

GSE UK (Scouts of Europe – United Kingdom)

Trustees' Annual Report
For the year ending November 30 2025
Registered Charity Number: 1198968

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: GSE UK (Scouts of Europe – United Kingdom)
Registered charity number: 1198968

2. Structure, Governance and Management

GSE UK is a registered charity governed by a charitable constitution. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing document and are responsible for strategic oversight, safeguarding, financial management, and compliance with charity law.

This year, the charity initiated development of a **federated governance model**, enabling local groups to become independent charitable entities aligned under a unified national safeguarding and educational framework. Four national subcommittees were established:

1. **Safeguarding Subcommittee**
2. **Finance & Operations Subcommittee**
3. **Formation & Training Subcommittee**
4. **Communications & Outreach Subcommittee**

Trustees have prioritised strengthening policies, systems and accountability to match the rapid growth of the association.

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives

The charity's purpose is:

“To develop good citizenship, character and Christian beliefs among young people who are both self-reliant and useful to others by embodying the practice of scouting, as inherited from Robert Baden-Powell and enriched by Fr Jacques Sevin.”

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

All scouting activities—training, camps, formation, mentoring, and youth development—are provided for the public benefit without discrimination and support the physical, moral, and spiritual development of young people.

Core Activities

GSE UK provides:

- Weekly scouting programmes for boys and girls aged 6–17
- Residential camps, pilgrimages, outdoor activities and service projects
- Leadership formation rooted in Christian anthropology
- Training for adult volunteers
- Resources for families, parishes, and schools

Funds are spent on:

- Camp facilities and equipment
- Leader training and safeguarding compliance
- Programme materials and publications
- National coordination, governance and insurance
- Development of translated and standardised pedagogical resources

4. Achievements and Performance

1. Rapid Growth of Membership

The association has grown from small pioneering groups to a national Catholic scouting movement.

2024–2025 membership: 275 young people and 54 leaders across six active locations:

- Gateshead
- Bedford (I & II)
- Kensington
- Southwark
- Birmingham
- Surrey (emerging group)

Growth has averaged **~40% per year**, driven solely by parental demand and organic parish outreach.

2. Expansion of National Structures

Significant progress was made this year in formalising national governance and strengthening operational capacity:

- Creation of **four national subcommittees**
- National safeguarding lead appointed
- Standardised risk assessment processes introduced
- New national onboarding pack for groups (launching 2025)
- Migration to Google Workspace for GDPR-compliant national communication
- Development of English-language scouting materials and translations

3. Safeguarding Strengthened

Safeguarding has been the highest priority:

- Introduction of safeguarding minimum standards
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) appointed for each group
- Safer recruitment practices, ID verification and DBS monitoring expanded
- Leaders began NSPCC safeguarding training cycle
- Engagement opened with Catholic diocesan safeguarding professionals

- No safeguarding incidents reported during the year

4. National and Local Scouting Activities

Major activities included:

- **Gateshead Summer Camp**
- **Bedford Wolfcub Camp**
- Local weekly troop activities, hikes, service projects
- Leader training weekends with international FSE instructors
- National magazine *Scouting Spirit* published twice annually (2,000 copies)

5. Strengthening Church and International Relations

- Growing recognition in Catholic parishes and dioceses
- Contact maintained with French, Irish, and other European associations
- Planning underway for greater participation in international camps and training

5. Financial Review

Income

Income was generated through:

- Membership donations
- Family contributions for camps
- Grants and private donations
- Sales of publications and materials

Expenditure

The main areas of charitable spend were:

- Camps and outdoor activities
- Training and safeguarding

- Programme materials and translations
- National administration and communications

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain reserves sufficient to ensure:

- Programme continuity
- Compliance with safeguarding and training obligations
- Ability to respond to rapid growth in demand

Risk Management

Key risks identified and actions taken:

- **Safeguarding:** strengthened policies, DSL network, audit plan
- **Governance:** migrating to federated model to reduce trustee liability
- **Volunteer capacity:** new formation pipelines for leaders
- **Documentation and pedagogy:** major translation and standardisation project underway

6. Plans for Future Periods (2025–2026)

The charity has entered a phase of consolidation and professionalisation. Planned priorities include:

- Implementing the federated governance model
- Completing a full national safeguarding audit
- Publishing the national onboarding and training pathway
- Appointing Yellow/Green Branch Commissioners
- Establishing a national religious advisor team
- Launching national training camps
- Growing to **6–8 fully operational groups nationwide**
- Running the **National Camp 2026 (North Yorkshire)**

- Enhancing visibility within the Catholic Church in the UK

7. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for:

- Ensuring the preparation of proper accounting records
- Safeguarding the charity's assets
- Preparing financial statements that comply with the Charities Act 2011
- Ensuring the charity operates for public benefit
- Managing risks, including safeguarding and financial oversight

8. Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on:
Wednesday 26 November 2025

Signed on behalf of the Board:

Name: Robert Colquhoun

Position: Trustee

Signature: Robert Colquhoun

GSE U.K

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	2,756		2,756
Charitable activities	33,937		33,937
Other trading activities		-	-
Investments		-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total income	36,693	-	36,693
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
Charitable activities			
Admin	4,191		4,191
Books	838		838
Equipment	11,484		11,484
Events	2,474		2,474
Food & Drink	1,981		1,981
Insurance	349		349
Postage	105		105
Print	278		278
Safeguarding	111		111
Stationery	(15)		(15)
Stipend	310		310
Training	200		200
Travel	664		664
Uniform	4,420		4,420
Venue Hire	3,351		3,351
Website	393		393
Total expenditure	31,133	-	31,133
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	5,560	-	5,560
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	5,560[£]	-	5,560 -
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,560	-	5,560
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	(1,387) [£]	-	(1,387)
Total funds carried forward	4,173	-	4,173

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance sheet
As at 31st January 2024

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fixed assets:		
Tangible assets	2,852	1,852
Intangible assets	-	-
Investments	-	-
	<u>2,852</u>	<u>1,852</u>
Current assets:		
Debtors	500	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	5,335	4,485
	<u>5,835</u>	<u>4,485</u>
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,514)	(7,725)
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Net current assets	<u>1,321</u>	<u>(3,239)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>4,173</u>	<u>(1,387)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>4,173</u></u>	<u><u>(1,387)</u></u>
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds	-	-
Unrestricted income funds:		
General funds	4,173	(1,387)
	<u>4,173</u>	<u>(1,387)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>4,173</u>	<u>(1,387)</u>
Total charity funds	<u><u>4,173</u></u>	<u><u>(1,387)</u></u>
	-	-

Approved by the trustees on xxxxxxxx and signed on their behalf by

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 January 2025

	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	5,560		3,750	
Depreciation charges	-		-	
Losses/(Gains) on investments	-		-	
Dividends, interest from investments	-		-	
(Profit)/loss on the disposal of fixed assets	-		-	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(500)		-	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(3,210)		7,725	
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,850		11,474
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-		-	
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,000)		(1,852)	
Purchase of investments	-		-	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(1,000)		(1,852)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		850		9,622
year		11,840		2,218
year		12,690		11,840
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and of net debt				
	At 1st February 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31st January 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	4,485	850	-	5,335
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,485	850	-	5,335



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
GSE U.K.

On accounts for the year ended

31 January 2025

Charity no
(if any) 1198968

Set out on pages

1-2 hereof

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/01/2025.

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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:

C. Dale

Date: 26 November 2025

Name:

Christopher Dale

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

SRA

Address:

Grove Farm House, Turvey, MK43 8EX, BEDS

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.