



## THE RETREAT YORK BENEVOLENT FUND

### What is the Benevolent Fund?

The Retreat York Benevolent Fund was established in 1919 when the Committee of Management of The Retreat York, in conjunction with Meeting for Sufferings, issued an appeal to raise a fund. The primary purpose of the Fund is to assist members of the Religious Society of Friends, and those closely connected with Friends, to meet the cost of treatment at The Retreat where they are unable to meet the full fees payable because they are in "straightened circumstances". The intention in setting up the Fund was "to lessen in many Friends' families the burden which mental affliction inevitably brings". The funds held by the Benevolent Fund are kept entirely separate from other finances of The Retreat. If the income of the fund is not fully utilised in the primary purpose of the Fund then grants can be made towards the cost of care at care facilities' other than The Retreat York.

The Trustees of the Fund have a duty to ensure that grants are only made in the circumstances envisaged by those who set up the Fund.

### How Do I Access The Fund?

1. **Contact the Director of Finance** (Secretary for the Fund) at The Retreat 01904 412551 (ext 2205) or email [rbrownlow@theretreatyork.org.uk](mailto:rbrownlow@theretreatyork.org.uk)
  - Request documentation
2. **Complete documentation and return to the Director of Finance**
  - The documentation required includes certification by a named Friend indicating support for the application and providing details of how closely the applicant is associated with the Meeting. If the financial circumstances of the recipient change for the better, either during their treatment or subsequently, the Friend undertakes to notify the Trustees of the Fund.
3. The application is considered by a representative from the Trustees and the Secretary to the Fund. The applicant is then informed of the decision.

### Donations

Given that Friends, or those closely connected with Friends, are the only permitted beneficiaries of the Fund it is entirely reliant upon donations from such sources.

Donations are welcome and should be clearly marked as being for The Retreat York Benevolent Fund and forwarded to the Director of Finance at The Retreat York.