

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 1145482

Details

Other names	Aquila Explorer Scout Unit, Aquila Explorer Scouts, Aquila Explorers, Beacon Explorer Scout Unit, Beacon Explorer Scouts, Beacon Explorers, Cestrian Explorer Scout Unit, Cestrian Explorer Scouts, Cestrian Explorers, Draco Explorer Scout Unit, Draco Explorer Scouts, Draco Explorers, Mersey Weaver, Mersey Weaver District Scouts, Mersey Weaver Scout District, Mersey Weaver Scouts, The Scouts – Mersey Weaver
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-01-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Mersey Weaver Scouts The Heath Business & Technical Park Runcorn Cheshire WA7 4QX
Phone	+44 1928352120
Email	lead.volunteer@merseyweaverscouts.org.uk
Website	https://mwscouts.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIALS AS INDIVIDUALS, AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND AS MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

Activities: As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. The Mersey Weaver Scout District supports Explorer Scout Units and the Scout Groups in Frodsham, Runcorn, Widnes and villages to encourage the young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we support our members by providing the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Cheshire West & Chester
- Gwynedd
- Halton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£236,821	£208,008	-	-
2023-12-31	£192,809	£218,778	-	-
2022-12-31	£225,286	£258,017	-	-
2021-12-31	£200,906	£202,170	-	-
2020-12-31	£145,089	£139,690	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Steven Wheeler	Chair	2021-05-20
Aaron Cawley		2025-05-06
Grace Ellen Wheeler		2023-05-03
Jeff Shaw		2015-04-29
Jennifer Barrowcliff		2025-06-27
Krish Daryanani		2025-05-06
Michelle Lisa Pickstock		2017-05-21
Oliver Chambers		2018-03-26
Ronald Sayle		2015-06-05

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 1145482

Accounts

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1145482
Principal Address: The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

1.1 Trustees

Jeff Shaw	District Chair
Cath Mudford	District Treasurer
Oliver Chambers	District Lead Volunteer
Grace Wheeler/ Ethan Finley	District Youth Lead Volunteer
Ronald Sayle	Andy Wheeler
Neil Eccles	Ben Nugent
Michelle Pickstock	

2 Objectives & Activities

2.1 Governing Document & Purposes of the Charity

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.

The purpose of the Scouts is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. By being in the Scouts, adults and young people develop skills for life through participation in a programme, underpinned by our method, and delivered principally in Squirrel Dreys, Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Units and Scout Networks. The function of all the other adults within our movement is to support the delivery and quality of those programmes in each of our section.

2.2 Main Activities

2.3 District Scout Council

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

Ex-officio Members

Ex officio members of the District Scout Council are:

- a. all adult members with a District role - see District roles in the Chapter 16 Teams Table of The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules.
- b. all Group Lead Volunteer members of each Group Leadership Team from the District.
- c. all Group Leadership Team Members of each Group in the District.
- d. all Group Section Team Members of each Group in the District
- e. all Group Trustee Board Chairs from the District
- f. all Group Trustee Board Treasurers from the District
- g. all Explorers (including Young Leaders) in the District
- h. all members of the Scout Network in the District
- i. all parents of all Explorers (including Young Leaders)
- j. the County Lead Volunteer
- k. the County Chair.

Appointed Members

- The appointed members of the Scout Council are other supporters of the Group, District or County appointed by the Scout Council at their AGM on the recommendation of the Trustee Board for a fixed period not exceeding three years. MW has no appointed members.

Community Members

- The community members of the Scout Council are representatives of the local community appointed because of their role rather than by their name. For example, local headteachers, or Parish Council members. The total number of appointed and community members of a District Scout Council must not exceed the number of ex officio members. Mersey Weaver has no Community Members.

2.4 Constitution and Governing document

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents. The constitution is detailed in section 5.5 of POR.

2.5 Trustee Selection

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the District's constitution, the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and best practice from the Charity Commission.

The District Trustee Board should comprise a maximum of 12 Trustees (the total of all ex officio, appointed, and co-opted Trustee categories), with a minimum of five Trustees. In Mersey Weaver it is

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proposed to have up to twelve Trustees who are approved by the District Scout Council at the AGM, two ex Officio, eight appointed and up to two co-opted in any year. The aim is for the District Trustee Board, and any sub committees, to have at least two Trustees aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays.

The selection processes leading to appointment of District Trustees must include a rigorous and transparent selection process, which includes advertising vacancies widely.

All Trustees must complete learning as specified in the appropriate sections of Chapter 16 Roles Table of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules.

The members of the District Trustee Board are:

- a. The District Lead Volunteer and the District Youth Lead are ex officio members of a District Trustee Board.
- b. The District Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a District Chair to the District Scout Council for appointment at their AGM. The vacancies for the role of Chair only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Chair may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be reappointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
- c. The District Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a District Treasurer to the District Scout Council for appointment at their AGM. The vacancies for the role of Treasurer only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Treasurer may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
- d. The appointed members of a District Trustee Board are persons appointed by the District Scout Council at the District's AGM. This should follow a selection process initiated and overseen by the District Trustee Board. The vacancies for the role of Trustee only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
- e. The co-opted members of a District Trustee Board are persons co-opted annually by the District Trustee Board. They are not appointed by the District Scout Council at its AGM. The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of appointed Trustees (excluding Chair and Treasurer).
- f. The County Chair and the County Commissioner each have the right of attendance at meetings of each of the District Trustee Boards in the Districts in the County.

2.6 District Trustee Board

The Trustee Board remains to support the District Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment and to especially to provide guidance, support, and compliance assurance in all aspects of governance inc. safety, legal matters, finance, insurance, data compliance and any other regulatory requirements.

The District Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance, working to ensure that the District is meeting The Scout Association's overall aims and strategic goals.

Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

Members of the District Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of the District, and in the best interests of the District's members.

The District Trustee Board is responsible for the governance of the charity, and it is accountable to the District Scout Council. Members of the District Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of Scout District, and in the best interests of the charity's members. Governance roles must be distinct to help manage conflicts of interest. This means that the roles of District Chair and District Treasurer must be kept separate and be done by two different people.

The District Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

- develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
- ensure that the District's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the District
- ensure that where one of the District's Explorer Units is partnered with a Group and the operational financing is undertaken by the Group, this arrangement is documented in the Partnership Agreement, and the finance arrangements must follow this guidance.
- Maintain and manage:
 - a reserves policy for the charity including a plan for use of reserves outside the 'minimum'
 - an investment policy for the charity
 - a public benefit statement for the charity
- ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the District is properly protected and maintained
- ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-teams, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-teams. This should normally be one of the District's Trustees.
- ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the District Trustee Board
- appoint any co-opted members of the District Trustee Board
- ensure transparency of operation, including:

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- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as appropriate and as appointed by the District Scout Council at their AGM
 - prepare and approve the District Trustees' Annual Report which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer
 - present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the District Scout Council for their consideration at the District's AGM
 - following the District AGM, ensure that a copy of the District Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is filed as described in 5.7.2.2 and 5.7.2.3 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules.
- take responsibility for the District's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it may at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor
 - individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate District Trustee Board business
 - put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the District Scout Council appropriate persons to be appointed members of the District Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer. Vacancies for appointed Trustees only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed or re-selected after years 1 and 2).

Where staff are employed:

- act as a responsible employer in accordance with the Scouts' values and relevant legislation
- ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated
- ensure that appropriate specific personnel insurance is in place

Notye Mersey Weaver has no direct staff employed.

District Trustee Board may create sub-teams it deems necessary to support its governance function. The District Trustee Board must ensure that for any sub-team it appoints:

- its purpose is governance focused and not operational
- its members are agreed and approved by the District Trustee Board
- the District Trustee Board Chair is an ex officio member
- the District Lead Volunteer is an ex officio member

Sub-team members are not District Trustees unless they are already members of the District Trustee Board.

Mersey Weaver District Trustee Board has two sub teams

- Finance Sub Team
- Health, Safety and Environment Sub Team.

2.7 Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has developed a dynamic Risk Management Process to help identify the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed. In support of this process the Trustee Board has also developed a Risk Register in which to:

- record these identified risks,
- record necessary mitigating actions in place or needed to reduce these risks to an acceptable level,
- assist in the sharing of these risks across the District teams to help understanding, and clarify the wider team's role in managing these risks,
- track to the appropriate progress of mitigating actions,
- support the ongoing maintenance of this dynamic register.

A copy of this Risk Register is available separately on request.

3 Objects and Activities

The primary purpose of the District is aligned to that of the Scout Association 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 co- operate 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.

The activities of the District

- The provision of the Scouting programme for 14–18 year old members (Explorers)
- The provision of scouting for 18–24 year old members (Network)
- The provision of support to Scout Groups within the District
- The provision of communication channels between Scout Groups within the District and between those Groups and the rest of the Scouting Organisation.

4 Achievements and Performance

2024 has been another vibrant and rewarding year for Scouting in Mersey Weaver. The success of our District is a testament to the dedication, commitment, and passion of our leaders, volunteers, and young people who continue to deliver safe, varied, and adventurous programmes across our communities. This was once again celebrated at our annual **BigThankYou event at Queen Charlotte's Wood**, recognising the collective efforts that make Mersey Weaver such a special place to Scout.

A highlight for 2024 was the excellent progress made by our full time Local Development Officer, Emma Jenks and Growth & Development Programme Steering Group, in helping grow the District. In 2024 we have seen a further 43 new squirrels (YP) start scouting in the District, 6 new sections opened, and to help deliver an exciting programme to these new YP, lots of new adult volunteers. The funding was secured for two years, so we still have 2025 to make yet further progress and bring scouting to yet more Young People in Mersey Weaver.

Overall, the 2024 Census saw total growth in YP by 5.2%, and a further a 5.8% increase in adults. Growth was seen in most sections with a small reduction in Beavers and Explorers. Once again and as noted above Mersey Weaver continued to see very strong growth in Squirrels. MW is now back to 96.5 % of its pre pandemic levels and it is hoped that next year we will exceed pre-pandemic membership

Once again the 14-24 Team and in particular the Explorer units have continued to deliver an exciting adventurous programme with activities including climbing; micro-lighting; landyachtsing; sailing; pioneering; hill walking; and thanks to our Top Awards Team and several Duke of Edinburgh training events, practice and qualifying expeditions. There has also programme of joint events including a contingent of Explorers joining in with a large camp in North Wales called Gladstonbury.

Good progress has continued with the Youth Forum under the joint leadership of the District Youth Lead Volunteers, Grace and Ethan. This has included attendance at Local, Cheshire and National Youth Forums, running an excellent well being weekend at both Clogwyn and QCW, and the delivery of a SEN webinar developed in 2023.

This year, our young people have achieved a remarkable array of awards, including:

- 24 Chief Scout's Gold Awards
- 12 Chief Scout's Platinum Awards
- 2 Chief Scout's Diamond Awards
- 5 Young Leader Belts
- 2 BTEC Awards
- 4 Explorer YouShape Awards
- 1 Explorer Belt participant
- 2 King's Scout Awards

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These achievements reflect the quality of the programmes being delivered and the opportunities available to young people in Mersey Weaver.

A particular highlight was our outstanding performance in the **2024 Cheshire Hike**, where Mersey Weaver teams came close to achieving a clean sweep of the competition. **1st Moore** were victorious in the **Pathfinder section**, while Explorers from **Aquila** and **Cestrian** units claimed top prize in the **Explorer section**. In **Pathfinder Plus**, **1st Norley's team** secured a close second place.

2024 was a quieter year for International scouting however we were proud to have two Explorer Scouts, Scarlett and Maisy, who represented us at Roverway (a meeting of 6000 Scouts from Europe in Norway). In the latter half of the year a significant effort has gone into selecting and training of a Kandersteg contingent of around 50 young people who will visit the International Scout Centre in 2025. As you will see some the accounts there has been extensive fundraising to support this exciting event with an ambitious ~£100k to raise, this will continue in 2025.

2024 has been another successful year for the Activity Centres. Clogwyn has seen an increasing number of bookings thanks to the work of Ben Nugent and Mike's continued work to develop the facility and sustain the necessary maintenance. Work has also started to renew the lease. Queen Charlotte's has seen very busy year of bookings, once again thanks again to Ben helped by the support team led by Matt Morris in ensuring the facility is well maintained and presented. Good support from the Community Payback Team continued in 2024 and we were even used as a case study by the Ministry of Justice as how schemes like community payback can have mutually favourable outcomes.

Once again the District Scout Centre has benefited from further progress with its refurbishment with help from the Community Payback team and Kevin Holland and Colin Chamber. These improvements include the start of a project to replace the outdated and inefficent heating system, further work on roof repairs, and preparation for the completion of entrance and entrance hall improvements.

2024 was a challenging year for the minibuses with reduced bookings and some unexpected costs (notably an unbudgeted cost for a trailer overhaul) which led to a small overspend in the year. We are seeing an increase in external bookings from other Districts and even counties and it is hoped an increase in the offering of schedule MiDAS courses as well as a more flexible way of completing the scheme will increase the number of drivers. These critical resources have the potential to enable a more varied and quality programme so we are keen to ensure they remain sustainable.

The District Scout Shop has once again helped provide cost effective Scout Uniform, badges and equipment to the people across the District as well as making a valued contribution to the District finances. It has been key in the growth and development project in being able to offer uniform at less than RRP prices.

The Awards and Recognition Team continued to do an excellent job identifying volunteers across District to be recognised for their service and contribution, and the Appointments Panel continued to be productive in helping appoint new volunteers into key roles in the district. This team played a key in preparing for the switch to a new Welcome process. We were proud that 24 volunteers were recongised with good service awards and notably Bruce Lane, Derek Hillbeck, Jeff wood and Mike

Walker were all awarded with the Silver Wolf. Colin Chambers received the Silver Acorn and Laura Lambert the Medal for Meritorious Conduct. Congratulations and thank you to all the worth recipients.

At the end of 2024 we started our transition to both a new way of working and digital tools as part of The Scouts transformation to the Volunteer experience and look forward to reporting on our progress next year.

5 Financial Review

5.1 Reserves Policy

The District has undertaken a review of its potential liabilities in the face of foreseeable risks and has currently determined that a reasonable minimum sum to hold as reserves is one year's District operating cost: nominally £90 000.

2024 has seen further investment in the District facilities, as well as in the Local Growth Officer (LGO). The year end funds (£203,779) are higher than the agreed reserve level, and higher than the end of 2023. However a significant amount of this money is (£68,374) is Designated, a significant portion for the Kandersteg international camps which will be spent in 2025. £25,939 are Restricted fund a large portion set aside for the support of Clogwyn. The increased level of funding the TSA have resulted in a lower level of spend on the LGO.

It has been agreed that the District will continue to fund the LGO throughout 2025. External support funding has been secured from the Scouts Association and this will reduce the further depletion of reserves. However, it has still be seen as prudent to limit and non-essential development of the Activity Centres in 2024 to reserve funds to support the new targeted Sections and Groups across the District.

It is expected that significant sums will be spent on the refurbishment of the DSC in 2025 and discussions are planned on potential extended funding of the LGO into 2026. It is expected that a combination of these factors, along with ongoing inflation pressures will see the reserves deplete towards the target level over 2025 – 2026.

The overall finances have continued to be managed in a prudent and professional manner, with expenses settled promptly. Once again, the finance processes led to an accurate and speedy closure for the year end accounts to the full satisfaction our IE. It was noted that the IE did comment on the sustained level of reserves in excess of the target value and that it was increasingly important that this money is spent to benefit the purposes of the charity.

The District will continue to support exciting activities and events to enhance the provision of scouting in the District. These continue to be proposed, approved, and tracked using our project proposal and approval process.

Resolution of Gift Aid application remains outstanding.

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5.2 Investment Policy

The District has adopted a low-risk strategy with all funds held in cash, using only mainstream banks, or building societies. Following the closure of The Scout Association's Short-Term Investment (STI) services, these reserves have now been transferred into a secure account giving a higher rate of return with CAF bank.

An Investment Policy is in place to reflect this strategy.

6 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Date: 28/04/2025

Full Name: Oliver Chambers

Position: District Lead Volunteer

Signature: *J M Shaw*

Date: 28/04/2025

Full Name: Jeff Shaw

Position: District Chair

Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Income & Expenditure Statement

31 st December 2023				31 st December 2024				
Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £		Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
				INCOME				
64,408.50	64,408.50	-	-	- Membership Fees	70,475.00	70,475.00	-	-
2,514.33	2,514.33	-	-	- Investment Income received	1.14	1.14	-	-
3,661.38	2,433.38	-	1,228.00	Donations and grants	6,206.94	1,809.12	2,925.32	1,472.50
19,533.62	582.93	18,950.69	-	- Fund Raising/International Camps	40,262.16	0.00	40,262.16	-
39,167.85	35,992.00	3,175.85	-	- Activities / Projects	22,755.74	22,755.74	-	-
60,753.22	60,753.22	-	-	- Fees and Charges	95,877.21	95,877.21	-	-
0.00	0.00	-	-	Equipment	0.00	0.00	-	-
2,736.28	2,736.28	-	-	Administration	1,213.88	1,213.88	-	-
34.71	34.71	-	-	- Other Income	28.80	28.80	-	-
192,809.89	169,455.35	22,126.54	1,228.00	Total Income	236,820.87	192,160.89	43,187.48	1,472.50
				EXPENDITURE				
40,806.00	40,806.00	-	-	- Membership Fees	42,408.00	42,408.00	-	-
59,856.61	59,856.61	-	-	- Activity Centres	64,874.44	60,997.27	3,877.17	-
50.00	50.00	-	-	- Donations & Grants	350.00	£100.00	-	250.00
36,587.05	30.73	36,556.32	-	- Fund Raising/International Camps	19,342.33	1.15	19,341.18	-
41,966.64	34,313.67	7,652.97	-	Activities / Projects	52,964.70	52,884.84	79.86	-
31,385.74	31,385.74	-	-	- Administration	19,191.68	19,191.68	-	-
0.00	0.00	-	-	- Sundry Expenditure	0.00	0.00	-	-
8,126.54	8,126.54	-	-	- Equipment	8,876.38	8,876.38	-	-
218,778.58	174,569.29	44,209.29	0.00	Total Expenditure	208,007.53	184,459.32	23,298.21	250.00
-25,968.69	-5,113.94	-22,082.75	1,228.00	Income less Expenditure	28,813.34	7,701.57	19,889.27	1,222.50

31 st December 2023				31 st December 2024				
Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £		Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
				ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11	Reserves brought forward	174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11
-25,968.69	-5,113.94	-22,082.75	1,228.00	Income less Expenditure	28,813.34	7,701.57	19,889.27	1,222.50
174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11	Reserves carried forward	203,779.37	108,189.71	69,650.05	25,939.61
				REPRESENTED BY				
0.00				Charity Bank Fixed Term Account	85,000.00	15,349.95	69,650.05	
187,191.68	112,713.80	49,760.78	24,717.11	Bank Balance at close per bank	117,148.28	91,208.67		25,939.61
-2,512.72	-2,512.72			Unknown Receipt/Wise Account	1,785.63	1,785.63		
-7,983.47	-7,983.47	0.00	0.00	Prepaid Income	-5,939.14	-5,939.14		
244.41	244.41			Receipts not on bank statement	6,266.60	6,266.60		
-1,973.88	-1,973.88			Payments not on bank statement	-482.00	-482.00		
174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11	Cash Book Balance	118,779.37	92,839.76	0.00	25,939.61
174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11	Total Represented By	203,779.37	108,189.71	69,650.05	25,939.61

Cath Mudford
Mersey Weaver District Scout Treasurer

C E M

13/2/2025

Eric Bennett
Independent Examiner

ER Bennett

13/2/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Mersey Weaver District Scout Council

1. Accounting Period

I report on the accounts of Mersey Weaver District Scout Council for the period 01 January – 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)b of the Charities Act,
and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Eric Bennett



Date 13.2.2025

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 1145482

Accounts

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1145482
Principal Address: The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

1.1 Trustees

Jeff Shaw	District Chair
Cath Mudford	District Treasurer
Oliver Chambers	District Commissioner
Jake Vickery/Grace Wheeler	District Youth Commissioner
Mike Walker (ACM Clogwyn)	Kevin Holland (ACM DSC)
Matt Morris (ACM QCW)	Emily Morris
Ronald Sayle	Andy Wheeler
Colin Chambers	Ben Nugent
Michelle Pickstock	

2 Objectives & Activities

2.1 Governing Document & Purposes of the Charity

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.

The purpose of the Scouts is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. By being in the Scouts, adults and young people develop skills for life through participation in a programme, underpinned by our method, and delivered principally in Squirrel Dreys, Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Units and Scout Networks. The function of all the other adults within our movement is to support the delivery and quality of those programmes in each of our section.

2.2 Main Activities

2.3 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

The ex officio members of the District Scout Council are members by virtue of their role in The Scouts:

- all adult members with a role in the District - see District Roles in the Chapter 16 Roles Table of The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules.
- all Group Scout Leaders and Deputy Group Scout Leaders from the District.
- all Group Trustee Board Chairs from the District.
- all Group Trustee Board Treasurers from the District.
- all Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders from the District.
- all Group Active Support Managers from the District.
- all Explorers (including Young Leaders) in the District.
- all members of the Scout Network in the District.
- all parents and carers of all Explorers (including Young Leaders).
- a representative of the District Troop Leadership Forum, selected from amongst the membership of the Forum.
- the County Commissioner.
- the County Chair

Appointed Members

- Other appointed members of the District Scout Council who are other supporters of the District appointed by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Trustee Board. The number of appointed members must not exceed the actual number of ex officio members. A District Scout Council does not need to have any appointed members.

Community Members

- Community members of the District Scout Council who are representatives of the local community appointed because of their role rather than by name. For example, local headteachers, or Parish Council members. They are appointed by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Trustee Board. The number of community members must not exceed the number of ex officio District Scout Council members.

The total number of appointed and community members of a District Scout Council must not exceed the number of ex officio members.

2.4 Constitution and Governing document

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents. The constitution is detailed in section 5.5 of POR.

2.5 Trustee Selection

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the District's constitution, the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and best practice from the Charity Commission.

The District Trustee Board should comprise a maximum of 12 Trustees (the total of all ex officio, appointed, and co-opted Trustee categories), with a minimum of five Trustees. In Mersey Weaver it is proposed to have up to ten appointed Trustees who are approved by the District Scout Council at the AGM. The Trustee Board can if required co-opt a further two Trustees for a year. The aim is for the District Trustee Board, and any sub committees, to have at least two Trustees aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays.

The selection processes leading to appointment of District Trustees must include a rigorous and transparent selection process, which includes advertising vacancies widely.

All Trustees must complete learning as specified in the appropriate sections of Chapter 16 Roles Table of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules.

The members of the District Trustee Board are:

- a. The District Commissioner and the District Youth Commissioner are ex officio members of a District Trustee Board.
- b. The District Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a District Chair to the District Scout Council for appointment at their AGM. The vacancies for the role of Chair only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Chair may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be reappointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
- c. The District Trustee Board must initiate a selection process to propose a District Treasurer to the District Scout Council for appointment at their AGM. The vacancies for the role of Treasurer only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Treasurer may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from

- the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
- d. The appointed members of a District Trustee Board are persons appointed by the District Scout Council at the District's AGM. This should follow a selection process initiated and overseen by the District Trustee Board. The vacancies for the role of Trustee only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a District Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed after years 1 and 2). The proposal from the Trustee Board is received by the Scout Council at their AGM. The proposal from the Trustee Board does not require seconding by a member of the Scout Council. The action of the Scout Council is to approve (or not) the proposed name from the Trustee Board.
 - e. The co-opted members of a District Trustee Board are persons co-opted annually by the District Trustee Board. They are not appointed by the District Scout Council at its AGM. The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of appointed Trustees (excluding Chair and Treasurer).
 - f. The County Chair and the County Commissioner each have the right of attendance at meetings of each of the District Trustee Boards in the Districts in the County.

2.6 District Trustee Board

Historically the District has been led by a District Commissioner supported by a District Executive Committee. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District. During 2023, the Scouts Association have initiated a major transformation aimed at improving the volunteer experience, to deliver an even more exciting and engaging programme, safely and reliably, for young people and enhance the delivery of skills for life.

As part of this transformation the Commissioner roles have become Lead Volunteers and there has been a move to focus the roles of the Trustees away from operational matters and towards Governance. As part of this change the Executive Committee has evolved through 2023 into the Trustee Board, which is more in line with the Charity Commission best practice.

The Trustee Board remains to support the District Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment and to especially to provide guidance, support, and compliance assurance in all aspects of governance inc. safety, legal matters, finance, insurance, data compliance and any other regulatory requirements.

The District Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance, and assurance. Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

The District Trustee Board is responsible for the governance of the charity, and it is accountable to the District Scout Council. Members of the District Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of Scout District, and in the best interests of the charity's members. Governance roles must be distinct

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2023 – 31 Dec 2023

to help manage conflicts of interest. This means that the roles of District Chair and District Treasurer must be kept separate and be done by two different people.

The District Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

a) The charity is:

- professionally managed
- carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- complying with the charity's governing document and the law
- managing the charity's resources responsibly

b) the charity is operating compliant with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in Chapter 2 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules.

c) young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels

d) the District has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the District including delivery of the high-quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (see Rule 4.2.2 of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules)

The District Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

a) develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations

b) ensure that the District's finances are effectively managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the District

c) maintain and manage:

- a reserves policy for the charity including a plan for use of reserves outside the 'minimum'.
- an investment policy for the charity.
- a public benefit statement for the charity.

d) ensure that people, property, and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the District is properly protected and maintained

e) ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub committees. This should normally be one of the District's Trustees.

f) ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the District Trustee Board

g) appoint any co-opted members of the District Trustee Board

h) ensure transparency of operation, including:

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- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor, independent examiner, or scrutineer as appropriate and as appointed by the District Scout Council at their AGM.
- prepare and approve the District Trustees' Annual Report which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the auditor, independent examiner, or scrutineer.
- present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the District Scout Council for their consideration at the District's AGM
- following the District AGM, ensure that a copy of the District Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is sent to the County Trustee Board administration (see Rule 5.5.7.9) and, if the District is a registered charity, is filed with the appropriate charity regulator (if the regulator's rules require it).

i) take responsibility for the District's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it will at various times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate District Trustee Board business

j) individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate District Trustee Board business

k) put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the District Scout Council appropriate persons to be appointed members of the District Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer. Vacancies for appointed Trustees only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed or re-selected after years 1 and 2).

l) where staff are employed:

- act as a responsible employer in accordance with the Scouts' values and relevant legislation.
- ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated.
- ensure that appropriate specific personnel insurance is in place.

A District Trustee Board may create sub committees it deems necessary to support its governance function. The District Trustee Board must ensure that for any subcommittee it appoints:

- a. its purpose is governance focused and not operational.
- b. its members are agreed and approved by the District Trustee Board.
- c. the District Trustee Board Chair is an ex officio member.
- d. the District Commissioner is an ex officio member.

Subcommittee members are not District Trustees unless they are already members of the District Trustee Board.

All subcommittee members must be recorded on the membership system.

To support effective governance and share good practice, the District Chair and Treasurer should create a support network amongst the Group Chairs and Group Treasurers of the District.

2.7 Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has developed a dynamic Risk Management Process to help identify the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed. In support of this process the Trustee Board has also developed a Risk Register in which to:

- record these identified risks,
- record necessary mitigating actions in place or needed to reduce these risks to an acceptable level,
- assist in the sharing of these risks across the District teams to help understanding, and clarify the wider team's role in managing these risks,
- track to the appropriate progress of mitigating actions,
- support the ongoing maintenance of this dynamic register.

A copy of this Risk Register is available separately.

3 Objects and Activities

The primary purpose of the District is aligned to that of the Scout Association 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 co- operate 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.

The activities of the District

- The provision of the Scouting programme for 14–18 year old members (Explorers)
- The provision of scouting for 18–24 year old members (Network)
- The provision of support to Scout Groups within the District
- The provision of communication channels between Scout Groups within the District and between those Groups and the rest of the Scouting Organisation.

4 Achievements and Performance

2023 has seen another strong year for scouting in Mersey Weaver with face-to-face scouting now substantially back to normal. It has again been of major credit to the leaders and other volunteers across the District who have safely and successfully delivered the varied and exciting programmes across MW, which was once again celebrated with an awards event at QCW.

A highlight for 2023 was securing £120K of funding from HQ to extend the full time Group Development Officer for a further two years. Whilst it was a little disappointing to see Andrew Coe, our initial GDO, move on into new role in TSA, it was exciting to see the successful appointment of Emma Jenks as our new GDO.

The Census in 2023 saw further growth in YP by 2.7%, this included a 7.5% increase in adults in programme delivery roles and a 49% increase in Young Leaders! Growth was seen in all sections except for cubs; with a major growth in Squirrels with 7 Dreys, the highest in any District in Cheshire; 2023 also saw the first new Group to be opened in MW. MW is now back to 91% of its pre pandemic levels.

The Explorer units have continued to deliver an exciting adventurous programme with activities including climbing; micro lighting; land yachts; sailing; pioneering; hill walking; and many more. This year also saw the first combined unit summer camp at Clogwyn and the start of Higher Awards programme including DofE.

Further timely progress has been made with the Youth Forum under the joint leader of the District Youth Lead Volunteers with a 50% increase in members. This has included attendance at Local, Cheshire and National Youth Forums and the development of an SEN webinar which is hoped to be rolled out in 2024.

International scouting was a highlight of 2023 with the MW contingent attending the WSJ 2023 in Korea and a small team participating in the 2023 County Explorer Belt. Whilst there were challenges with WSJ 2023 the YP had a tremendous experience and demonstrated great flexibility and resilience.

2023 has been another successful year for the Activity Centres:

Clogwyn has seen continued work to develop the facility and sustain the necessary maintenance. Clogwyn was also the base for the successful summer camp for the combined Explorer units. Thanks to the local support team, and with further support from the Community Payback team.

QCW saw the completion of the new campfire circle as well as the new Target Sports range. Both helped support an excellent year of bookings.

The DSC benefited from substantial progress with its refurbishment with help from the Community Payback team. These improvements include the fully refurbished small meeting hall, which now provides an excellent meeting facility, entrance hall improvements and repainting of the main hall. Further work on the roof and entrance is planned as well as a replacement heating system for the main hall. A development plan for the site is also planned to be started in for 2024.

Sadly, the planned safety audits for Clogwyn and the DSC were not completed in 2023 in part to allow for other remedial work to be completed first, especially at the DSC. These will need to be progressed in 2024.

2023 saw another good year minibus bookings with a substantial summer hire from Manchester Grammar School. The efforts from the minibus support team have enabled a positive contribution, a further contribution to building up a reserve for future replacements.

The District Scout Shop has once again helped provide cost effective scouting equipment to the people across the District as well as making a valued contribution to the District finances.

The Awards Advisory Panel continued to do an excellent job identifying scouters across District to be recognised for their service and contribution; and the AAC panel have continued to be productive in helping appoint new volunteers into key roles in the district.

5 Financial Review

5.1 Reserves Policy

The District has undertaken a review of its potential liabilities in the face of foreseeable risks and has currently determined that a reasonable minimum sum to hold as reserves is one year's District operating cost: nominally £90 000.

2023 has seen further investment in the District facilities, as well as in the Local Development Officer. Therefore, whilst the year end funds (£174,966) are higher than the agreed reserve level, they are a significant further reduction since 2022. In addition, of the end of year sum, £49,760 is Designated, which includes funds raised for international camps and £24,717 is Restricted leaving unrestricted funds at £100,488 compared to the agreed minimum reserves level.

It has been agreed that the District will continue to fund the LGO throughout 2024 and into 2025. External support funding has been secured from the Scouts Association and this will reduce the further depletion of reserves. However, it has still be seen as prudent to limit and non-essential development of the Activity Centres in 2024 to reserve funds to support the new targeted Sections and Groups across the District.

The overall finances have continued to be managed in a prudent and professional manner, with expenses settled promptly. Once again, the finance processes led to an accurate and speedy closure for the year end accounts to the full satisfaction our IE.

Trustees Annual Report

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The District will continue to support exciting activities and events to enhance the provision of scouting in the District. These continue to be proposed, approved, and tracked using our project proposal and approval process.

Resolution of Gift Aid application remains outstanding.

5.2 Investment Policy

The District has adopted a low-risk strategy with all funds held in cash, using only mainstream banks, or building societies. Following the closure of The Scout Association's Short-Term Investment (STI) services, these reserves have now been transferred into a secure account giving a higher rate of return.

An Investment Policy is in place to reflect this strategy

6 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Date: 28/04/2024

Full Name: Oliver Chambers

Position: District Lead Volunteer

Signature: *J M Shaw*

Date: 28/04/2024

Full Name: Jeff Shaw

Position: District Chair

**Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Income & Expenditure Statement**

Total £	31 st December 2022			Restricted £	INCOME	Total £	31 st December 2023		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £				Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
61,188.50	61,188.50	-	-	-	Membership subscriptions	64,408.50	64,408.50	-	-
206.29	206.29	-	-	-	Investment Income received	2,514.33	2,514.33	-	-
37,812.90	24,423.40	9,789.00	3,600.50	3,600.50	Donations and grants	3,661.38	2,433.38	-	1,228.00
39,062.75	-72.75	39,135.50	-	-	Fund Raising	19,533.62	582.93	18,950.69	-
37,316.81	37,316.81	-	-	-	Activities / Projects	39,167.85	35,992.00	3,175.85	-
40,784.47	40,784.47	-	-	-	Fees and Charges	60,753.22	60,753.22	-	-
5,659.20	5,659.20	-	-	-	Equipment	0.00	0.00	-	-
3,209.06	3,209.06	-	-	-	Administration	2,736.28	2,736.28	-	-
46.50	46.50	-	-	-	Other Income	34.71	34.71	-	-
225,286.48	172,761.48	48,924.50	3,600.50		Total Income	192,809.89	169,455.35	22,126.54	1,228.00
EXPENDITURE									
38,408.00	38,408.00	-	-	-	Membership Fees	40,806.00	40,806.00	-	-
46,787.84	40,097.04	6,690.81	-	-	Activity Centres	59,856.61	59,856.61	-	-
1,928.78	0.00	1,928.78	-	-	Donations & Grants	50.00	50.00	-	-
29,355.90	0.03	29,355.87	-	-	Fund Raising	36,587.05	30.73	36,556.32	-
85,945.54	85,945.54	-	-	-	Activities / Projects	41,966.64	34,313.67	7,652.97	-
43,114.18	43,114.18	-	-	-	Administration	31,385.74	31,385.74	-	-
0.00	-	-	-	-	District Officials Expenses	0.00	-	-	-
0.00	0.00	-	-	-	Sundry Expenditure	0.00	0.00	-	-
12,476.76	12,476.76	-	-	-	Equipment	8,126.54	8,126.54	-	-
258,017.00	220,041.55	37,975.46	0.00		Total Expenditure	218,778.58	174,569.29	44,209.29	0.00
-32,730.52	-47,280.07	10,949.05	3,600.50		Income less Expenditure	-25,968.69	-5,113.94	-22,082.75	1,228.00

Total £	31 st December 2022			Restricted £	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Total £	31 st December 2023		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £				Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61	19,888.61	Reserves brought forward	200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11
-	-	-	-	-	Prior Year re-allocation	-	-	-	-
-32,730.52	-47,280.07	10,949.05	3,600.50		Income less Expenditure	-25,968.69	-5,113.94	-22,082.75	1,228.00
200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11		Reserves carried forward	174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11
REPRESENTED BY									
186,056.13	90,723.49	71,843.53	23,489.11	23,489.11	Scout Short Term Investment Account	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
20,026.63	20,026.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	Bank Balance at close per bank	187,191.68	112,713.80	49,760.78	24,717.11
0.00	0.00	-	-	-	Unallocated Receipt	-2,512.72	-2,512.72	-	-
-2,140.82	-2,140.82	-	-	-	Receipts not on bank statement	244.41	244.41	-	-
-3,007.22	-3,007.22	-	-	-	Prepaid Income	-7,983.47	-7,983.47	-	-
14,878.59	14,878.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	Payments not on bank statement	-1,973.88	-1,973.88	-	-
					Cash Book Balance	174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11
200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11		Total Represented By	174,966.02	100,488.14	49,760.78	24,717.11

Cath Mudford
Mersey Weaver District Scout Treasurer

30/1/2024

Eric Bennett
Independent Examiner



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Mersey Weaver District Scout Council

1. Accounting Period

I report on the accounts of Mersey Weaver District Scout Council for the period 01 January – 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)b of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

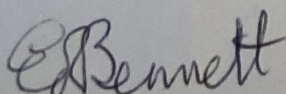
1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Eric Bennett



30 January 2024

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 1145482

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1145482
Principal Address: The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

1.1 Trustees

Jeff Shaw	District Chair
Michelle Pickstock	District Secretary (Part year)
Cath Mudford	District Treasurer
Oliver Chambers	District Commissioner
Jake Vickery	District Youth Commissioner
Matthew Duckett	District Network Commissioner

Mike Walker (ACM Clogwyn)	Kevin Holland (ACM DSC)
Matt Morris & Emily Morris (ACM QCW)	Ronald Sayle
Andy Wheeler	Colin Chambers
Ben Nugent	Anna Holland

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 Trustee Board is accountable. Membership of the District Scout Council is open to:

- Commissioners
- District and Group Active Support Managers
- Scouters
- Administrators
- Section Assistants
- Skills Instructors
- Advisers

- all Explorer Scouts
- all members of the District Scout Network
- A representative of the Troop Leadership Forum, selected from amongst the membership of the Forum.
- Representatives of each District Explorer Scout Unit, selected from amongst the membership of each Explorer Scout Unit
- A representative of the District Scout Network, selected from amongst the membership of District Scout Network
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Active Support Units
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- persons elected or reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Trustee Board
- the County Commissioner and County Chairman are ex-officio members of the District Scout Council.

2.3 Constitution

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents.

2.4 Trustee Selection

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

2.5 District Trustee Board

The District is led by a District Commissioner and managed by a District Trustee Board. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The Trustee Board exists to support the District Commissioner (Lead Volunteer) in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Trustee Board must act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout 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 Chairmen 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, Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support Units in the District as necessary.
- Appoint and manage the operation of an Appointments Advisory Committee, including appointing an Appointments Committee Chairman to lead it.
- Supervising the administration of Groups, particularly in relation to finance and the trusteeship of property.

2.6 Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed which are:

2.6.1 Injury or adverse impact to health to Leaders, Helpers, Supporters or Members

The District supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessment; elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries or adverse impact to health (including mental health). In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

A separate HS&E subcommittee is in place to help support the DC in the development and deployment of policy and good practice regarding health, safety, and environment.

2.6.2 Damage to Buildings, Property or Equipment

Should this impact on the operation of a Group or Unit, the District would request the use of buildings, property, and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

2.6.3 Reduced Income from Subscriptions and Fund Raising

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The District holds adequate reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could also raise the cost of subscriptions to increase the District

income either temporarily or permanently, recognising the potential risk to membership numbers, especially in this period of COL crisis.

It was agreed in 2020 to institute a programme of modest fee increases over a number of years to secure sufficient funds from the District to finance its ongoing commitments, the first step of which was taken in 2021. Due to the very challenging financial environment for 2022, it was agreed to hold the District fees at the 2021 rate, however a further modest fee increase has been agreed for 2023.

2.6.4 Reduction or Loss of Leaders

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or sections.

The biggest challenge to both maintaining and growing scouting provision in the District is the shortfall of adult leaders and volunteers, especially taking account the increasing age of many of the key leaders. To help try and address this challenge the District have committed to a full-time paid Growth and Development Officer (GDO), hired by the Region but fully financed from District reserves. This commitment was initially for one year (2022-2023). Given the positive impact the GDO is starting to have on scouting growth in the District during the first year, it has been agreed to fund the GDO for a further year. Sufficient funds are available to finance the second year of the GDO, without an unacceptable reduction in reserves. However, external funds are being sought in 2023 to support the GDO initiative not only for 2023-2024 but hopefully for further years.

2.6.5 Reduction or Loss of Members

If there were a reduction in membership of a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section.

At this time there are healthy waiting lists of young people wishing to join scouting, often constrained by a shortage of adult volunteers, see 2.6.4. In addition, the role of the GDO is also to attract further young people to become involved in scouting.

2.6.6 Internal Controls.

The District has in place systems of **internal control** that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include dual signatories for

payments, a robust expenses policy and 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:

‘As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. The Mersey Weaver Scout District supports Explorer Scout Units and the Scout Groups across Mersey Weaver to encourage the young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we support our members by providing the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed.’

The activities of the District are:

- The provision of the Scouting programme for 14–18 year old members (Explorers)
- The provision of scouting for 18–25 year old members (Network)
- The provision of support to Scout Groups within the District
- The provision of communication channels between Scout Groups within the District and between those Groups and the rest of the Scouting Organisation.

In setting the objectives and planning activities the Trustees have considered and taken account of the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance.

4 Achievements and Performance

2022 has been a year of recovery as scouting in the District has emerged from the impact of the international COVID 19 pandemic. Groups and Units have been meeting back together f2f and endeavouring to get activities back to normal. It has again been of great credit to the leaders and other volunteers across the District who have safely and successfully led the recovery of scouting across the District. These achievements were marked in mid 2022 with an awards event at QCW to celebrate the amazing volunteering being done in scouting across the District.

A highlight for 2022 has been the planned recruitment of a full time Group Development Officer and, under the direction of a programme board, the successful start to the programme of work to drive further growth. A review of progress to date has led the initial commitment to funding a GDO for one year (2022-2023) being extended for a further year (2023-24). External support funding is being pursued in 2023 to help fund not only 2023 but hopefully extending this further.

Alongside the GDO recruitment, and in support of Growth in the District, both creating the opportunities for YP and securing the volunteers to enable this, the work on optimising the structure of Groups and their Leadership across the District has been progressed. Initial thinking

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022

was shared in constructive workshops across the District, from which valuable feedback was gathered and collated. Alongside this work has been the emerging picture of the imminent strategic transformation of scouting as a whole. This transformation will have an impact on the appropriate approach for Mersey Weaver as well will happen concurrently. As such the shaping and management of these change will be progressed in an integrated way. Further progress on these changes is planned for 2023.

The Census in 2022 saw the district grow by 3.9%, with the largest growth of adult volunteers in 22 years (9.5%) this was not expected but it a tremendous credit to all the leaders and volunteers across the District as well as Andrew our new Local Growth Officer. There is a lot of variation across the different sections with continued growth in Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs. It is expected that next year we will be back to pre-pandemic levels.

2021 saw the successful establishment of the first Squirrel Drey in the District at 1st Helsby. As planned, 2022 saw the District establish its second successful drey at 4th Runcorn and waiting lists across the District indicate a wide demand for more dreys. As part of the GDO programme of work, a review has been undertaken and it is planned to open further Dreys in the Central and Northern parts of the District in 2023.

The Explorer units have continued to operate more normally. The Draco Unit, opened in 2021, has gone from strength to strength, although this had a detrimental impact on the numbers at the Beacon Unit. 2022 has again seen Units collaborating on programme ideas, which is great news. As part of the Growth initiative, it is planned to strengthen Explorers further in 2023, with a focus on seeking new volunteers to help deliver the programme.

Further progress has been made on mental health wellbeing. Under the leadership of the DYC, Jake Vickery, the mental health programme developed in 2021 was further rolled out to its young people and volunteers. This was enhanced by a successful Mental Wellbeing weekend attended by over 100 young people at QCW. The event benefited from financial support from CWAC, for which the District were very grateful. Despite this excellent work the overall engagement across the District has been lower than hoped. It is planned to progress this work further in 2023 as the issue of mental wellbeing continues to be a priority. At the start of this new year Jake Vickery handed over the reins to Grace Wheeler after an opportunity to take on a role on the UK Youth Commissioner Team. We are very excited about what Grace will bring to the role and would also like to thank Jake for all his work in 2022, we are sure he will have a great impact in his new role too!

International scouting has continued to be supported. The first independent Explorer Belt expedition was successfully completed by 4 YP; the WSJ 2023 contingent have continued to carry out preparation, training, and successfully raise funds for the 2023 Jamboree, with the team now confident that the challenging financial target will be met.; MWSD YP have successful been selected for the 2023 County Explorer Belt and are active in preparation and training; many YP and leaders attended and supported the highly successful 2022 Cheshire Scouts Chamboree.

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Exciting scouting programmes have once again started to be supported by the Active Support Units (ASUs), with particular success for Target Sports. Not only have YP been active in developing their shooting skills, locally and nationally, the ASU were successful in securing a grant to construct an excellent new target sports range at QCW. This will enhance not only the capability of the ASU to support enhanced programmes, but further add to the attractions offered by QCW. The Climbing ASU have once again been able to support the mobile CW attending various fund-raising events, where it is always a popular attraction; Hill walking team continue their support of Cheshire hike practices; and we also welcome Josh Foulger as the new team leader for the long planned Water sports ASU, it is hoped this new team will have an impact in 2023 by enabling more opportunities for young people to get on the water.

The Technology ASU continues to offer excellent digital services to our groups and activity centres with further investment made in our physical infrastructure at our three activity centres to improve internet access and safety.

A careful programme of cost management was sustained again in 2022, with continued success in securing a final phase of Government COVID grants. This enabled the District to further invest in its main assets at QCW, Clogwyn and the District Centre addressing safety matters and facility developments that will enhance scouting provision for the future.

Work has also continued on the programme of safety risk assessments and inspections (notably Fire, Electrical, and Asbestos). The post audit remedial work at QCW has being substantially progressed to completion. Thanks to the local support team, QCW also saw the completion of an excellent new campfire circle with associated pizza oven. This was created as a tribute to April Nicholas, past DC and driving force behind QCW for many years who sadly passed away in 2021.

The planned audits for Clogwyn and the DSC were postponed into 2023 to allow for other remedial work to be completed first. Notable developments at Clogwyn have been the safety audit and major overhaul of the internal Climbing Wall, and at the DSC, the safety review and major refurbishment of the entrance hall ceiling and roof. In addition, the DSC main hall roof was internally sealed and insulated.

2022 has finally been a turn-around year for the usage of the of the minibuses. Thanks to great efforts from the Transport Manager (Kevin Holland) and the Booking Secretary (Ben Nugent), bookings have been strong, though mainly from outside of the District. The outcome has been a positive contribution, for the first time ever, and a start made to building up a reserve for future replacements. In support of minibus use, the District has continued to support MIDAS training for safe use of the Minibuses.

Thanks to our Treasurer, the overall finances have continued to be managed in a prudent and professional manner, with expenses settled promptly; the simplification of the finance processes also led to a very accurate and speedy closure for the year end accounts to the full satisfaction of our IE. Despite considerable effort, the resolution of Gift Aid applications remains outstanding. Face to face discussions have been held with HMRC, the District remains hopeful that progress will be made in 2023. The plan to implement XERO, to further support the

integration of financial tools in the District, has been further delayed and will be assessed again in 2023.

The District Scout Shop has continued to operate helping provide cost effective scouting equipment to the people across the District.

Our Awards Advisory Panel continued to do an excellent job identifying scouters across District to be recognised for their service and contribution. This year we were able to recognise the achievements of 24 adults with adult awards! 8 Commissioner's Commendations, 10 Commendations for Good Service, 5 Awards of Merit.

The Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC) have been operating effectively in 2022 with four new volunteers. We have seen the successful appointment of several key roles in the district that will stand us in good stead for the future.

5 Financial Review

5.1 Reserves Policy

The District has undertaken a review of its potential liabilities in the face of foreseeable risks and has currently determined that a reasonable minimum sum to hold as reserves is one year's District operating cost: nominally £90 000.

2022 has seen further investment in the District facilities, as well as in the GDO. Consequently, whilst the year end funds (£200,934) are higher than the agreed reserve level, they are a significant reduction since 2021. In addition, of the end of year sum, £71,843 is Designated, which includes funds raised for international camps and £23,489 is Restricted leaving unrestricted funds at £105,602 compared to the agreed minimum reserves level.

It has been agreed that the District will continue to fund the GDO throughout 2023 and into 2024. External support funding will be sought, but without this it is acknowledged that a further depletion of reserves will occur. Therefore, non-essential development of the Activity Centres has been put on hold for 2023.

The District will continue to support exciting activities and events to enhance the provision of scouting in the District. These continue to be proposed, approved, and tracked using our project proposal and approval process.

5.2 Investment Policy

The District has adopted a low-risk strategy with all funds held in cash, using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short-Term Investment (STI) service. It has been acknowledged that the returns in the STI have been disappointing and so alternative low risk investment accounts will be explored to secure a better return.

An Investment Policy has been established to reflect this strategy.

6 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Date: 28 April 2023

Full Name: Oliver Chambers

Position: District Commissioner

Signature: *JMShaw*

Date: 28 April 2023

Full Name: Jeff Shaw

Position: District Chair

**Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Income & Expenditure Statement**

Total £	31 st December 2021			INCOME	Total £	31 st December 2022		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £			Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
57,119.25	57,119.25	-	-	- Membership subscriptions	61,188.50	61,188.50	-	-
0.00	0.00	-	-	- Investment Income received	206.29	206.29	-	-
47,839.25	0.00	44,614.00	3,225.25	Donations and grants	37,812.90	24,423.40	9,789.00	3,600.50
9,657.41	0.00	9,657.41	-	- Fund Raising	39,062.75	-72.75	39,135.50	-
18,779.96	18,779.96	-	-	- Activities / Projects	37,316.81	37,316.81	-	-
16,767.14	16,767.14	-	-	- Fees and Charges	40,784.47	40,784.47	-	-
				Equipment	5,659.20	5,659.20	-	-
				Administration	3,209.06	3,209.06	-	-
50,763.11	50,763.11	-	-	- Other Income	46.50	46.50	-	-
200,926.12	143,429.46	54,271.41	3,225.25	Total Income	225,286.48	172,761.48	48,924.50	3,600.50
EXPENDITURE								
35,070.50	35,070.50	-	-	- Membership Fees	38,408.00	38,408.00	-	-
43,293.43	14,202.09	29,091.34	-	- Premises	46,787.84	40,097.04	6,690.81	-
9,728.07	1,637.68	-	8,090.39	Donations & Grants	1,928.78	0.00	1,928.78	-
22,136.97	0.00	22,136.97	-	- Fund Raising	29,355.90	0.03	29,355.87	-
21,163.34	21,163.34	-	-	- Activities / Projects	85,945.54	85,945.54	-	-
13,623.65	13,623.65	-	-	- Administration	43,114.18	43,114.18	-	-
0.00	-	-	-	- District Officials Expenses	0.00	-	-	-
51,686.00	50,348.32	1,337.68	-	- Sundry Expenditure	0.00	0.00	-	-
5,468.39	5,468.39	-	-	- Equipment	12,476.76	12,476.76	-	-
202,170.35	141,513.97	52,565.99	8,090.39	Total Expenditure	258,017.00	220,041.55	37,975.46	0.00
-1,244.23	1,915.49	1,705.42	-4,865.14	Income less Expenditure	-32,730.52	-47,280.07	10,949.05	3,600.50

Total £	31 st December 2021			ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Total £	31 st December 2022		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £			Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
234,909.46	150,966.65	59,189.06	24,753.75	Reserves brought forward	233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61
-	-	-	-	Prior Year re-allocation	-	-	-	-
-1,244.23	1,915.49	1,705.42	-4,865.14	Income less Expenditure	-32,730.52	-47,280.07	10,949.05	3,600.50
233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61	Reserves carried forward	200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11

REPRESENTED BY								
Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £		Total £	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
200,849.84	130,961.23	50,000.00	19,888.61	Scout Short Term Investment Account	186,056.13	90,723.49	71,843.53	23,489.11
37,980.93	27,086.45	10,894.48	0.00	Bank Balance at close per bank	20,026.63	20,026.63	0.00	0.00
82.61	82.61	-	-	- Receipts not on bank statement	0.00	0.00	-	-
				Prepaid Income	-2,140.82	-2,140.82	-	-
-5,248.15	-5,248.15	-	-	- Payments not on bank statement	-3,007.22	-3,007.22	-	-
32,815.39	21,920.91	10,894.48	0.00	Cash Book Balance	14,878.59	14,878.59	0.00	0.00
233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61	Total Represented By	200,934.71	105,602.08	71,843.53	23,489.11

Cath Mudford
Mersey Weaver District Scout Treasurer

C E M

Eric Bennett
Independent Examiner

E Bennett

23.2.23.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Mersey Weaver District Scout Council

Accounting Period

I report on the accounts of Mersey Weaver District Scout Council for the period 01 January - 31 December 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E Bennett

23.2.23

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 1145482

Accounts

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1145482
Principal Address: The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

2 Trustees

Jeff Shaw	District Chair
Michelle Pickstock	District Secretary
Cath Mudford	District Treasurer
Oliver Chambers	District Commissioner
Jake Vickery	District Youth Commissioner
Andy Pearson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner (Part)
Matthew Duckett	District Network Commissioner

Mike Walker (ACM Clogwyn)	Kevin Holland (ACM DC)
Matt Morris & Emily Morris (ACM QCW)	Ronald Sayle
Andy Wheeler	Colin Chambers
Anna Holland	

3 Structure, Governance and Management

3.1 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.

3.2 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:

- Commissioners
- District and Group Active Support Managers
- Scouters
- Administrators
- Section Assistants
- Skills Instructors

- Advisers
- all Explorer Scouts
- all members of the District Scout Network
- A representative of the Troop Leadership Forum, selected from amongst the membership of the Forum
- Representatives of each District Explorer Scout Unit, selected from amongst the membership of each Explorer Scout Unit
- A representative of the District Scout Network, selected from amongst the membership of District Scout Network
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Active Support Units
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- persons elected or reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee
- the County Commissioner and County Chairman are ex-officio members of the District Scout Council.

3.3 Constitution

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents.

3.4 Trustee Selection

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

3.5 District Executive Committee

The District is led by a District Commissioner and managed by a District Executive Committee. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout 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 Chairmen 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, Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support Units in the District as necessary.
- Appoint and manage the operation of an Appointments Advisory Committee, including appointing an Appointments Committee Chairman to lead it.
- Supervising the administration of Groups, particularly in relation to finance and the trusteeship of property.

3.6 Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed which are:

3.6.1 Injury or adverse impact to health to Leaders, Helpers, Supporters or Members

The District supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessment; elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries or adverse impact to health (including mental health). In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

In 2020 a separate HS&E subcommittee was established to help support the DC in the development and deployment of policy and good practice in regard to health, safety and environment.

3.6.2 Damage to Buildings, Property or Equipment

Should this impact on the operation of a Group or Unit, the District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

3.6.3 Reduced Income from Subscriptions and Fund Raising

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The District holds adequate reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could also raise the value of subscriptions to increase the District income either temporarily or permanently.

It was agreed in 2020 to institute a programme of modest fee increases over a number of years to secure sufficient funds from the District to finance its ongoing commitments, the first step of which was taken in 2021. However due to the very challenging financial environment for 2022, it has been agreed to hold the District fees at the 2021 rate. Further increases will be implemented when they are deemed affordable.

3.6.4 Reduction or Loss of Leaders

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or sections.

The biggest challenge to both maintaining and growing scouting provision in the District is the shortfall of adult leaders and volunteers, especially taking account the increasing age of many of the key leaders. To help try and address this challenge the District have committed to a full-time paid Growth and Development Officer (GDO), hired by the Region but fully financed from District reserves. This commitment is initially for one year, but assuming the role has a positive impact on scouting growth, funding for future years will be sought.

3.6.5 Reduction or Loss of Members

If there were a reduction in membership of a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section.

At this time there are very healthy waiting lists for YPs to join scouting, often constrained by a shortage of adult volunteers, see 2.6.4.

3.6.6 Internal Controls.

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

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

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The activities of the District are:

- The provision of the Scouting programme for 14–18 year old members (Explorers)
- The provision of scouting for 18–25 year old members (Network)
- The provision of support to Scout Groups within the District
- The provision of communication channels between Scout Groups within the District and between those Groups and the rest of the Scouting Organisation.

5 Achievements and Performance

2021 has again been a challenging year for Scouting in the District with the continued impact of the international COVID 19 pandemic. Whilst 2020 saw an almost complete closure of face to face (f2f) scouting, 2021 did see a widespread return to f2f scouting. Whilst some Groups in the District were able to take advantage of the reduction in restrictions earlier than others, all Groups and Units were meeting back together f2f by the end of the year.

When circumstances allowed a safe return f2f, this continued to be managed carefully taking account of all the guidance available from the Government and Scout Association (SA).

Once again it is great credit to the leaders and other volunteers across the District who safely and successfully led scouting in the District and especially the return to f2f.

The constraints on scouting activities in the District continued to have an impact on income across the District. However, sustaining the careful programme of cost management and the continued success in securing Government COVID grants enabled the District to maintain its finances in an acceptable state and provided a financial basis to support a creative and dynamic reboot of f2f scouting across the District in the year.

As noted in the 2020 report, the process for COVID safe return to scouting was also implemented hand in hand with a drive to ensure that all scout premises were in a safe condition to allow both a return to f2f and to ensure safe facilities for the future. This addressed Fire Risk Assessment, Electrical Safety, Asbestos, amongst many others. A

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programme of risk assessments and inspections was implemented at all three of the District Activity Centres with areas requiring improvement identified.

As noted previously, the Government grants, along with an ability to draw on reserves, and the continued resourcefulness and willingness of volunteers, have allowed the District to make significant safety improvements during 2021. These improvements have resulted in the improved facilities being suitable to support a safe return to scouting activities. Further process improvements have been started to ensure these good levels of compliance can be maintained with a comprehensive safety audit of QCW, overseen by the HS&E subcommittee. This identified a few improvements still to be completed at QCW. There is a commitment in 2022 to extend the audit to the District Centre and Clogwyn.

Whilst effort has been sustained towards improving the physical assets, considerable progress has been made on mental wellbeing. Under the leadership of Jake Vickery, the District have developed a mental health programme for its young people and volunteers. Several initial training events have been run with very positive feedback and a range of resources provided to support badge work in the Groups. Overall engagement across the District has been slower than was hoped but a combination of further events and more marketing throughout 2022 is expected to have a beneficial impact.

The Census in 2021 saw the district grow by 2.2%, which was not expected and given the circumstances is a tremendous credit to all the leaders and volunteers across the District. There is a lot of variation across the different sections with continued growth in Explorers and Beavers and the positive impact of Squirrels and reductions in Cubs and Scouts. It is expected that as Groups start to get more back to normal operations it will be enable a return to growth in all areas.

As noted above, a highlight of 2021 was establishing the first Squirrel Drey in the District at 1st Helsby. This has been very popular and was full of both young people as well as lots of helpers almost overnight. Interest was being shown not only locally but from areas well outside the District. It is planned to open further Dreys in the Central and Northern parts of the District in 2022.

The Explorer units have continued to get more back to normal. The new Unit Draco is doing well, and it has been particularly encouraging to see the Units starting to work together in programme ideas.

As f2f scouting returns a key factor to enable further growth in the District, and hence provide even greater opportunity to YP to benefit from all that scouting offers, is the shortage of adult volunteers, both uniformed and support roles. After much reflection and benchmarking by the District Leadership Team and the Executive the conclusion was reached that two things were essential; a review of the structure of Groups and their Leadership across the District and help in securing more adult volunteers from the local community.

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To support these goals the District Team developed some outline ideas on organisation and initiated workshops and discussion across the wider Group Leadership teams during the year. In addition, it was concluded that a full time Group Development Officer, recruited by Region, but financed from the District should be explored as a means of tackling the recruitment challenge. After much discussion, and based on the strong financial position, the Executive Team committed to funding a GDO for one year, given this is a success, funding for further years would be sought. Given the very positive support from Regional Development Team, progress is expected in early 2022 with the recruitment of a GDO. Once in position further discussions on optimum structure for scouting across the District will be progressed with the Groups.

Once again Sadly, the pandemic caused further disruption in 2021 across the Active Support Units (ASUs), with for example the Cheshire Hike being cancelled again. There was also little use of the mobile climbing wall although except for a brief period over the summer when our fundraising team were able to use it at a few community events. Activities were sustained where possible with the Target Sports ASU, especially rifle and pistol shooting, once again continuing to offer exciting challenges.

The Technology ASU has been crucial this year in helping support the successful deployment of the online Digital Scouting programme. The platform and available tools have been resilient throughout the year and great credit is due to the small team who have helped create and support this excellent infrastructure, which has been a lifeline for scouting in the District. The installation and commissioning of internet connectivity has been rolled out to both Clogwyn and District Centre (also supporting the security of both sites). The team's also WordPress theme continues to generate a small income for the district.

Thanks to our Treasurer, the overall finances have continued to be managed in a prudent and professional manner, with expenses settled promptly; the simplification of the finance processes also led to a very accurate and speedy closure for the year end accounts to the full satisfaction our new IE. Sadly, due to a number of different circumstances and despite much effort, the resolution of Gift Aid applications remains outstanding and the progress with implementing XERO, to further support the integration of financial tools in the District, has been further delayed. Progress is targeted for 2022.

Our Awards Advisory Panel continued to do an excellent job identifying scouters across District to be recognised for their service and contribution. This year we were able to recognise the achievements of 40 adults with adult awards! 10 Commissioner's Commendations, 27 Commendations for Good Service, 4 Awards of Merit, 1 Bars to the Award for Merit. In addition, a Scout from 10th Widnes was awarded the Cornwall Award for her outstanding bravery, patience and positivity beyond her years in the face of great personal adversity. We also saw 10 of our volunteers/groups recognised by the High Sheriff of Cheshire for their outstanding contribution during the Pandemic.

2020 sadly saw pandemic cancellation of the international EuroJam camp. However in 2021, thanks to the tireless efforts of Andy Hill and his team, the YP were able to benefit

from attending an exciting multi location UK camp that took place along the south coast of England starting in Cornwall and finishing Portsmouth. In addition, many of the YP involved in Eurojam have now applied for WSJ 2023 and the Cheshire Explorer Belt 2023. With some of over 18's who were unable to take part in the alternative EuroJam experience embarking on an Explorer Belt in the Summer of 2022.

2021 has once again seen a limited usage of the of the minibuses and despite careful cost management has resulted in a significant financial impact. On a positive note, booking did pick up late in the year and there has been increased external interest in their hire for the future.

The District Scout Shop has continued to develop with a strong year's turnover and is making a very healthy contribution to the District funds.

2021 has seen the continued support to the quarterly District Section meetings. These continue to be well received and are helping improve communication and create a wider involvement in shaping scouting developments in Mersey Weaver. With the success of virtual meetings it is the intention that these will now alternate between face to face and virtual.

6 Financial Review

6.1 Reserves Policy

The District has undertaken a review of its potential liabilities in the face of foreseeable risks and has currently determined that a reasonable sum to hold in reserve is one year's District operating costs: nominally £90 000.

Despite investment in new facilities, the current reserves remain significantly higher than this amount at £233,665. Of this sum, £60,984 is Designated, which includes funds raised for our international fund, and £19,888 is Restricted. Further investments have been made this year on the necessary development of the QCW, Clogwyn and the District Scout Centre, helped by further Government grants. Despite District provision being available, the commitment to support groups badly impacted by the pandemic was not required. Returning to f2f scouting also proved less of a drain on District finances than was feared. This had left the District able to commit to funding the GDO.

We will continue to support exciting activities and events to enhance the provision of scouting in the District. These continue to be proposed, approved and tracked using our project proposal and approval process.

In addition, and very importantly, the District continues to support the training and development of leaders (e.g. MIDAS training for safe use of the Minibuses), and international activities through dedicated funds.

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2021 – 31 Dec 2021

6.2 Investment Policy

The District has adopted a low risk strategy and all funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

An Investment Policy has been established to reflect this strategy

7 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Date: 25/04/2022

Full Name: Oliver Chambers

Position: District Commissioner

Signature: 

Date: 26/4/2022

Full Name: Jeff Shaw

Position: District Chair

**Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Income & Expenditure Statement**

Total £	31 st December 2020			INCOME	Total £	31 st December 2021		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £			Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
60,880.00	60,880.00	-	-	- Membership subscriptions	57,119.25	57,119.25	-	-
936.88	936.88	-	-	- Investment Income received	0.00	0.00	-	-
46,273.75	250.00	42,247.50	3,776.25	Donations and grants	47,839.25	0.00	44,614.00	3,225.25
13,491.58	0.00	13,491.58	-	- Fund Raising	9,657.41	0.00	9,657.41	-
15,198.80	15,198.80	-	-	- Activities / Projects	18,779.96	18,779.96	-	-
7,701.35	7,701.35	-	-	- Fees and Charges	16,767.14	16,767.14	-	-
606.69	606.69	-	-	- Other Income	50,763.11	50,763.11	-	-
145,089.05	85,573.72	55,739.08	3,776.25	Total Income	200,926.12	143,429.46	54,271.41	3,225.25
EXPENDITURE								
37,982.00	37,982.00	-	-	- Membership Fees	35,070.50	35,070.50	-	-
43,845.06	43,845.06	-	-	- Premises	43,293.43	14,202.09	29,091.34	-
3,989.20	510.15	-	3,479.05	Donations & Grants	9,728.07	1,637.68	-	8,090.39
17,017.82	0.00	17,017.82	-	- Fund Raising	22,136.97	0.00	22,136.97	-
16,433.36	1,533.35	14,900.01	-	- Activities / Projects	21,163.34	21,163.34	-	-
13,868.93	13,868.93	-	-	- Administration	13,623.65	13,623.65	-	-
0.00	-	-	-	- District Officials Expenses	0.00	-	-	-
455.00	205.00	250.00	-	- Sundry Expenditure	51,686.00	50,348.32	1,337.68	-
6,098.67	6,098.67	-	-	- Equipment	5,468.39	5,468.39	-	-
139,690.04	104,043.16	32,167.83	3,479.05	Total Expenditure	202,170.35	141,513.97	52,565.99	8,090.39
5,399.01	-18,469.44	23,571.25	297.20	Income less Expenditure	-1,244.23	1,915.49	1,705.42	-4,865.14

Total £	31 st December 2020			ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Total £	31 st December 2021		
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £			Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £
229,510.45	169,436.09	35,617.81	24,456.55	Reserves brought forward	234,909.46	150,966.65	59,189.06	24,753.75
-	-	-	-	Prior Year re-allocation	-	-	-	-
5,399.01	-18,469.44	23,571.25	297.20	Income less Expenditure	-1,244.23	1,915.49	1,705.42	-4,865.14
234,909.46	150,966.65	59,189.06	24,753.75	Reserves carried forward	233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61
REPRESENTED BY								
150,849.84	129,604.84	-	21,245.00	Scout Short Term Investment Account	200,849.84	130,961.23	50,000.00	19,888.61
97,604.92	34,907.11	59,189.06	3,508.75	Bank Balance at close per bank	37,980.93	27,086.45	10,894.48	0.00
0.00	0.00	-	-	- Receipts not on bank statement	82.61	82.61	-	-
-13,545.30	-13,545.30	-	-	- Payments not on bank statement	-5,248.15	-5,248.15	-	-
84,059.62	21,361.81	59,189.06	3,508.75	Cash Book Balance	32,815.39	21,920.91	10,894.48	0.00
234,909.46	150,966.65	59,189.06	24,753.75	Total Represented By	233,665.23	152,882.14	60,894.48	19,888.61

Cath Mudford
Mersey Weaver District Scout Treasurer

Eric Bennett
Independent Examiner

C E Mudd

12/2/2022

Eric Bennett

12.2.22

MERSEY WEAVER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 1145482

Accounts



1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Mersey Weaver District Scout Council
Charity Number: 1145482
Principal Address: The Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QX

1.1 Trustees

Jeff Shaw	District Chair
Michelle Pickstock	District Secretary
Cath Mudford	District Treasurer
Oliver Chambers	District Commissioner
Jake Vickery	District Youth Commissioner
Derek Hillbeck	Deputy District Commissioner
Andy Pearson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Matthew Duckett	District Network Commissioner

Mike Walker (ACM Clogwyn)	Kevin Holland (ACM DC)	
Matt Morris & Emily Morris (ACM QCW)	Emily Brown	
Ronald Sayle	Steve Lavery	Matthew Marnell
Colin Chambers	Vikki Gale	Anna Holland

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:

- Commissioners
- District and Group Active Support Managers
- Scouters
- Administrators
- Section Assistants
- Skills Instructors
- Advisers
- all Explorer Scouts
- all members of the District Scout Network

- A representative of the Troop Leadership Forum, selected from amongst the membership of the Forum
- Representatives of each District Explorer Scout Unit, selected from amongst the membership of each Explorer Scout Unit
- A representative of the District Scout Network, selected from amongst the membership of District Scout Network
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Active Support Units
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- persons elected or reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee
- the County Commissioner and County Chairman are ex-officio members of the District Scout Council.

2.3 Constitution

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents.

2.4 Trustee Selection

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

2.5 District Executive Committee

The District is led by a District Commissioner and managed by a District Executive Committee. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout 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 Chairmen 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, Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support Units in the District as necessary.
- Appoint and manage the operation of an Appointments Advisory Committee, including appointing an Appointments Committee Chairman to lead it.
- Supervising the administration of Groups, particularly in relation to finance and the trusteeship of property.

2.6 Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed which are:

2.6.1 Injury or adverse impact to health to Leaders, Helpers, Supporters or Members

The District supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessment; elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries or adverse impact to health (including mental health). In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

It has been agreed in 2020 to establish a separate HS&E subcommittee to help support the DC in the development and deployment of policy and good practice in regard to health, safety and environment. A small team of volunteers was also established to support the DC in ensuring Covid risk assessments were effectively carried out across the District.

2.6.2 Damage to Buildings, Property or Equipment

The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

2.6.3 Reduced Income from Subscriptions and Fund Raising

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The District holds adequate reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could also raise the value of subscriptions to increase the District income either temporarily or permanently.

It was agreed in 2020 to institute a programme of modest fee increases over a number of years to secure sufficient funds from the District to finance its ongoing commitments.



2.6.4 Reduction or Loss of Leaders

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or sections.

2.6.5 Reduction or Loss of Members

If there were a reduction in membership of a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section.

2.6.6 Internal Controls.

The District has in place systems of **internal control** that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments, a robust expenses policy and 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:

‘As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. The Mersey Weaver Scout District supports Explorer Scout Units and the Scout Groups across Mersey Weaver to encourage the young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we support our members by providing the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed.’

The activities of the District are:

- The provision of the Scouting programme for 14–18 year old members (Explorers)
- The provision of scouting for 18–25 year old members (Network)
- The provision of support to Scout Groups within the District
- The provision of communication channels between Scout Groups within the District and between those Groups and the rest of the Scouting Organisation.

4 Achievements and Performance

2020 has been a very challenging year for Scouting in the District due to the impact of the international COVID 19 pandemic. This has resulted in a complete closure of face to face (f2f) scouting for much of the year and an innovative and creative move to an online Digital Scouting programme.

When circumstances allowed, a number of sections and units safely returned to f2f scouting, mainly outdoors. This return was only allowed after very careful risk assessments were developed, in line with the Government and Scout Association (SA) requirements and having developed and deployed properly communicated and understood appropriate safety and health measures.

It is a great credit to the many leaders and other volunteers who safely and successfully led scouting in the District through this challenge and continue to do so as COVID persists into 2021.

The closure of many scouting activities in the District has had a significant impact on income across the District. However, a careful programme of cost management and the diligent and successful securing of Government COVID grants have enabled the District to maintain its finances in an acceptable state and provides a financial basis to support a creative and dynamic reboot of f2f scouting across the District when circumstances allow.

In parallel with the COVID safe return to scouting, the SA has initiated a drive to ensure that all scout premises are in a safe condition to allow a return to f2f. This addresses not only COVID security but also Fire Risk Assessment, Electrical Safety, Asbestos, amongst others. A programme of risk assessments and inspections have been initiated at all three of the District Activity Centres. In many cases these inspections have revealed areas requiring improvement.

Thanks to the Government grants, our ability to draw on reserves, and the amazing resourcefulness and willingness of volunteers, we have, despite the challenging times, been able to make significant safety improvements. These improvements have resulted in the improved facilities being in a sufficient state to compliantly support a safe return to scouting activities. Further process improvements are planned to ensure these good levels of compliance can be maintained. As noted

above this includes the District establishing a separate HS&E subcommittee to oversee this continuous improvement.

The District is not only focusing on the physical wellbeing of our young people, our volunteers and our physical assets, we are also addressing the very pressing topic of mental wellbeing. It is widely expected that there will be a major adverse impact on mental wellbeing as a consequence of the pandemic, and this on top of an already significant challenge prior to it. To address this the District have committed to developing a mental health programme, using the MHFA resources, for its young people and volunteers. A plan has been developed, led by our District Youth Commissioner, and personnel identified to be trained as MHFA Instructors, who can then plan a roll out programme across the District in 2021.

The Census in 2020 saw the district grow by 2.7% with significant growth in the Explorer section. However, it is widely expected that due to COVID there will be a sizeable drop in youth membership in 2021.

Again, despite the COVID impact there has been further development with the District Units with the opening of a new Explorer unit, Draco, based at QCW. This new Unit will offers the explorer programme on an alternative meeting night to the existing units and serve groups in the south of the district, who would otherwise have had to travel quite far to the next nearest unit. We have also started to closer align the four units across the District and encourage, as much as has been possible this year, joint scouting.

Sadly, the pandemic has caused major disruption across the Active Support Units (ASUs), with for example the necessity to cancel the Cheshire Hike due to the bad weather which disrupted events at the start of the year. There has been no possibility to use the mobile climbing wall, however the opportunity has been taken to carry out major refurbishment to the wall. Activities were sustained where possible with the Target Sports ASU, especially rifle and pistol shooting, continuing to offer exciting challenges and managing to squeeze in 10 sessions and enter two competitions prior to the suspension of face to face activities in March.

The Technology ASU has been crucial this year in helping support the successful deployment of the online Digital Scouting programme. The platform and available tools have been resilient throughout the year and great credit is due to the small team who have helped create and support this excellent infrastructure, which has been a lifeline for scouting in the District. Further highlights in 2020 were: the further successful deployment of OSM; the installation and commissioning of internet connectivity at QCW (also supporting the security of this remote site); and the development and deployment of a platform to support safety inspections across the District (Fat Finger). The team also made available their WordPress theme to other Scout groups, districts and counties which has generated a small income for the district.

Another highlight for 2020 has been the final consolidation and modernisation of the District banking arrangements. This multi-year programme is now complete leaving the District with a much simpler, robust, responsive and secure platform for the future. An outcome of this work has been the ability to finalise the 2020 finances and issue accounts to the IE within 1 month of the year closing. Great credit is due to our Treasurer who has led this project. Regrettably, the progress with the next step to implement XERO to further support the integration of financial tools in the District has been delayed by the pandemic, but it is hoped that this can be progressed in 2021.

Our Awards Advisory Panel continued to do an excellent job identifying scouters across District to be recognised for their service and contribution. This year we were able to recognise the

achievements of 35 adults with adult awards! 11 Commissioner's Commendations, 16 Commendations for Good Service, 3 Awards of Merit, 1 Bars to the Award for Merit, 1 Silver Acorn, 1 Bar to the Silver Acorn and 1 Silver Wolf! Special mention to Graham Bowden, Sandra Markey, Jane Duley and most notably Roger Owens. In addition, three 1st Helsby Scouts were awarded the Chief Scout's Personal Award for their bravery in standing up to anti-social behaviour in the local community.

Sadly, the pandemic saw the initial postponement and then ultimate cancellation of the international EuroJam camp. This is despite a heroic effort by the Unit to raise nearly all the funds required and for the leadership team to be well prepared for the venture. It has clearly been a great disappointment to the Unit as a whole and there have been some financial losses. However, plans are in hand by the team to plan an exciting UK camp and a short trip overseas as and when the national conditions allow. As well as funding the UK camp and overseas trip, some of the funds will be used for older members to support an Explorer Belt in 2022.

A consequence of the year has been a very low usage of the of the minibuses but careful cost management has minimised the financial impact.

The District Scout Shop has continued to develop and despite a lower turnover has continued to make a healthy contribution to the District funds.

2020 has seen the continued support to the quarterly District Section meetings. These continue to be well received and are helping improve communication and create a wider involvement in shaping scouting developments in Mersey Weaver.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the successful appointment of a number of key roles in the district that will stand us in good stead for the future. The appointments included a Youth Commissioner (Jake Vickery) and a Deputy Youth Commissioner (Josh Foulger), an Appointments Chair (Richard Tiplady), Queen Charlotte's Wood Activity Centre Managers (Matt & Emily Morris), District Scout Network Commissioner (Matthew Duckett) and Communications Manager (Steve Walker).

5 Financial Review

5.1 Reserves Policy

The District has undertaken a review of its potential liabilities in the face of foreseeable risks and has currently determined that a reasonable sum to hold in reserve is one year's District operating costs: nominally £90 000.

Despite investment in new facilities, the current reserves remain significantly higher than this amount at £234,909. Of this sum, £59,186 is Designated, including the funds raised for our international fund, was expected to be spent in 2020 but which will not now be spent until 2021, and £24,753 is Restricted. A significant investment has been made this year on the necessary development of the QCW and Clogwyn activity centres and the upgrading of the District Scout Centre, offset by help from Government grants. More investment will potentially be required, especially at the District Centre. However, the developments in 2020, and now 2021, regarding the Covid19 pandemic, have justified our prudent approach and will allow us to support groups who have been impacted by the pandemic as well as provide financial assistance to families in hardship

Trustees Annual Report

01 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2020

where cost may have otherwise been a barrier to participation. The financial implications of helping assist a successful return to f2f scouting across the District will require careful assessment before any further significant investments are committed.

We will continue to support exciting activities and events to enhance the provision of scouting in the District. These continue to be proposed, approved and tracked using our project proposal and approval process.

In addition, and very importantly, the District continues to support the training and development of leaders (e.g. MIDAS training for safe use of the Minibuses), and international activities through dedicated funds.

5.2 Investment Policy

The District has adopted a low risk strategy and all funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

An Investment Policy has been established to reflect this strategy

6 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Date: 26/02/2021

Full Name: Oliver Chambers

Position: District Commissioner

Signature: 

Date: 26/2/2021

Full Name: Jeff Shaw

Position: District Chair



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting Period

I report on the accounts of Mersey Weaver District Scout Council for the period 1st January to 31st December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)b of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alec Hough
5 Campbell Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4SW

16 February 2021