

THE MACFARLANE TRUST

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 15 January 2015 at 10am via teleconference.

Present: Paul Biddle (Interim Committee Chair)
Matt Gregory
Patrick Spellman

In attendance: Jan Barlow (Chief Executive)
Victoria Richards (Director of Operations)
Keisha Hanchard (Support Services Officer)

668.15 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

669.15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

670.15 Matters Arising

- (i) The grants schedule from the meeting held on 11 December 2014 was agreed as a correct record.
- (ii) The grant expenditure for the year to date was noted.
- (iii) 666.14(i) – Case 2 from 11 December 2014 meeting: the Committee were made aware by email on 19 December 2014 that the PB accepted the grant offer towards her roof repairs and was able to meet the cost of the balance.

671.15 Applications, including those circulated by “round robin” for clarification, cases and reviews/first appeals

- (i) The Committee made decisions on the following cases:

Case 1: Agreed a one-off grant of £217.20 towards school uniform for the dependant of a deceased primary beneficiary whose mother is ineligible to receive payments under the widow's policy. The dependant's mother should be advised that this grant would no longer be available.

Case 2: Agreed a grant of £380 towards car repairs for a primary beneficiary.

Case 3: Agreed a grant of £550 towards counselling sessions, in principal, for the partner of a primary beneficiary, subject to receiving a copy of an income and expenditure statement showing that it is relatively balanced.

Case 4: Declined a grant towards a respite break for a primary beneficiary as it was felt that the case presented did show that the break was needed as a direct result of HIV e.g. side effects from the change of medication. However, an advance of up to £828 was offered as they were empathetic to his need to have a break. The advance would be repayable over 24 months.

- Case 5: Agreed a grant of £2,034.44 and offered an advance of £2,034.44 towards a replacement driveway, kerb drop and application fee for a primary beneficiary. The advance would be repayable over 24 months.
- Case 6: Agreed a grant of £900 and offered an advance of £900 towards a tooth implant for a primary beneficiary. The Committee were satisfied that the beneficiary did not meet the criteria to receive free treatment as set out on the NHS Choices website; 'a person who cannot wear dentures, whose face and teeth has been damaged, such as people who've had mouth cancer or an accident that's knocked a tooth out'. The offer letter should set out the repayments of the advance which could be up to 24 months. The PB could also accept the grant without the offer of the advance.
- Case 7: Agreed a grant of £61.50 for parking, £885 for childcare and £148.95 towards mileage for the family of a primary beneficiary who was hospitalised for three weeks after breaking his wrists and ankle.
- Case 8: Declined a grant towards moving home and setting up home costs for a primary beneficiary, as the case presented did not provide a strong reason for a move from a rental property to a purchased property e.g. for better disabled access, not available from the council. Also, the Trust had already provided support to move following the breakdown of the relationship in 2009, and to assist with the sale of the joint property in 2013. However, an advance to cover the costs of £3,150 for setting up home and £3,914 for moving home was offered, repayable over 24 months.
- Case 9: Agreed a grant of £1,116 towards a respite break for a primary beneficiary and his carer following completion of his HCV treatment.
- (ii) The Committee noted all round-robins/discretionary grants awarded since 11 December 2014 below:
- 19/12/14 – the Committee agreed a grant of £2,171 towards university rent and living costs the son of a primary beneficiary (2018).
 - 19/12/14 - the Committee agreed a grant of £3,500 and an advance of £3,500 towards an ex-Motability car for a primary beneficiary (1746).
- (iii) There were no regular payment advances awarded since 11 December 2014.

672.15 Any other business

(i) Counselling Fund

VP informed the Committee that the Hepatitis C Trust Counselling Fund was not taking on new referrals, as they were unsure of their funding position until the new financial year 2015/16. The Committee noted the document of ongoing counselling cases, and were satisfied that the office were able to manage the funding without requests being presented to the Committee. The Office Guidelines should also be amended to state that a grant of up to £900 can be awarded towards counselling sessions, provided that the case meets the criteria of the Hepatitis C Trust Counselling Fund. This change is to be reviewed in May 2015 when the update from the Hepatitis C Trust is received.

Action: KH

673.15 Date of next meeting

GRO-C

Wednesday 25 February 2015, 9:30am via teleconference