

[Name]

[Address]

[Date]

Dear [Sir or Madam/ Name]

Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a painful, progressive form of inflammatory arthritis. It usually begins in early adulthood, a critical period in terms of education, work and establishment of relationships. The condition can have a huge impact on education and career, with knock-on consequences on everything from a person's mental health to their financial situation.

Even once a person with AS has achieved a diagnosis, there are still gaps in care for people with AS across the country. In particular, in access to physiotherapy and employment advice, and in supporting patients during 'flare ups' of their condition. These wider elements of patient care are key to ensuring that patients remain active, independent and have a good quality of life.

NASS groups operate in over 90 areas of the UK, working closely with hospitals and their rheumatology staff making sure that there is affordable, regular access to physiotherapy and hydrotherapy for AS patients. These groups provide education and support and encourage people with AS to self manage their long term conditions. NASS Leicester meets for weekly sessions and is a completely self-funding group.

We are therefore seeking funding for our branch and would ask that you consider us for [name of scheme].

Yours sincerely

Name

NASS [branch]