

1st Sandwell Scout Group Accounts for the period 1st January 2025-31st December 2025

1st Sandwell Scout Group Accounts 2025

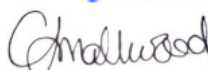
INCOME				Expenditure			
	2025	2024		2025	2024		
Bank Interest	£ 359	£ 364	£ 201	£ 346		Activity Equipment	
Distributed Funds	£ 689	£ 100	£ 144	£ 367		Admin	
Donation	£ 12,507	£ 2,507	£ 387	£ 898		Badges	
HMRC	£ 77	£ 378	£ 165	£ -		Camping Equipment	
Fundraising	£ 810	£ 1,256	£ 881	£ -		Capital Projects	
Events - Beavers	£ -	£ 150	£ 1,017	£ 1,035		Cleaning	
Events - Cubs	£ 625	£ 948	£ 714	£ 930		Distributed Funds	
Events - Explorers	£ 3,629	£ 3,422	£ 76	£ 210		Events - Beavers	
Events - Scouts	£ -	£ 250	£ 721	£ 1,290		Events - Cubs	
Events Group	£ 1,117	£ 2,081	£ -	£ -		Events - Explorers	
Membership Fees	£ 10,543	£ 10,005	£ 586	£ 959		Events - Scouts	
Rent	£ 10	£ 365	£ 3,179	£ 3,378		Events Group	
Sales	£ -	£ -	£ 2,421	£ 2,284		Insurance	
Utility Refund	£ -	£ -	£ 58	£ -		Leader Donation	
		£ -	£ 228	£ 338		Meetings - Beavers	
Total Income	£ 30,366	£ 21,827	£ 313	£ 279		Meetings - Cubs	
			£ 84	£ 166		Meetings - Explorers	
			£ 203	£ 159		Meetings - Scouts	
			£ 2,835	£ 3,380		Membership Costs	
			£ 566	£ 591		OSM Charges	
			£ 1,871	£ 1,871		Rates	
			£ 20	£ 20		Rent	
			£ -	£ 2,085		Stores Project	
			£ 285	£ 560		Training	
			£ 1,903	£ 2,546		Utilities	
			£ 658	£ 789		Venue Maintenance	
			£ 292	£ 290		Waste collection	
			£ 521	£ 479		Wi-Fi and telephone	
			£ 20,327	£ 25,250		Total Expenditure	
Summary							
Opening Balance	£ 29,590	£ 20,327					
Total Income	£ 30,366	£ 21,827					
Total Expenditure	£ 20,327	£ 25,250					
Closing Balance	£ 39,641	£ 29,590					
1st Sandwell Main Account	£ 5,585	£ 4,481					
1st Sandwell Instant Access	£ 25,772	£ 16,296					
Petty Cash	£ 12	£ 2					
Expense Account	£ 272	£ 811					
Reserve Account	£ 8,000	£ 8,000					
Total account balance	£ 39,641	£ 29,590					

Account balance carried forward £ 39,641

Income over expenditure £ 10,039

Signed Treasurer  31st March 2026

Signed Chair  31st March 2026

Signed:  29th May 2026

Name: Clair Smallwood

Independent Examiner

Notes to the accounts for 2025

- Our operating costs are in line with our expenditure.
- We received a one-off grant from the Allen family, this was following the sale of the land adjacent to the headquarters.
- Events for all sections are broadly a neutral cost to the group as all events are self-funding.
- Gift Aid claim from HMRC, this is lower, again due to lower membership numbers.
- Bank interest is slightly higher but is expected to fall during 2025.
- Group building insurance increases by about 6% year on year.
- Membership costs (what we pay out for National and local Scout support, member insurance etc.) rises by about 6% year-on-year
- Utility costs, mainly electricity, are rising year-on-year by about 8%.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Sandwell Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 1st Sandwell Scout Group for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 1st Sandwell Scout Group, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 1st Sandwell Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

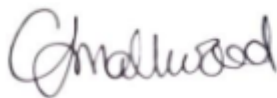
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Clair Smallwood

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

Address: 60 St Georges Place, Cheltenham GL50 3PN

Date: 29 May 2026

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period:

From		To	
	1 st January 2025		31 st December 2025

Charity Name	1st Sandwell Scout Group
Charity Registration Number	1179166
HQ Registration Number	10011455

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association. The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists 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
Summary of the main activities in relation to the purpose and objects	Providing a comprehensive training programme to members in both Scouting activities and community engagement. Provide a meeting place and land.
Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability	Our achievements during the year include providing a very varied programme of activities, both indoors and outdoors, across all of our sections. We aim to provide our young people with 'Skills for life'. These activities include practical skills, exploring global and environmental issues, faiths and beliefs, team building and how to keep themselves and each other safe. In order to meet our objectives, we encourage our young people to persevere even when things get tough and we support them in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. All of this work is only possible because of the dedicated volunteers who lead the sections and give so much of their time and also the members of the Trustee Board who give their time to support them with governance and financial matters. Without these volunteers the Group could not continue to operate.
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: • <i>Achievements against objectives</i> • <i>Fundraising activities</i> • <i>Contribution made by volunteers</i>	We are currently undertaking recruitment of young people, and we are also starting a recruitment campaign aimed at adults because we desperately need to add to our team of volunteer leaders to work with our young people.

Financial review

Review of the financial position	During the financial year 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 the following changes were made to the income and expenditure of the Group. During April 2025 there was a change in subscriptions that we charge members, up from £15 to £20 per month; an increase of 33%. The total number of young people in our group fell from 48 members to 39 members between 2024 and 2025: a decrease in numbers of 18%. These changes resulted in a ~£530 increase in received income from members up 5% on 2024 income. At the same time there was a reduced payment to National HQ of ~£100 (due to lower membership numbers) even with the increase of £8.00 per member charged by National HQ and local levies. A further reduction in expenditure was recorded for activities other than meeting nights, administration costs, badges purchased for young people and leader training. During 2025 there was an increase in expenditure for camping equipment compared to 2024. There was also an increase in capital projects expenditure. Capital projects relate to the work carried out on the bottom access drive to the site. Weekly meeting costs are similar to 2024 levels for all sections. However, the Beaver and Explorer weekly expenditure was reduced due to a reduction in members. Following an expenditure of ~£2,085 during 2024 there was no further work during 2025 on the new stores project.
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	Overall, our operating costs for the year returned a slight surplus of £39.00. This compares well with the actual operating costs in 2024 of -£507. This is after exceptional items in 2024 have been taken out of the final balance. Our funds were then boosted by a one-off donation by the Allen Family of £10,000 following the sale of the land adjacent to our site. This shows income over expenditure of £10,039 for the 2025 financial year. The Group is financially sound and can weather the fall in membership numbers during 2025.
Policy on Reserves, why they are held, and the amount of reserves	The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the charity should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £8,000, this is held in a reserve account. In addition, the charity held further reserves of approximately £25,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. Included in the £25,000, the charity also holds funds designated for Headquarters improvements.
Policy on Investments and investment performance	The charity's reserves are small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The charity has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.
A description of the principal risks	The Headquarters building is a sixty-year-old wooden structure, this will have to be replaced or extensively refurbished in the near future.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The charity'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. https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5c-constitutions-of-groups-districts-and-counties-except-in-scotland/
How the charity is constituted	The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees	All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.
Management	The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 6 Trustees and meets 5 times a year. The Trustee Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

	The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight. The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly. The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules. This includes responsibility for: • Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development; • Developing, maintaining and regularly reviewing a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations; • Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting; • Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; • Ensuring that property is appropriately managed; • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees; • Appointing Advisors as required; • Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board; • Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding; • Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy; • Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate; • Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM; • Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation; • Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed.
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Plans for future periods

Plans for future Periods	We are currently undertaking recruitment of young people, and we are also starting a recruitment campaign aimed at adults because we desperately need to add to our team of volunteer leaders to work with our young people.
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Reference and administration details

Principal Address	Scout Headquarters, Marston Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham. B43 5ED
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	Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Vanessa Hitchon	Chair	
2	Christine Jones	Lead Volunteer	
3	Alan Dean	Treasurer	
4	Graham Jones		
5	Lewis Tucker		
6	Brigitte Hatfield		
7	Ben Hatfield		
8	Lynne Barlow		
9			
10			
11			
12			

Name and address of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner / Auditor	Clair Smallwood	60 St Georges Place, Cheltenham GL50 3PN

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

Signature		
Full name	Vanessa Hitchon	
Position held	Chair	
Date	17 th June 2026	