

## How much does it cost to help protect yourself and your colleagues when the unthinkable happens?

**Just £2.50 a month!**



Dear Colleague,

It won't happen to me, or to any of my colleagues, that unforeseen accident, unexpected bereavement or other insurmountable problem, of course it won't. Unfortunately things that change lives for ever, and turn day to day living from normal to somewhere between uncomfortable to downright intolerable, do happen and sometimes they do happen to us, to our workmates, or to people they really care about.

We are all guilty of putting the unthinkable out of our minds, and of course, life would be a nightmare if we always thought the worst. However for some, the unthinkable does happen, for some, what we think of as normal moves from enjoying a full life, to facing an uncertain future with terrifying swiftness. This is where your Benevolent Fund can help, by providing things the 'system' cannot fund or does not have access to.



Your Benevolent Fund can and does help those who are experiencing the unthinkable and is able to contribute in a tangible way, changing lives that have been blighted for the better, helping those who for whatever reason are unable to help themselves, by making life tolerable again. However for the Benevolent Fund to provide this help for those you care about in the future, it needs your help now.

The things that are vital for quality of life, when the future is looking bleak, are only affordable if everyone gives a little now so that we You can support your Benevolent Fund now and know that it will be there for you and the ones you would like to see helped when they need it most.

You may be wondering what sort of help your Benevolent Fund can and does give, so I'd like to share some examples of the tangible ways, in which your Benevolent Fund can and does help those who have given their lives to serving the police.

An annual visit to a police widow revealed that her upstairs windows were cracked. She was an immensely proud woman who did not have the money to replace the windows, and as she lived alone, she simply moved to the down stairs rooms, covered the windows with cardboard to try and keep in the heat, and accepted her lot. After the visit an application to help her, resulted in the fund replacing her windows and doors, supplying some portable electric heaters and some decorating. This changed her life in two ways, making her more comfortable and more importantly making her feel valued.



Dick O'Brien was a medically retired with MS. He needed some conversion work done on his house when he became unable to walk even with the aid of sticks. The Benevolent Fund arranged a ramp to his front door, replaced the standard door with a wider one to allow wheelchair access. He was also subsequently bought an electric wheelchair (scooter) on which he can now get out of the house to the supermarket to do some shopping. A Stannah Stair Lift gets him upstairs. His quality of life, simply by being able to get around and out of the house has changed immeasurably for the better.

Simon Anderson who was involved in a police vehicle motorcycle accident resulting in him being paralysed from the waist down. He is confined to a wheelchair, and the Benevolent Fund assisted by having the downstairs doors widened to allow him to move around. He had bought a house with a swimming pool when he was fit, as his wife had a back injury and needed to swim to prevent seizures. The Benevolent Fund purchased an electric sling hoist on a rail track over the pool, so that he can now wheel himself to the pool, hoist himself into the sling and then track over and down into the pool. A wet room and chair was also fitted allowing him to shower in the wet chair.

Adrian (Basil) Price was an extremely keen sportsman, often running to work and home again to keep fit. He suffered a heart attack due to hereditary illness which medical staff had underestimated. During the operation he lost circulation to his leg and had to have it amputated. His life was turned upside down. The Benevolent Fund paid for a scientific sports leg made of light alloys that has enabled him to return to an active life.



So you can see your Benevolent Fund can and does give tangible help to those who need it, when they need it.

The Avon and Somerset Constabulary, as you may be aware, was formed by merging the Bristol and the Somerset and Bath Constabularies. Similarly the Benevolent Fund encompasses pensioned members and in exceptional circumstances dependants of pensioned members of these forces. The Funds constitution is available from the Fund Secretary, or through the Treasurer.

Due to a variety of reasons, we have taken our eye off the ball in terms of asking new recruits to join the fund and the trustees are finding that money is flowing out faster than it is coming in. The fact is that we are living longer and so calls on the Benevolent Fund are increasing all the time.

That's why I am urgently asking for your help now! Please find the time to fill in the attached form and donate that all important £2.50 per month so that we can make life so much better for those in real need, so don't delay and get your form in today.

Funds will ensure that colleagues in need, whether serving or retired, widows or widowers, get the help the years of service have earned them.

Yours sincerely

Alan Bell,  
Hon. Treasurer

**Avon and Somerset Benevolent Fund is a registered charity number 1085497.**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary Benevolent Fund  
Application Form

Family Name	
Forenames	
Staff Number	
National Insurance Number	
Payroll / Pension Reference Number	
Station / Dept	
Home Address (including Postcode)	
Contact Telephone Number	

I wish to make a monthly voluntary donation to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Benevolent Fund ("the Charity"): Registered Charity Number 1085497.

I understand that the present rate of voluntary donation requested for Avon and Somerset Police Officers, members of Police Staff or Pensioners to the charity is £2-50p (gross) per month, but this will change should the basic rate of income tax change from 20%.

I further understand that the Charity Trustees may amend the voluntary donation rate from time to time according to the needs of the Charity, but that at least 30 days notice of any such amendment will be notified by the Charity through publication in Force General Orders. I confirm that I do not require to be personally notified of any amendment to the contribution rate.

I hereby give authority for my donations to the Charity to be deducted from my gross salary or gross pension and passed to the Charity under the Give as You Earn payroll giving scheme operated by the Charities Aid Foundation. I confirm that my donations to charity through payroll giving will not be used in payment of a covenanted agreement. I understand that only gifts to organisations with charitable status within the UK can be accepted and that no gift can be made as a membership subscription or to pay for goods or services supplied.

Signed ..... Date.....

Once completed please send the signed form to the Fund Administrator at:  
1, St David's Court, Windmill Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 6UP  
(or via the Force internal mail).

For Administration Use Only	
Date Received :	
	<u>Payroll</u>
Date Actioned	