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**2021 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**NOTES FOR UNIT LEADERS/TREASURERS**

At all levels of guiding, one of the biggest consequences of the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic will be how much it will impact our finances going forward.

After more than nine months of disruption to guiding activities, we know that units may struggle to meet their usual outgoings. In particular we recognise units may face a problem when subscription payments become due in February 2021.

No-one should worry about their unit’s ability to pay the invoice as support is available from your county.

**Things you can do now**

We encourage units to act now, and if possible consider their prospective revise budget over the next term. A copy of a template is attached which may be useful to help you do this.

Other simple ways units can reduce spend include:

* concentrating on activities which don’t require expensive materials – perhaps using up those things already in stock where possible
* increasing the opportunities for exchange of second-hand uniforms to reduce costs
* ensuring that all Gift Aid applications are up to date. If you need help from County for Gift Aid please get in touch, don’t just think about it.
* sharing resources with other units. Work with commissioners to support other units or enquire about resources before spending hard gained finances.

County financial support will be conditional on the unit having completed and reviewed its accounts for 2019. So if you haven’t done them yet, please make this your first priority. It is also important that if possible, local sources of funding have been explored. For example local charities may be able to support the unit.

**Criteria for requesting support from County – and how your application will be considered**

**A unit** requiring help submits an application form to its local commissioner along with:

* a copy of the unit’s reviewed 2019 unit accounts
* an up-to-date bank statement for each of the unit’s bank accounts at the time the application is submitted (statements to be dated no earlier than November 2020)

**The county committee** which will include commissioners from division and district and the finance team will consider the request, providing all the items have been included. Any missing elements will void the application.

**There is support available to help with 2021 subscriptions. No-one should worry about their 2021 subscription invoice. Don’t just ignore it, talk to your commissioner now and get her advice.**

**Any applications to county must be received by 22 February at the latest.**