



SWVG Policy / Guidance - asylum-seekers- what SWVG may pay for

Assist scheme

We provide a weekly cash allowance (currently £40 for an adult and £20 for a child) for food and other essentials for destitute asylum seekers who are not receiving NAS Support. For some people who are partly supported by friends or family, we provide “personal money” of £20-£30 per week.

Legal justice project

The project includes funds to help pay for:

- Some legal fees related to their asylum claim where these are not covered by legal aid
- Travel costs for people visiting solicitors, attending interviews with the Home Office and delivering documents to Liverpool where they can't be funded by other methods
- Document translation costs
- Fees for medical and other reports and obtaining evidence from overseas

Social activities

Apart from events organised for groups, individuals can request funds for social activities (including for their children). Examples are materials for craft activities and fees for gym membership, swimming or dance lessons.

Costs are normally limited to £20 per month.

Education

People who are in contact with SWVG can apply for help with the following costs related to education:

- Registration and examination fees and fees for short English courses
- Books and other study materials
- Travel costs to college

SWVG does not normally help to fund other course fees.

Travel costs

Apart from travel costs mentioned above, people can apply for help with travel costs, for example related to:

- Signing on at a police station
- Visits to hospital/dentists or AMC

Other items

SWVG may pay other items which might include:

- A bicycle or repairs to a bicycle.
- A mobile phone or repairs to a phone
- Emergency subsistence due to a missing benefit payment or NASS funds
- The cost of a prescription if the asylum-seeker is not entitled to free provision

Who authorises what can be paid

Financial support under both the ASSIST Scheme and the Legal Justice Project is reviewed by the Money Allocation Group (MAG) at least every 8 weeks, based on a report from the relevant visitor. MAG meets monthly.

Any request for regular funding for other items (eg travel costs or social activities) is also agreed by MAG.

For “one off” items, visitors can allocate up to £20 for their client. For amounts from £20 to £120, the co-ordinators (currently Claudia, Elizabeth and Chris) can authorise the funding. For amounts above £120, MAG will consider the request. If the request is urgent MAG can make a decision between meetings.

Requests for funding should be sent to Xanthe.

Version control

		Notes
Version number	3	
Author	MAG originally	
Date approved by Executive (trustees)		
Date approved by – who else?	Revised May 2019	Treasurer
	Revised 4 Aug 2019	Claudia Glyn said to remove gym membership
	Revised March 2020	revisions by Chris Holloway/Chris Stephens
Date due for review	April 2021	
Date added to website	27 March 2020	
Date put onto weekly news		
Date discussed at general meeting		