



THE PLAYERS FOUNDATION
COMPANY NUMBER: 08352024
CHARITY NUMBER: 1150458

Policy in respect of Beneficiaries living with dementia or other neurodegenerative conditions

Who are we.

The Players Foundation is committed to supporting former footballers who have been diagnosed with dementia or other neurodegenerative diseases (NDD). We work closely with our partners DISC Dementia Support Team who are on hand to guide you through what can seem a very daunting process. DISC are dedicated to working with those who either have a dementia/NDD diagnosis – or who care for someone living with dementia/NDD. We understand that finding the right support at such an emotional time can be extremely difficult and the team is happy to help you liaise with your GP and Adult Social Services to ensure you receive the appropriate advice and information.

How can we help.

We recognise the difficulties in coming to terms with a dementia/NDD diagnosis and the team is on hand to make you and your family aware of all the benefits you may be entitled to from Adult Social services and support available via The Football Fund. The Players Foundation welcomes applications for additional help (as long as that help is within our policy) where Adult Social Services or The Football Fund were unable to assist. This applies whether you are living at home or resident in a care home. If you are applying for yourself – or on behalf of the beneficiary – please let us have detailed information about your particular request: the more information you give us, the easier it will be for us to present your application to our Board of Trustees.

Assessing your needs.

Our partners at DISC (discdementiasupport.org) are able to provide support from the moment a diagnosis is given. Firstly, DISC will ensure that you are receiving all the help and benefits – both practical and emotional – you are entitled to. DISC will then assess any further needs not covered by Adult Social Services – either for home living or residential care – and report to the Trustees who will consider an application for a grant or additional help based on their recommendations. The Players Foundation is not able to assist with the cost of residential care home fees or top up fees.

Applying for dementia support.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) has announced the creation of a new fund, supported by the Premier League, to assist former players, and their families, who have been impacted by dementia and other neurodegenerative conditions. This fund is called The Football Fund. Applications for the fund can be made by contacting the PFA, The Players Foundation is unable to provide guidance in respect of the criteria of this fund as this has not been shared publicly.

The Players Foundation are committed to offering care, advice and support. We can refer its beneficiaries through to the PFA Wellbeing Department for counselling for you and a family member or carer. You may also be eligible for extra help in the form of physiotherapy or memory clinics. And we can arrange free courses for carers to help them understand and come to terms with a dementia or other neurodegenerative condition diagnosis. We can also help with applications for the relevant benefits for your situation and offer debt advice where appropriate.



Applying to The Players Foundation

If DISC consider you might benefit from financial support with, for example, home adaptations or help with a utility bill or any debt-related problems arising from a dementia diagnosis, they will assess your needs and then refer you to the Trustees who will consider any application directly related to improving the condition of the person living with dementia or other neurodegenerative condition. The Players Foundation will assess your circumstances and as long as your assets are less than £23,250 (this does not include the value of a beneficiary's home unless it is vacant) we will do everything we can to help. The income of other members of the family will never be taken into account. The reason we impose a limit is to enable The Players Foundation to direct resources to those most in need of financial support. Services other than financial support are not subject to any assessment of assets.

Every application will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be individually assessed. We do not require medical proof of a condition, but we do require the applicant to certify, in a statement of truth, that the information they have provided is, to the best of their knowledge and belief, accurate. If we can help, we will. However, we do remind you that we are a charity and therefore do not have limitless funds at our disposal.

The Players Foundation will consider every application carefully and reach a decision, usually within 4-6 weeks. If you are unhappy with our decision, you may ask for it to be reviewed under our appeals policy, although once a final decision is made, it becomes binding. The Players Foundation does not make loans to beneficiaries or dependents.

Examples of how The Players Foundation can help.

Once a reasonable, practical and affordable solution is recommended to us by DISC, we will consider any relevant request. Here are just a few examples of how we might be able to help:

- If it is recommended that a person with dementia would benefit from treatment such as physiotherapy or speech therapy (and Adult Social Services are not able to provide) we can help to meet the costs.
- We can also resolve specific issues where quality of life is affected. For example, we recently helped a beneficiary who kept tripping over his front door. We arranged for an assessment and consequently paid for the installation of a replacement door with a lower threshold.
- Where The Players Foundation feels it will benefit the person with dementia, we can contribute towards the cost of home adaptations, i.e., bathroom refits or the installation of a stairlift where getting upstairs is no longer possible.
- If we feel that someone is having to wait too long to receive support, we can help by arranging funding of a necessary aide – for example, a wheelchair or paying for a medical assessment.

Any funding provided by The Players Foundation must be used only for the purposes under which it is granted. If for any reason the funding cannot be used, The Players Foundation reserves the right to ask for that funding to be repaid. If circumstances change after a grant has been awarded, the applicant will be expected to explain the change in situation to request that the grant remains in place. No grant can be made without a full application form being completed and if required we can give assistance with the completion of the form via the Grant Administrator.

This document is a revision of the previous policy. In order to ensure we are able to provide the best support and advice to our beneficiaries, we have taken expert advice from DISC. The trustees are bound to operate within the constraints of charity law at all times, bearing in mind the needs of all other beneficiaries and relevant financial circumstances.



Finally, all grants are entirely at the discretion of the trustees of The Players Foundation and in accordance with this policy.

Approved at the Trustee Board Meeting on 15th February 2022

Updated :	02 May 2023
Reviewed and Updated:	29 October 2024
Next review:	29 October 2026