



# Okehampton United Charities

*Funding for the Community*

## **CHAIRS CRISIS FUND – Policy**

Grants of up to £300 may be made to support individuals suffering acute hardship\*. Up to 10 grants per annum may be made on the authority of the Chair with the agreement of one other OUC Trustee, (usually the Chair of the Grants subcommittee) without prior reference to the remaining trustees provided the chair is satisfied that:

- The individual concerned is suffering acute hardship requiring immediate financial support and
- Professional written support has been received to support the request and
- The beneficiary has no other reasonable prospect of securing immediate funds and
- The beneficiary understands this is a one-off award and will not be repeated and
- The Chair is satisfied that the award is for an essential purpose and
- The Chair is satisfied the funds will be used for the purpose specified.

OUC will seek partners (such as Okehampton Medical Centre and Citizens Advice) to work with in the implementation of this policy. OUC will pay the award directly to those supplying the goods or services. The Chair will take reasonable steps to ensure the validity of the request, but it is recognised that accurate means testing is not possible. The Chair will report any grants made to the next Trustees meeting. If the Chair is unsure of the validity of a request, he / she must consult with the other Trustees.

(\*“Acute” hardship refers to a difficulty caused by a particular situation which can be alleviated by a single grant. The charity seeks to help individuals suffering chronic or long-term hardship through its support of organisations working in this area.)