Hardship Fund Guidelines
HBTSR Hardship Fund
The purpose of the Hardship Fund is to hold money that will be immediately available to make small donations to meet emergency or short-term needs of people seeking refuge or asylum living in South Wales or with links to this area where these cannot be easily or promptly met from benefits or other sources.
Such needs may include food, clothing, shelter, transport, health needs and therapies, education, training and equipment, but not excluding computers, phones, leisure, sport or entertainment where these may have important practical or therapeutic value.

The fund will be administered by the Treasurer of HBTSR plus two members elected initially by an HBTSR Group Meeting and thereafter re-elected at HBTSR’s AGM. This group will be known as the Hardship subcommittee. The Chair will be informed about all applications and may offer advice. The scheme will commence with £1,000 allocated from HBTSR’s general funds and may be topped up from time to time on application by the Treasurer to an HBTSR Group Meeting.
Donations will typically be of £200 or less. Donations of up to £500 may be made by the sub committee without application to an HBTSR Group Meeting.
Larger sums will require approval of a Group Meeting or
Trustees prior to a group meeting.
Decisions on donations will be made by unanimous decision of the Hardship Sub committee. Payments will be made by the Treasurer. An emailed receipt will be requested from the beneficiary, or their Sponsor.
Donations may be requested by:
1 partner organisations working with people seeking refuge or asylum in nearby cities, especially Swansea.
2 Any member of HBTSR on behalf of a person or family seeking refuge or asylum.
3 Any person or family seeking refuge or asylum living within the HBTSR area.

However we will seek advice from a partner organisation for anyone in categories 2 or 3 as we believe they have a clearer idea of what else is available and whether the request is justifiable.

If the sub committee decline the application, the applicant will be given an explanation and will have the right to appeal to an HBTSR Group Meeting.

The Treasurer will report to each Group Meeting the donations made. A full account of transactions of the scheme will be included in the Treasurer’s annual financial report to the HBTSR AGM.

The HBTSR AGM will have the power to wind up the scheme or vary its terms of reference.

An additional small sums emergency fund was established via SASS in October 2022 to help deal with urgent financial distress such as need for food, urgent transport or clothing and
in general the amount paid to any individual will be under £50 and generally under £20. This fund is administered by 3 people and payments from HBTSR are made to an account set up by Maria Nicholas for this purpose. This fund may take over many of the requests previously made to HBTSR.

In addition EYST have money from HBTSR for Urgent Accommodation. Fund set up in July 2022. Since March 2021 EYST had money from HBTSR to respond to urgent small sum needs. This fund was so successful that a grant from a national charity was made available to EYST for a Case and Crisis worker and an associated hardship fund. HBTSR funding was no longer needed.

The decision was made to respond to increasing concerns within EYST about the number of people who became street homeless and destitute as a result of their asylum claim. Despite working closely with Sharetawe, there are no quick fixes and no surplus of accommodation. Sophie at EYST has to provide information to the Council to prove that the asylum claim is being worked on and that EYST will apply for their NASS support when appropriate. After a few days, the council usually offer a room whilst EYST work further on the person’s asylum cases. So the idea of the Accommodation fund paid for by HBTSR is to allow EYST to book a B&B room for a couple of nights whilst statutory services are sorted out.

Updated December 2022