENEVOLENT FUND

### WHAT IS IT?

The Fund offers practical financial support for those in football who are in need. As part of this wide remit, it is also open to applications from survivors of abuse in football.

It's important to note that The FA Benevolent Fund is not a compensation fund. It exists to provide support and/or to mitigate financial hardship. It cannot provide long-term support, retrospective funding or replacement funding (e.g. for government benefits, building projects or legal fees).

### WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

The available support is discretionary, specific and based on an assessment of an individual's needs. Support may come in the form of advice, signposting to relevant statutory or charitable services or financial assistance as part of a plan towards longer term financial independence.

This sits alongside the separate offer from The FA of therapeutic support via the appropriately qualified network of counsellors and therapists at Sporting Chance<sup>1</sup>, for those impacted by non-recent child sexual abuse in the game.

Here is a link to other survivors talking about how opening up and asking for help is so important. <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-9-support-for-survivors>

Clarity of the applicant's financial circumstances (e.g. household income and expenditure and any debts / arrears).

### WHO CAN MAKE AN APPLICATION?

Anyone who has had an involvement as a registered player, coach, referee, manager or administrator within English football – at whatever level. But please read the application criteria below – and any further information sent to you, should you make an application

### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR APPLYING?

Applicants to the Fund need to be aware that among the evidence required will be:

- Involvement with English football (e.g. the name and location of club or organisation, the league the club played in, and the seasons the applicant was registered with the club).
- That the applicant has reported the abuse to the police, NSPCC or The FA (e.g. by referencing a crime number and relevant communication to the survivor from the police and or the relevant communication from The FA).
- Why the applicant needs help now.
- Details of any other support the applicant has received or accessed to assist with their recovery and wellbeing, emotionally and financially.

### HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

To register your interest in applying to the Benevolent Fund, please e-mail [benevolentfund@TheFA.com](mailto:benevolentfund@TheFA.com) so that further information can be sent to you.

## FOOTBALL'S OTHER DISCRETIONARY FUNDING SOURCES

If you're a member of the PFA (Professional Footballers' Association), LMA (League Managers' Association) or Referees' Association, please contact the relevant organisation to enquire about the support that their members can apply for through their respective charitable funds.

The PFA can be contacted at [Info@thePFA.co.uk](mailto:Info@thePFA.co.uk) or on **0161 236 0575** or **0207 329 9966**.

The LMA can be contacted at [LMA@leaguemanagers.com](mailto:LMA@leaguemanagers.com) or on **01283 576350**

The Referees' Association can be contacted at: [welfare@the-ra.org](mailto:welfare@the-ra.org)

<sup>1</sup> Sporting Chance is the charity set up by Tony Adams, former Arsenal and England player, to support sportspeople with addictive disorders and their all-round mental and emotional well-being.



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