

Annual Report and Accounts 2022 - 2023

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Scouts
Derwentside

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Derwentside District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1016535
Principal Address: c/o Howden Bank Farm, Maiden Law, Lanchester, County Durham. DH7 0QS

1.1 Trustees

David Lovett	District Chair
David Ellis	District Secretary
Nick McCormick	District Treasurer
Jason Wise	District Commissioner
Finlay Marsh	District Youth Commissioner
Kerry Chappell	Elected Representative
Neil Jukes	Elected Representative
Keith Slater	Elected Representative

1.2 Advisors

None

1.3 Bankers

Lloyds Bank PLC
Virgin Money UK PLC

1.4 Independent Examiner

Mr. Richard Major

2 Structure, Governance and Management

2.1 Governing Document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.

2.2 District Scout Council

The District Scout Council is the electoral body to which the District Executive Committee is accountable. Membership of the District Scout Council is open to:

Ex officio Members

- All adult members of the Scout District.
- All adults holding the following appointments from the Scout Groups in the District
 - i. Group Scout Leader
 - ii. Deputy Group Scout Leader
 - iii. Group Chair
 - iv. Group Secretary
 - v. Group Treasurer
 - vi. Section Leader
 - vii. Assistant Section Leader
 - viii. Group Active Support Manager
- all Explorer Scouts;
- members of the District Scout Network;
- parents of Explorer Scouts
- County Commissioner
- County Trustee Board Chair;

Nominated Members

Other supporters of the District Appointed by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee.

The County Commissioner and County Chair are ex-officio members of the District Scout Council.

2.3 Constitution

The District is established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

2.4 Trustee Selection

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

2.5 District Executive Committee

The District is managed by the Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District which is an educational charity. As Charity Trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to Charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (if appointed as a Trustee) together with the District Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Youth Commissioner and up to six nominated members and 6 elected members and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Executive Committee complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity Trustees of the District, and in the best interests of its members to:

- Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
- Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the District
- Manage the District finances.
- Provide insurance for people, property, and equipment.
- Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fund-raising activities.
- Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
- Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally
- Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
- Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-Committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-Committees
- Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the District
- The opening, closure and amalgamation of Groups as necessary.
- And all other duties as set out in Policy, Organisation and Rules.

2.6 Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

3 Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of the District is that of the Scout Association generally, namely:

'to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.'

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

4 Achievements and Performance

The Executive Committee gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution made by volunteer leaders and supporter across the District who have worked hard to deliver quality Scouting in Derwentside District. Despite a number of challenges, including the closure of one of our groups, we have a 5.4% increase in our youth members and an overall increase of 3.1%. There have been increases in Explorer members, Network members, registered Young Leaders, DofE uptake and healthy waiting lists in all groups. No groups have reported any financial issues post-COVID. This is testimony to the dedication of our volunteers.

Nights away have returned to pre-COVID levels. Explorers who took part in the pilot visit to the Middle East, experiencing local history, culture and landscape, as well as representing the District and UK Scouting by meeting senior official of the Omani Scout and Guide Association delivered a presentation on their time in Oman and Dubai. Across the District 75 nights away took place, providing fantastic opportunities for all our youth members.

We have been able to progress plans to improve access to resources and experiences for our youth members. The District has continued to provide OS Maps and Easier Scouting resources to all groups. We have set up and equipped an archery and air rifle range, available to all groups, adding value programmes and providing clear value for money. Our successful application for funding from the Youth Investment Fund, enabled us to purchase a 9-seater minibus and 5.8m powerboat with associated safety equipment. These were available to all groups from May. Groups and the Explorer Unit have begun to use all these resources and feedback has been very positive. To the end of this financial year, we have provided £4455 worth of powerboat sessions to our youth members at a cost to them of £660, adding significant value to the scout and explorer programmes.

The Explorer Unit accessed an activity grant, enabling them to subsidise a number of activities. Older Explorers took part in a jetski session and all unit members had the opportunity to experience powerboating, coastal paddle boarding, and climbing, resulting in one jetski session, seven powerboating sessions, three paddle boarding sessions and three climbing sessions between June and July.

The District Shooting Squad entered their first national competition, the 44th National Scout Rifle Championship and did exceptionally well. As well as being the only squad from the north of the country and competing against some well-established and resourced squads, they came 17th out of 87 teams, a great achievement for our first competition. Of particular mention is Sid, who came 7th nationally (out of 304 participants) in the NSRA Cup, a combination of 6yd air rifle, 6yd pistol and field target by a shooter aged over 14. He was 6 points off a gold medal! We hope to increase the size of the squad (and our ranking) for the 2023 Championship.

Across the District groups have worked exceptionally hard in ensuring our volunteers have the support and encouragement necessary to complete their mandatory training. We have maintained our high standard for compliance with 97%-100% for safety and safeguarding training, 97-100% compliance for GDPR training and 90% compliance for first aid training. This should be celebrated.

4.1 Public benefit statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

5 Financial Review

5.1 Reserves Policy

The Scout District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

In addition, sufficient funds should be available to replace equipment, support Scout Groups and promote Scouting within Derwentside District.

During the year the Executive Committee reviewed the reserves policy and decided that there was no longer a need for the Equipment and Gang Show designated funds, and increased the general reserve to reflect increased annual running costs.

The Committee allocated the following amounts:

General reserve	£3,000
Groups financial assistance fund	£1,851

The District held sufficient funds throughout the year to meet these requirements.

5.2 Investment Policy

The District does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The District has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

6 Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: *David Lovett* Date: 23/09/2023

Full Name: **David Lovett**

Position: **District Chair**

Signature: *Jason Wise* Date: 23/09/2023

Full Name: **Jason Wise**

Position: **District Commissioner**

Trustees Annual Report 2022 - 2023



7 Accounts

Derwentside District Scout Council

For the year from	01 April 2022	To	31 March 2023
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Receipts and payments

	2022/2023 Unrestricted funds £	2021/2022 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	4,572	2,366
Capitation fees received	22,730	10,145
Less: Capitation fees paid on (National/County)	15,084	15,369
Net membership subscriptions retained	12,219	2,858
Donations	360	888
Gift Aid	-	-
Other similar income	-	-
Sub total	12,578	1,970
Grants		
BBC Children in need - YIF	-	48,820
Clothworkers Foundation	4,000	-
Durham Scout County (Bernard Sunley Foundation)	1,500	-
Sub total	5,500	48,820
Fundraising (gross)		
Other fundraising activities	-	-
	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Activities		
District Activities	722	6,889
Explorer Activities	7,486	3,702
Sub total	8,208	10,591
Other Income		
Minibus	31	
Boat	125	
Uniforms & Badges	-	
Training		130
Capitation rebate	164	158
Bank interest	27	12
Sub total	346	12
Total Gross Income	26,632	57,453
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	26,632	57,453

Derwentside District Scout Council

For the year from	01 April 2022	To	31 March 2023
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Receipts and payments

	2022/2023 Unrestricted funds £	2021/2022 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities (District)	3,429	4,773
Youth programme and activities (Explorers)	8,057	1,858
Adult support and training	56	594
Rent	720	510
Minibus	3,336	-
Boat	5,988	-
Insurance	201	201
Membership fees	1,310	
Materials and equipment	207	5,977
Administration	52	42
BBC Children in Need repayment	1,986	-
Badges & Uniforms	889	28
Repairs and Renewals		-
Bank fees	379	169
Sundries	101	100
Loan to Groups	3,149	-
Sub total	29,861	14,252
Fundraising expenses		
Other fundraising costs	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Expenditure	29,861	14,252
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	29,861	14,252
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,229	43,201
Cash funds last year end	21,918	-
Cash funds this year end	18,689	43,201

Derwentside District Scout Council

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
District current account	883	4,236
District deposit account	2,404	4,399
District savings account	8,406	8,384
District cash in hand	-	-
Explorers current account	6,970	4,873
Explorers cash in hand	26	26
Total cash funds	18,689	21,918
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from Groups	6,576	8,590
Sub total	6,576	8,590
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Motor vehicles	20,375	20,375
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	10,823	10,823
Other	22,600	22,600
Sub total	53,798	53,798
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	605	440
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	3,384
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	605	3,824

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

Nil

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 25th April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

<i>DJ Lovett</i>
<i>N McCormick</i>

Print Name

D J Lovett	Chair
N I McCormick	Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Derwentside District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Derwentside District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Derwentside District Scout Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Derwentside District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Derwentside District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name:

RICHARD MATHER

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address:

6 ST BEDE'S COURT
LANCHESTER
DERHAM
DH7 0RX

Date:

9 JUNE 2023