

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 520713

Details

Other names	SUNDERLAND AND DISTRICT BOY SCOUTS LOCAL ASSOCIATION, SUNDERLAND SCOUTS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-02-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Kayll House 9 Foyle Street Sunderland SR1 1LB
Phone	0191 565 7444
Email	info@sunderlandscouts.org.uk
Website	www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Activities: SCOUTING ACTIVELY ENGAGES AND SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWERING THEM TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SUNDERLAND AND DISTRICT
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£53,198	£69,816	-	-
2024-03-31	£44,917	£45,612	-	-
2023-03-31	£42,130	£33,621	-	-
2022-03-31	£28,371	£29,056	-	-
2021-03-31	£42,079	£19,980	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KEITH LOWES	Chair	2013-08-07
Aaron Horton		2022-07-11
DAVID GEORGE RUSSELL		
Ethan William Cowey		2025-11-10
Jake Charles Mann		2025-09-10
James William Elliot		2022-07-11
Kris Callaghan Woods		2025-11-10
LESLEY ANNE ROBINSON		
Philip John Atkinson		2020-07-01
Steven Arthur Whatt		2018-07-02

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 520713

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report Sunderland Scouts 2024-2025



A message from our Chair...

It was my great pleasure and honour to be present, in February this year, at the unveiling of the Blue Plaque commemorating, effectively, the launch of the Scouting movement to the world. As you may know, it was 117 years ago, on February 22, 1908, that Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of our movement, conducted the world's first-ever Scout inspection in Sunderland, on Garrison Field behind what is now the Fire Station entertainments complex. Formed by Col. Ernest Vaux of the famous brewing family and Baden-Powell's friend from the Boer War, the Troop would go on to be known as Vaux's Own – Sunderland No. 1 and is also believed to be the first official Scout troop in the world.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne & Wear, Lucy Winskell OBE, and Ben Hodgkiss, UK Contingent Leader for the Scouts, carried out the unveiling of the plaque. It was a prestigious, profile-raising event for Scouting in Sunderland, attended by the great and the good from the District and further afield. I was struck, from chatting with various attendees, by how much Scouting and the contribution we make to the well-being of Sunderland is appreciated across the wider community. There were so many people who, even if no longer active in Scouting, had a story to tell of when they or their children were Scouts. **Once a Scout, always a Scout?**

Overall, the event was a great success and my gratitude is extended to those who helped make it happen – particularly two of our extraordinary volunteers, Lesley and Andrew Robinson, who did much of the “heavy lifting”. Their efforts remind me how essential volunteers are to every single success story within Scouting. Week in, week out, our volunteers across Sunderland give their time, energy, and creativity to inspire young people with skills for life. Whether leading weekly section nights, organising adventurous activities, or supporting behind the scenes, their contribution embodies our values of care, respect, integrity, belief, and cooperation. Quite simply, without them, none of this would be possible.

Sunderland's historic role in the origins and development of Scouting is one of the almost “quirky facts” which give the city its unique character. There are many “did you know” of this kind that I come across from time to time. My favourites include the laying of the foundation stone of Sunderland Museum in 1877, which was attended by American President Ulysses S. Grant, victorious general of the Civil War.

Another is that Sir William Herschel, distinguished composer and renowned astronomer, lived in Sunnyside in the 18th century – just around the corner from what is now Kayll House. These connections remind us that Sunderland has long been a place of innovation, culture, and influence. Scouting is proud to be part of that tradition, helping young people take their place in history by developing character, citizenship, and leadership.

When I reflect on the Blue Plaque event, I am struck not only by the significance of Sunderland's role in the Scouting story, but also by how that story continues to be written today. From those first parades on Garrison Field, to the hundreds of young people who now wear the Scout scarf across our District, we are united by a common purpose: preparing young people with skills for life. This is not simply about teaching outdoor skills or teamwork, though those remain at the heart of what we do. It is also about resilience, empathy, problem-solving, and confidence – qualities that help young people succeed in school, in work, and in life. In a world that is constantly changing, these skills are more relevant than ever.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Scouting in Sunderland is powered by ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Leaders who give up their evenings to run a programme. Trustees who ensure the safe and sustainable running of our Groups. Parents who lend a hand on camp. Skills instructors, administrators, fundraisers, and mentors who quietly keep everything moving. Each contribution, no matter how small, has a ripple effect on the lives of young people. Collectively, they create opportunities that young people may not otherwise have access to – from camping under the stars for the first time, to representing the UK at an international jamboree.

As we look forward to a new Scouting year, I would like to express my appreciation for the current Trustees Board, who over the past 12 months have really gelled together to form a highly effective team, working in the service of the District. Not all issues facing us have been finally resolved, but great progress has been made. Their work embodies the very best of our values: showing integrity in decision-making, belief in the potential of our young people, respect for the views of all stakeholders, and care in safeguarding the future of Scouting in Sunderland.

Changes will come along in the next months and years, as they always do. We will face new challenges, but I am confident that Sunderland District Scouts will continue to rise to them. We can draw strength from our history – from Baden-Powell’s first parade here in 1908 – and from our present-day community of volunteers and young people. Together, we will keep creating moments of adventure, friendship, and growth. Together, we will keep making a difference. And together, we will keep equipping young people with skills for life.

Thank you all for the part you play in our ongoing story. Whether you are leading, supporting, encouraging, or simply sharing your pride in being part of Scouting, you are shaping lives and building a better world.

Mr. Keith Lowes

Volunteer Chair of Trustees

Sunderland Scouts



A Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	Sunderland District Scout Council
Also known as:	Sunderland Scouts / Sunderland District Scouts
Charity Number:	520713
Scout HQ Registration Number:	100001701
Principal Address of the Charity:	Kayll House, 9 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LB
Period this report covers:	1 st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025

Board of Trustees

Those volunteers appointed by the District Scout Council to be responsible for the sound day-to-day governance of the charity on their behalf.

Name	Role
Keith Lowes,	District Chair
Emma Scott	District Secretary* (1 st April 2024 to 23 rd September 2024)
Steven Whatt	District Treasurer
Carlton Gronow	Lead Volunteer (Ex Officio Trustee)
Ian Simpson	Youth Lead (Ex Officio Trustee)
Aaron Horton	Trustee
James Elliot	Trustee
John Cooper	Trustee
Lesley Robinson	Trustee
Phil Atkinson	Trustee
Dave Russell	Trustee
Andrew Donaldson	Trustee (1st April 2024 to 23rd September 2024)
Cameron Hirst	Trustee (1st April 2024 to 23rd September 2024)
Kris Woods	Trustee (1st April 2024 to 23rd September 2024)

** - Please note that the role of District Secretary continues to support the board and has attendance at meetings, but from 23rd September 2024 is not a trustee by right of appointment.*

B Structure, Governance and Management

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.

Constitution

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee Selection

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

The District Scout Council

The District Scout Council is the electoral body which appoints the District Trustee Board to manage the day to day matters of the charity.

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

- a. All adult members with a District role
(as per The Scouts Policy, Organisation & Rules Teams Table)
- 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) in the District
- j. The County Lead Volunteer (Durham Scouts)
- k. The County Chair (Durham Scouts)

For the year 2024-25 the District did not have any appointed or community members of the District Scout Council.

The District Trustee Board

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

The Trustee Board meets every 2 months. Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Being a Scouts Trustee' learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board as well as mandatory training for Safety, Safeguarding, Creating Inclusion, 'Who we are and what we do' and GDPR if not completed previously and within 3 years since last completing.

This Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed; these have been reviewed, and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- **Damage to the building, property and equipment.**

The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as a church, community centre, Scout Groups or other Scout Districts. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

- **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.**

The District, through the capitation fees, contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

- **Reduced income from fundraising.**

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

- **Reduction or loss of leaders.**

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the District as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group or Unit. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

- **Reduction or loss of members.**

The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular Group or Unit or the District as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group or Unit. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

- **Material Mismanagement or Loss.**

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

C Objectives and Activities

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 cooperate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

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

- Enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- Take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- Learn by doing
- Share in spiritual reflection
- Take responsibility and make choices
- Undertake new and challenging activities
- Make and live by their Promise.

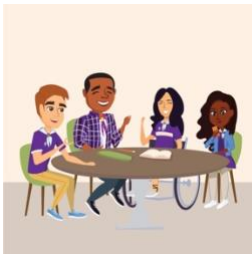
How the District seeks to achieve our objectives:

<p>EXPLORERS</p>  <p>network</p>	<p>Sectional Support</p> <p>Whilst the Scout programme from 4 to 14 is delivered in the Scout Groups we support. The District is responsible for directly operating our 14 to 24 provisions. Ensuring suitable leadership, resources and finances are in place to support young people achieve their Top Awards.</p>
	<p>Adventurous Activities</p> <p>We encourage all sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition and renewal of adventurous activity permits, including Nights Away permits that allow our leaders to take young people on overnight camps and other residential activities.</p>
	<p>Growth & Transformation</p> <p>Liaising with the Regional Growth and Communities Team to identify local Growth and Development projects to grow Scouting. Whether opening new Groups, new Sections or Re-energising a Group which may have less numbers. We are also supporting groups to transition to new digital system, new way of team-based working, new roles and structures and introducing a new training scheme.</p>
	<p>Events</p> <p>We run a number of District Events through the year and support Groups in participating in County Events. The purpose of these is to supplement the Scout programme where scale or access to certain activities may be limited, sometimes these are competitive, and sometimes just for fun – but always allowing our young members the opportunity to understand that they are part of a worldwide family.</p>
	<p>Facilities & Resources</p> <p>Kayll House our District HQ & Scout Resource Centre ensuring our members have access to uniform and badges.</p> <p>An archive covering the events of Sunderland Scouts since 1908!</p> <p>A box trailer that Groups can use to transport their equipment.</p> <p>And lots of activity and camping equipment for Groups to use.</p>



Grants & Fundraising

We make a financial contributions to those who wish to apply for grant funding whether to access Scouting when affordability becomes a challenge, to support international experiences such as World Scout Jamborees and to support the costs of adult volunteers who wish to undertake adventurous activity training with a National Governing Bodies. We gratefully receive grants from benefactors who support our work with young people, which often need to be administered carefully and reported back to the initial funder.



District Support

Scout Programme is delivered in Scout Halls as section meetings – as a District we strive to provide additional support to leaders whether that be human, financial or capital resource directly, indirectly or perhaps with the support of subject matter experts to provide advice or a more hands-on approach. We also provide technical tools to help with Youth Membership & Programme Administration (OSM) and Risk Assessment Management.






Welcoming and Supporting New Volunteers

Whilst new volunteers are always welcome, it is important that we screen applicants to ensure their suitability to work with young people. We have robust processes that we implement in the District in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy such as DBS checks, reference checks and welcome conversations.



Links & Community Impact

Maintaining links between our District and our neighbours, be they other Scouting Districts and Areas or external bodies, is essential. We encourage and support giving young people the opportunity to take part in high quality social action as part of the Scouting Movement. As well as representing The Scouts at local, national and international events ensuring that Young People are the good work we do are showcased and celebrated in the wider community.

	<p>Volunteer Training</p> <p>Ensuring all our adult volunteers, whatever their role are appropriately trained or re-trained in a timely manner. All adults are required to undertake mandatory training in Safety, Safeguarding, 'Who We Are and What We Do', Creating Inclusion and GDPR when starting months of their appointment. Additional modules for Trustees, Line Mangers and those with Programme Based roles are also mandatory. Additional and advanced training is available with a 'Wood Badge' being awarded to adults as a symbol of the completion of the advanced training.</p>
	<p>Youth Shaped</p> <p>Youth Shaped Scouting isn't a new concept. Baden-Powell our founder's aim was to create a movement suited to and shaped by the young people involved. The idea of a Youth Shaped movement is part of the fundamental values of Scouting and has always been important. Youth shaped scouting is all about you the leaders working with the young people of your section to shape their scouting experience around what they want to do. We are a movement, so we need to keep moving. It's vital to find out what young people want from Scouting so we can continue to deliver an exciting and relevant programme.</p>
	<p>Recognition</p> <p>Valuing the contribution, commitment and achievements of our members is an essential. The badges and awards our young people earn, trophies and certificates for competition winners and presentation at our annual St. Georges Day event.</p> <p>We also present adult volunteers for long service at 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70 years as well as good service awards and medals for outstanding contribution.</p>

Public benefit statement

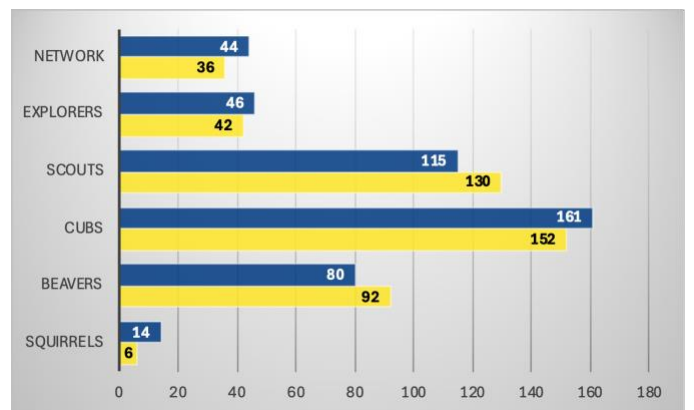
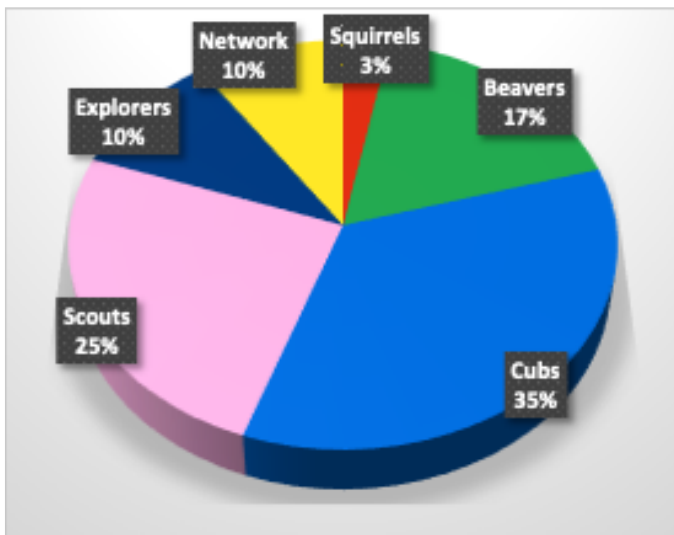
The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

D Membership & Growth

The graphs and tables show a summary of the current membership of Sunderland Scouts.

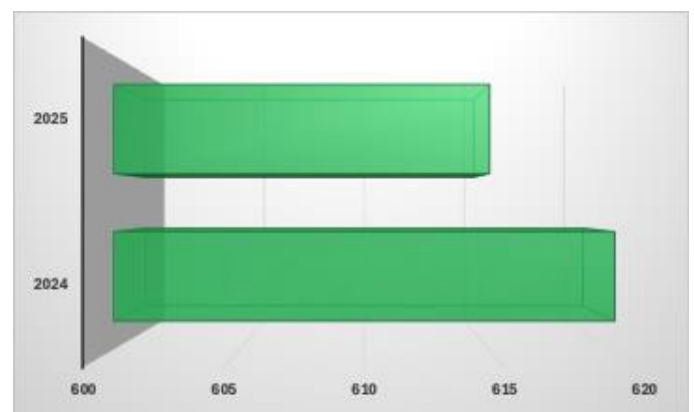
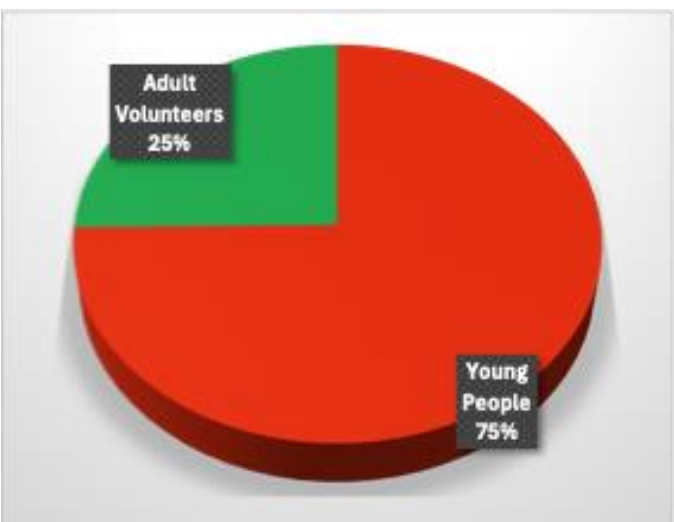
Youth Membership 2025	Total
Squirrels	14
Beavers	80
Cubs	161
Scouts	115
Explorers	46
Network	44
Total number of Young People	460

Youth Membership	2024 Vs 2025	
Squirrels	6	14
Beavers	92	80
Cubs	152	161
Scouts	130	115
Explorers	42	46
Network	36	44
Totals	458	460



Young People Vs Adults	Total
Young People	460
Adult Volunteers	155
Total District Membership	615

Total Membership 2024 Vs 2025	Total
2024	620
2025	615
Difference +/-	-5



Please Note: While there is a slight decrease from 2024 to 2025, we believe this reflects changes to our volunteer structure and role recording, not a drop in adult volunteer numbers.

The table below is a summary of our National Scout Census return as of
31st January 2025 vs 31st January 2024

	2024					2025					2025 vs 2024					% change
	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	
YOUTH MEMBERSHIP																
Squirrel Scouts	4	2	0	0	6	10	4	0	0	14	+6	+2	-	-	+8	+133%
Beaver Scouts	81	11	0	0	92	71	9	0	0	80	-10	-2	-	-	-12	-13%
Cub Scouts	115	37	0	0	152	128	33	0	0	161	+13	-4	-	-	+9	+6%
Scouts	92	38	0	0	130	86	29	0	0	115	-6	-9	-	-	-15	-12%
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	30	12	0	0	42	33	11	2	0	46	+3	-1	+2	-	+4	+10%
Network Members	22	13	1	0	36	28	15	1	0	44	+6	+2	-	-	+8	+22%
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	344	113	1	0	458	356	101	3	0	460	+12	-12	+2	-	+2	+0%
SECTION TEAMS																
Team Leader	17	22	0	0	39	22	26	0	0	48	+5	+4	-	-	+9	+23%
Team Member	29	33	0	0	62	28	26	1	0	55	-1	-7	+1	-	-7	-11%
TOTAL ADULT SECTION TEAMS	46	55	0	0	101	50	52	1	0	103	+4	-3	+1	-	+2	+2%
Young Leader	13	6	0	0	19	5	4	0	0	9	-8	-2	-	-	-10	-53%
Other 14-17 Helper	3	1	0	0	4	2	5	0	0	7	-1	+4	-	-	+3	+75%
TOTAL SECTION TEAMS	62	62	0	0	124	57	61	1	0	119	-5	-1	+1	-	-5	-4%
GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM																
Group Lead Volunteer	4	3	0	0	7	4	2	0	0	6	-	-1	-	-	-1	-14%
Team Member	2	0	0	0	2	4	2	0	0	6	+2	+2	-	-	+4	+200%
GROUP TRUSTEE BOARD																
Group Chair	3	2	0	0	5	4	2	0	0	6	+1	-	-	-	+1	+20%
Treasurer	3	5	0	0	8	3	3	0	0	6	-	-2	-	-	-2	-25%
Members (nominated, elected or co-opted)	12	7	0	0	19	12	12	0	0	24	-	+5	-	-	+5	+26%
GROUP DISCONTINUED ROLES																
Group Administrator	0	1	0	0	1											
Other adults with Group support roles	9	4	0	0	13											
TOTAL GROUP TEAMS	33	22	0	0	55	27	21	0	0	48	-6	-1	-	-	-7	-13%
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM																
Lead Volunteer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	+1	-	-	-	+1	0%
Youth Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Team Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
DISTRICT 14-24 TEAM																
Team Lead	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	+2	-	-	-	+2	0%
Team Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
DISTRICT PROGRAMME TEAM																
Team Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Team Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
DISTRICT VOLUNTEERING DEVELOPMENT TEAM																
Team Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Team Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
DISTRICT SUPPORT TEAM																
Team Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Team Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Other Adults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
DISTRICT TRUSTEE BOARD																
Chair	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Treasurer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Members (nominated, elected or co-opted)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-	-	-	-1	-100%
DISTRICT DISCONTINUED ROLES																
Deputy Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0											
Deputy Youth Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0											
Assistant Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0											
District Leader	0	0	0	0	0											
Administrator	0	0	0	0	0											
Scout Active Support	0	4	0	0	4											
TOTAL DISTRICT TEAMS	2	4	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	4	+2	-4	-	-	-2	-33%
TOTAL ADULT ROLES	81	81	0	0	162	81	73	1	0	155	-	-8	+1	-	-7	-4%
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	425	194	1	0	620	437	174	4	0	615	+12	-20	+3	-	-5	-1%
Total Membership due to pay the Headquarters Membership Subscription (Total of Youth Membership excluding Scout Network)										416						
OPERATIONAL UNITS																
Squirrel Scout Dreys	1					2					+1					
Beaver Scout Colonies	9					9					-					
Cub Scout Packs	10					10					-					
Scout Troops	10					10					-					
Explorer Scout Units, including YL Units	6					6					-					
Scout Networks	1					1					-					
Scout Active Support Units	1					0					-1					
Groups	10					10					-					

E Financial Review

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2024	To	31 March 2025
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Receipts and Payments

	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership Subscriptions	28,080	25,742.00
Donations	0	3,000.00
County rebate	633.00	182.00
Rent from Kayll House car park	1000.00	1,000.00
Trailer Income	40.00	
Sub total	29753.00	29,924.00
Grants		
Grants	4850.00	1,022.00
Sub total	4850.00	1,022.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events	2152.66	1,723.00
Shop	8543.99	6,526.28
Network	0	161.30
Explorers	7004.92	4,811.60
Other	106	0.00
Sub total	17807.57	13,222.18
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	787.06	749.26
Sub total	787.06	749.26
Total Gross Income	53,197.63	44,917.44
Asset and Investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	53,197.63	44,917.44

Charity number: 520713

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2024	To	31 March 2025
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Receipts and Payments

	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Membership fees paid to County	23,504.00	21,522.00
Youth programme and activities	1,981.29	1,930.64
Explorers	6,459.92	5,455.39
Network	15.00	397.8
Adult support and training	1,803.78	502.56
Refunds/Rebates	633	256
Grants Made	0	720
Rates (Kayll House)	128.24	120.15
Water and sewerage (Kayll House)	509.28	285.55
Electricity and gas (Kayll House)	1,817.58	1,736.30
Maintenance and cleaning (Kayll House)	2700.00	0
Telephone, alarm and broadband (Kayll House)	0	0
Insurance (Kyall House)	923.68	1,231.49
Rent and rates (Dene Lane)	49.47	48.08
Water and sewerage (Dene Lane)	269.46	241.01
Maintenance (Dene Lane)	19,496.59	
Insurance (Dene Lane)	254.00	
Trailer Repair	165.46	
AGM and trustee expenses	0	100
Shop purchases for resale	6,125.04	7,118.79
Legal etc. Fees	0	0
Bank charges	299.24	166.53
Audit Fees	0	0
Subscriptions	1,627.00	
Miscellaneous	1054.23	3,779.74
Sub total	69,816.26	45,612.03
Total Gross Expenditure	69,816.26	45,612.03
Asset and Investment purchases, etc.		0.00
Total payments	69,816.26	45,612.03
Surplus/(Deficit) generated in the year	(16,618.63)	(694.59)

Charity number: 520713

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2024	To	31 March 2025
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Statement of cash balances at the end of the year

	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	6,298.47	5,119.73
Bank Deposit Account	57,536.32	75,749.26
Soldo account	0.00	234.98
Equals Money account	844.96	194.41
Cash Float	75.00	75.00
Total cash funds	65,754.75	81,373.38
Investment assets		
Shop stock	7,397.31	7,868.37
Land and buildings		
Kayll House	150,000.00	75,000.00
Dene Lane	12,000	
Trailer	500.00	500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total non-cash assets	171,397.31	84,868.37
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	129.26	0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Group Activity Debtors	0.00	13.00
Shop Debtors	86.40	930.60
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total liabilities	215.66	943.60
Total net assets	236,367.72	167,185.35

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 30/06/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature

Name

Treasurer

Signature

Name

Chair

Charity number: 520713

Sunderland District Scout Association

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 next statement.

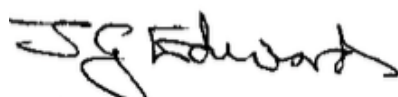
Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



John Edwards
2 Rose Cottages
Windlass Lane
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE37 1BD

June 26th 2025

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months of running costs, circa £4000

Investment Policy

The District Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District 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 or The Scout Association's Short-Term Investment Service.

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

F Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Full Name:

Keith Lowes

Position:

Volunteer Chair of Trustees - Sunderland Scouts

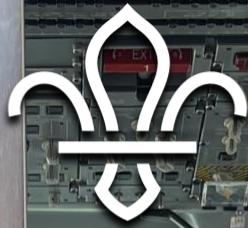
Date:

16/08/2025

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 520713

Accounts



Scouts
Sunderland

**Sunderland District
Scouts
Annual Report
2023-24**

We prepare young people with skills for life

A message from our Chair...

Dear Colleagues

I am looking forward to this year's 'All District' meeting being held on 23 September 2024 at the 25th Sunderland (Castletown) Scout HQ and many thanks to our colleagues for hosting us on this occasion.

Our event comes at a time when we have taken significant steps towards transforming the organisation of Scouting across all areas of our movement and it is heartening to see so much progress being made in Sunderland with so many playing their part.

As we said last year, changing how we are organised and how we work is invariably a challenge and the District Trustees Board has been adept in adjusting to the new arrangements enabling us to maintain a focus on strategic matters – Safety and Risks, Finance, Property and Assets, Governance, Training and Compliance – all to help in supporting our Scout Programme and the growth and development of Scouting across Sunderland district.

One key factor, largely out of our control is meeting the increasing financial costs of what we do. National HQ has announced an increase in its element of the forthcoming membership fee and County is likely to follow suit. In recent years additional funding from the government was available as part of the response to the COVID-19 emergency. We were able to pass that on to groups in order effectively to suppress the annual membership fee however that additional funding is no longer available. Consequently, the District's ability to grant financial relief will be severely curtailed in the next round of setting the membership fee.

The Trustees have long taken the view that membership fees should not be a disincentive to maintaining and developing membership numbers. At the same time, we must, as part of our brief as Trustees, manage the District's financial obligations in a responsible and accountable manner - and we will continue to adhere to this requirement. Accordingly, we will look to set a District levy on the basis of "balancing the books" and we will announce the total membership fee for 2025 reflecting National and County charges as well as the resources the District needs to call upon.

Annual reports tend to be a time for reflection, looking back over the previous twelve months, assessing what has been achieved, what is still work in progress and what can be done better in the year to come. We need to do this in the ever-changing environment which surrounds us – reflecting among other things, rapid technological advancement, social trends and new legislation.

Coincidentally, National HQ has recently launched an online survey -“Have your say on what you think Scouts should look like in 10 years’ time” – They want our thoughts about planning for our future and want to find out what we think the biggest challenges are for Scouts at a local level and in the UK as a whole. Where should we focus our efforts to ensure as a movement that we keep moving forward and stay relevant to what young people need to thrive in the future? The responses will be used to help shape the next strategy for Scouts, as the Skills for Life strategy comes to a close next year.

They reckon the short online survey should take just 10 minutes So, do some crystal ball gazing and give it a go! (complete the online survey by 14 October 2024)

Moving on, you will undoubtedly have seen the announcement that Dwayne Fields, adventurer and TV presenter, is the UK’s new Chief Scout.

Dwayne’s been appointed as our 11th Chief Scout “to lead our half a million young people and adult volunteers for his values, commitment to helping young people and outstanding leadership qualities. During his time as Chief Scout, Dwayne aims to inspire even more young people and adult volunteers to join from all backgrounds” – an ambition I’m sure we all share.

Finally, I want to close by expressing my gratitude to my colleagues on the Trustees Board for their immense contributions in continuing to maintain and improve Scouting in Sunderland, over the past 12 months - and an extra big thank you to those members who may be stepping down or changing their volunteer role.

Yours sincerely and with my best wishes,

Keith Lowes

Volunteer Chair of Trustees
Sunderland Scouts

A Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: Sunderland District Scout Council
Also known as: Sunderland Scouts /
Sunderland District Scouts

Charity Number: 520713

Scout HQ Registration Number: 100001701

Principal Address Charity: Kayll House, 9 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LB

Period this report covers: 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Charity Trustees

Those volunteers responsible for the management of the charity

Name	Office
Keith Lowes,	District Chair
Emma Scott	District Secretary
Fiona Slater	District Treasurer (till 27 th September 2023)
Steven Whatt	Nominated Member (till 27 th September 2023)
	District Treasurer (from 27 th September 2023)
Carlton Gronow	District Commissioner (<i>now known as Lead Volunteer</i>)
Ben Hudson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Aaron Horton	District Scout Network Commissioner
James Elliot	Elected Member
John Cooper	Elected Member
Andrew Donaldson	Elected Member (from 27 th September 2023)
Cameron Hirst	Elected Member (from 27 th September 2023)
Lesley Robinson	Nominated Member
Kris Woods	Nominated Member
Phil Atkinson	Nominated Member
Dave Russell	Nominated Member

B Structure, Governance and Management

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.

Constitution

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee Selection

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

The District Scout Council

The District Scout Council is the electoral body which appoints the District Trustee Board to manage the day to day matters of the charity.

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 District Scout Leaders and Deputy District Scout Leaders from the District
- all District Trustee Board Chairs from the District
- all District Trustee Board Treasurers from the District
- all Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders from the District
- all District 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

For the year 2023-24 the District did not have any appointed or community members of the District Scout Council.

The District Trustee Board

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

The Trustee Board meets every 2 months. Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Being a Scouts Trustee' learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board as well as mandatory training for Safety, Safeguarding and GDPR if not completed previously and within 3 years since last completing.

This Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as a church, community centre, Scout Groups or other Scout Districts. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the capitation fees contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fundraising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group or Unit. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District.

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular Group or Unit or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group or Unit. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

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

C Objectives and Activities

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 cooperate with others and make friends.




The Scout Method




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

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

How the District seeks to achieve these objectives:

	<p>Sectional Support</p> <p>Whilst the Scout programme from 4 to 14 is delivered in the Scout Groups we support. The District is responsible for directly operating out 14 to 24 provision. Ensuring suitable leadership, resources and finances are in place to support young people achieve their Top Awards.</p>
	<p>Adventurous Activities</p> <p>We encourage all sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition and renewal of activity permits, including Nights Away permits that allow our leaders to take young people on overnight camps and other residential activities.</p>
	<p>Growth & Transformation</p> <p>Liaising with the Regional Growth and Communities Team to identify local Growth and Development projects to grow Scouting. Whether opening new Groups, new Sections or Re-energising a Group which may have less numbers. We are also supporting groups to transition to new digital system, new way of team based working, new roles and structures and introducing a new training scheme.</p>
	<p>Events</p> <p>We run a number of District Events through the year or support Groups in participating in County Events. The purpose of these is to supplement the Scout programme where scale or access to certain activities may be limited, sometimes these are competitive, and sometimes just for fun – but always allowing our young members the opportunity to understand that they are part of a worldwide family.</p>
	<p>Facilities & Resources</p> <p>We manage 2 buildings, Kayll House our District HQ and Scout Resource Centre ensuring our members have access to uniform and badges. Dene Lane, currently an unused site. An archive covering the events of Sunderland Scouts since 1908! Lots of activity and camping equipment and a box trailer that Groups can use to transport their equipment.</p>

	<p>Grants & Fundraising</p> <p>We make a financial contributions to those who wish to apply for grant funding whether to access Scouting when affordability becomes a challenge, to support international experiences such as World Scout Jamborees and to support the costs of adult volunteers who wish to undertake adventurous activity training with a National Governing Bodies. We gratefully receive grants from benefactors who support our work with young people, which often need to be administered carefully and reported back to the initial funder.</p>
	<p>District Support</p> <p>Scout Programme is delivered in Scout Halls as section meetings – as a District we strive to provide additional support to leaders whether that be human, financial or capital resource directly, indirectly or perhaps with the support of subject matter experts to provide advice or a more hands on approach with our Scout Active Support Unit. We also provide technical tools to help with Youth Membership & Programme Administration (OSM) and Risk Assessment Management.</p>
	<p>Welcoming and Supporting New Volunteers</p> <p>Whilst new volunteers are always welcome, it is important that we screen applicants to ensure their suitability to work with young people. We have robust processes that we implement in the District such as DBS checks, reference checks and welcome conversations.</p>
	<p>Links & Community Impact</p> <p>Maintaining links between our District and our neighbours, be they other Scouting Districts and Areas or external bodies, is essential. We encourage and support giving young people the opportunity to take part in high quality social action as part of the Scouting Movement.</p>

	<p>Volunteer Training</p> <p>Ensuring all our adult volunteers, whatever their role are appropriately trained or re-trained in a timely manner. All adults are required to undertake mandatory training in Safety, Safeguarding and GDPR within 6 months of their appointment, with additional 'Wood Badge' training for those that volunteers that work with young people or those that manage and support adults. There is also other opportunities for adult volunteers to develop skills and achieve fully assessed 'permits' to provide adventurous activity experiences and nights away.</p>
	<p>Youth Shaped</p> <p>Youth Shaped Scouting isn't a new concept. Lord Baden Powell's aim was to create a movement suited to and shaped by the young people involved. The idea of a Youth Shaped movement is part of the fundamental values of Scouting, and has always been important. Youth shaped scouting is all about you the leaders working with the young people of your section to shape their scouting experience around what they want to do. We are a movement, so we need to keep moving. It's vital to find out what young people want from Scouting so we can continue to deliver an exciting and relevant programme.</p>
	<p>Recognition</p> <p>Ensuring that we shout about our successes and recognise those who help us achieve them! Whether the badges our young people earn, with trophies and certificates for competition winners, or awards and medals to recognise the good and long service of our adult volunteers.</p>

Public benefit statement

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

D Membership & Growth

Census of Membership in Sunderland For the year ending 31 January 2024

	2023					2024					2024 vs 2023					
	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	% change
YOUTH MEMBERSHIP																
Squirrel Scouts	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	6	+4	+2	-	-	+6	0%
Beaver Scouts	85	10	0	0	95	81	11	0	0	92	-4	+1	-	-	-3	-3%
Cub Scouts	105	30	0	0	135	115	37	0	0	152	+10	+7	-	-	+17	+13%
Scouts	73	30	0	0	103	92	38	0	0	130	+19	+8	-	-	+27	+26%
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	26	5	0	0	31	30	12	0	0	42	+4	+7	-	-	+11	+35%
Network Members	8	7	0	0	15	22	13	1	0	36	+14	+6	+1	-	+21	+140%
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	297	82	0	0	379	344	113	1	0	458	+47	+31	+1	-	+79	+21%
PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES																
Section Leaders	17	20	0	0	37	17	22	0	0	39	-	+2	-	-	+2	+5%
Assistant Section Leaders	16	17	0	0	33	15	18	0	0	33	-1	+1	-	-	-	0%
Section Assistants	10	9	0	0	19	14	15	0	0	29	+4	+6	-	-	+10	+53%
TOTAL ADULT PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES	43	46	0	0	89	46	55	0	0	101	+3	+9	-	-	+12	+13%
Young Leaders*	16	0	0	0	16	13	6	0	0	19	-3	+6	-	-	+3	+19%
TOTAL PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES	59	46	0	0	105	59	61	0	0	120	-	+15	-	-	+15	+14%
LINE MANAGER ROLES																
Group Scout Leaders	3	1	0	0	4	4	3	0	0	7	+1	+2	-	-	+3	+75%
District Explorer Scout Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Scout Network Commissioners	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-	-	-	-1	-100%
District Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL LINE MANAGER ROLES	4	1	0	0	5	4	3	0	0	7	-	+2	-	-	+2	+40%
GOVERNANCE ROLES																
Group Chair	2	2	0	0	4	3	2	0	0	5	+1	-	-	-	+1	+25%
Group Secretary	0	5	0	0	5	2	5	0	0	7	+2	-	-	-	+2	+40%
Group Treasurer	2	4	0	0	6	3	5	0	0	8	+1	+1	-	-	+2	+33%
Group Executive Members	8	6	1	0	15	10	2	0	0	12	+2	-4	-1	-	-3	-20%
TOTAL GROUP GOVERNANCE ROLES	12	17	1	0	30	18	14	0	0	32	+6	-3	-1	-	+2	+7%
District Chair	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Secretary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Treasurer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Executive Members	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE ROLES	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL GOVERNANCE ROLES	14	17	1	0	32	20	14	0	0	34	+6	-3	-1	-	+2	+6%
SUPPORT ROLES																
Deputy Group Scout Leaders	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	+1	-	-	-	+1	+100%
Group Administrators -	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	+1	-	-	+1	0%
Group Skills Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Other Group Adults	7	15	0	0	22	9	4	0	0	13	+2	-11	-	-	-9	-41%
TOTAL GROUP SUPPORT ROLES	8	15	0	0	23	11	5	0	0	16	+3	-10	-	-	-7	-30%
Deputy District Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Youth Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Deputy District Youth Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Assistant District Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Leaders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Administrators -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
District Skills Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Other District Support roles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL DISTRICT SUPPORT ROLES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Scout Active Support	1	4	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	4	-1	-	-	-	-1	-20%
TOTAL SUPPORT ROLES	9	19	0	0	28	11	9	0	0	20	+2	-10	-	-	-8	-29%
TOTAL ADULT ROLES	70	83	1	0	154	81	81	0	0	162	+11	-2	-1	-	+8	+5%
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	367	165	1	0	533	425	194	1	0	620	+58	+29	-	-	+87	+16%
Total Membership due to pay the Headquarters Membership Subscription (Total of Youth Membership excluding Scout Network)										422						
OPERATIONAL UNITS																
Squirrel Scout Dreys	0					1					+1					
Beaver Scout Colonies	9					9					-					
Cub Scout Packs	10					10					-					
Scout Troops	10					10					-					
Explorer Scout Units, including YL Units	6					6					-					
Scout Networks	1					1					-					
Scout Active Support Units	1					1					-					
Groups	10					10					-					

E Financial Review

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2023	To	31 March 2024
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Receipts and Payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership Subscriptions	25,742.00	21,293.50
Donations	3,000.00	2,700.00
County rebate	182.00	166.50
Rent from Kayll House car park	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub total	29,924.00	25,160.00
Grants		
Grants	1,022.00	4,000.00
Sub total	1,022.00	4,000.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events	1,723.00	2,026.50
Shop	6,526.28	5,936.97
Network	161.30	218.00
Explorers	4,811.60	4,789.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total	13,222.18	12,970.47
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	749.26	0.00
Sub total	749.26	0.00
Total Gross Income	44,917.44	42,130.47
Asset and Investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	44,917.44	42,130.47

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2023	To	31 March 2024
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Receipts and Payments

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Membership fees paid to County	21,522.00	17,654.00
Youth programme and activities	1,930.64	1,762.08
Explorers	5,455.39	4,316.20
Network	397.80	306.49
Adult support and training	502.56	0.00
Refunds/Rebates	256.00	130.50
Grant made	720.00	300.00
Rates (Kayll House)	120.15	227.84
Water and sewerage (Kayll House)	285.55	170.60
Electricity and gas (Kayll House)	1,736.30	2,225.84
Maintenance and cleaning (Kayll House)	0.00	0.00
Telephone, alarm and broadband (Kayll House)	0.00	94.56
Rent and rates (Dene Lane)	48.08	68.52
Water and sewerage (Dene Lane)	241.01	172.71
Insurance	1,231.49	1,130.88
AGM and trustee expenses	100.00	100.00
Shop purchases for resale	7,118.79	4,674.53
Legal etc. Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank charges	166.53	50.10
Audit fee	0.00	75.00
Miscellaneous	3,779.74	161.84
Sub total	45,612.03	33,621.69
Total Gross Expenditure	45,612.03	33,621.69
Asset and Investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	45,612.03	33,621.69
Surplus/(Deficit) generated in the year	(694.59)	8,508.72

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2023	To	31 March 2024
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Statement of cash balances at the end of the year

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	5,119.73	80,492.93
Bank Deposit Account	75,749.26	0.00
Soldo account	234.98	992.76
Equals Money account	194.41	507.28
Cash Float	75.00	75.00
Total cash funds	81,373.38	82,067.97
Investment assets		0.00
Shop stock	7,868.37	5,922.32
Land and buildings		
Kayll House	75,000.00	75,000.00
Trailer	500.00	500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total non-cash assets	84,868.37	82,922.32
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Group Activity Debtors	13.00	0.00
Shop Debtors	930.60	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total liabilities	943.60	0.00
Total net assets	167,185.35	164,990.29

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 23/07/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

S. Whitt
Signature

K. Lowes
Signature

Steven Whitt
Name

Keith Lowes
Name

Treasurer

Chair

Sunderland District Scout Association

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 next statement.

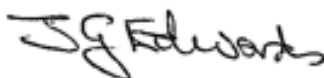
Independent examiner's statement

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 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



John Edwards
2 Rose Cottages
Windlass Lane
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE37 1BD

May 20th 2024

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months of running costs, circa £4000

Investment Policy

The District Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District 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 or The Scout Association's Short-Term Investment Service.

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: 

Full Name: Keith Lowes

Position: Volunteer Chair of Trustees - Sunderland Scouts

Date: 20/09/2024

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 520713

Accounts



Scouts

Sunderland

Sunderland
District Scouts
Annual Report
2022-23

We prepare young people with skills for life

From the District Chair...

Dear Colleagues

Overall, I am pleased to report steady progress in terms of consolidating our numbers of members, leaders and activities, since we pressed the restart button following the worst of the pandemic.

I wonder, if like me you get a sense of historic change in the air. However, one thing that hasn't changed is our royal connections which remain stronger than ever. We can take pride in the fact that 500 Scouts (in army terms that is a battalion) from across the UK and the Commonwealth were helping on Coronation Day in London - including representation from Sunderland.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, Scouts led the Big Help Out which contributed to 6.5 million people volunteering across the UK and 10.4 million people saying that they're more likely to volunteer after being inspired by the day. It has been reported that media interest in Scouts over the Coronation weekend secured 7,000 pieces of coverage and there was a huge 247% increase in visitors to the volunteering pages on the national website, as compared with the same time last year.

On the other hand and more recently there have been several adverse reports in the media about historic safeguarding cases in Scouts. We take these matters extremely seriously, and understand the concerns and questions that parents and carers may have. Nothing is more important to us in Scouting than keeping our young people safe. In addition to a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) every Scouts volunteer must undergo safeguarding training when they take up a role with Scouts, and must refresh their training every three years. Our robust safeguarding training and processes are regularly subject to external review. Most importantly, keep your yellow card close. The 'Yellow Card' is shared with parents, carers and young people, giving everyone the ability to challenge unwelcome behaviour. This approach to safeguarding aims to drive a culture where all concerns must be reported, no matter how small, enabling us to identify and address early warning signs. An updated version of the Yellow Card is due to go live shortly which includes learnings from some of the cases which have been reported.

Having recently completed the online modules in Safeguarding and Safety Training myself I was greatly impressed by the state-of-readiness our national organisation has reached in identifying and addressing potential safeguarding risks. I take great comfort in knowing that Scouting's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) and the associated operational guidance is available online for quick and easy reference and are there to help us all – in everything from how to chair a committee to coping with hot weather.

Returning to the theme of historic change I very much welcome the renewed focus on

improving the volunteer experience in Scouts and the three imminent steps for effecting change to be rolled out:

- Embedding a positive volunteering culture.
- Taking a more team-based approach to volunteering, including changes to role names and how we share tasks.
- Executive Committees are becoming Trustee Boards to make their role as Scouts Trustees clearer and more focused.

Watch this space!

I want to close by thanking my colleagues on the District Executive Committee, who have been a pleasure to work with over the past twelve months, for their immense contributions in maintaining and improving Scouting in Sunderland. I must also single out Fiona Slater our Treasurer, who is moving to (or back to) pastures new, for her dedication, diligence and success in dealing with District' financial matters in recent times.

Yours sincerely and with my best wishes

Keith Lowes - District Chair

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: **Sunderland District Scouts**
Charity Number: **520713**
Scout registration: **100001701**
Principal Address: **Kayll House, 9 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LB**

1.1 Trustees

Keith Lowes,	District Chair
Emma Scott	District Secretary
Fiona Slater	District Treasurer
Carlton Gronow	District Commissioner
Ben Hudson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Aaron Horton	District Scout Network Commissioner
Phil Atkinson	Elected Member
John Cooper	Elected Member
Kris Woods	Elected Member
James Elliot	Elected Member
Lesley Robinson	Nominated Member
Steven Whatt	Nominated Member
Dave Russell	Nominated Member

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:

- President and Vice Presidents (if any)
- Commissioners;
- Scouters;
- Administrators;
- Section Assistants;
- Skills Instructors;
- Advisers;
- all Explorer Scouts;
- all members of the District Scout Network;
- Representative of Troop Leadership Forums; selected from amongst the membership of the Forum.
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Fellowships;
- Representatives of each District Explorer Scout Unit, selected from amongst the membership of each Explorer Scout Unit;
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- 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;
- 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 Chair 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 Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association *and the District's constitution*.

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 a Chair to lead the sub-Committees
- Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision-making at all levels within the District
- The opening, closure, and amalgamation of sections as necessary.
- And all other duties as set out in Policy, Organisation and Rules.

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 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.

In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

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.

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 Material Mismanagement or Loss

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include expenditure controls as detailed in the District delegated authority document 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:

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

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

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

The Scout Method

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

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

4 What we have been doing and continue to do

	<p>Directly supported Scouting Supporting front line programme and support by leading and developing the Explorer Scout and Scout Network (14-24) provision.</p>
	<p>Activities We encourage all sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition and renewal of activity permits, including Nights Away permits that allow our leaders to take young people on overnight camps and other residential activities.</p>
	<p>Growth & Development Growing by attracting new young people and adult volunteers to Scouting and supporting the development of</p>
	<p>Events District events are probably the most visible things that we do, bringing Groups and Units together to show everyone they're part of something big.</p>
	<p>Facilities We own and manage a District headquarters at Kayll House, including the Scout Resource Centre, and Dene Lane - all resources which directly benefit Scouting in Sunderland.</p>
	<p>Group Support Scout Groups & Units are where the magic happens - we provide direct support to help them run their programmes and activities.</p>
	<p>Vetting and appointment of adults We have a functioning Appointments Advisory Committee that works to welcome and support new adult volunteers to Scouting and carries out all relevant DBS checks and other vetting procedures to ensure the safety of our young people.</p>

	<p>Links & Community Impact</p> <p>Maintaining links between our District and our neighbours, be they other Scouting Districts and Areas or external bodies, is essential. We encourage and support giving young people the opportunity to take part in high quality social action as part of the Scouting Movement.</p>
	<p>Training</p> <p>Working with County, who appoint local training advisors, we ensure all our adults have the skills and knowledge to deliver safe, quality, inclusive Scouting.</p>
	<p>Youth Shaped</p> <p>We're committed to trying as hard as we can to get young people working in partnership with adults to run Scouting through youth engagement, the young leader scheme and youth led scouting.</p>
	<p>Recognition</p> <p>Ensuring that we shout about our successes and recognise those who help us achieve them! Whether the badges our young people earn, with trophies and certificates for competition winners, or awards and medals to recognise the good and long service of our adult volunteers</p>

4.1 Public benefit statement

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

5 Report of Receipts, Payments and Statement of Cash Balances

For the year from	01 April 2022	To	31 March 2023
-------------------	---------------	----	---------------

Receipts and Payments

	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £	2021/22 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership Subscriptions	21,293.50	12,321.00
Donations	2,700.00	6,496.74
County rebate	166.50	142.50
Rent from Kayll House car park	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub total	25,160.00	19,960.24
Grants		
Grants	4,000.00	0.00
Sub total	4,000.00	0.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events	2,026.50	300.00
Shop	5,936.97	4,911.12
Network	218.00	0.00
Explorers	4,789.00	3,196.50
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total	12,970.47	8,407.62
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	0.00	3.80
Sub total	0.00	3.80

Total Gross Income	42,130.47	28,371.66
---------------------------	------------------	------------------

Asset and Investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
---	-------------	-------------

Total Receipts	42,130.47	28,371.66
-----------------------	------------------	------------------

Receipts and Payments

	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £	2021/22 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Membership fees paid to County	17,654.00	15,651.00
Youth programme and activities	1,762.08	54.43
Explorers	4,316.20	2,834.34
Network	306.49	0.00
Adult support and training	0.00	300.00
Refunds/Rebates	130.50	113.00
Grant made	300.00	0.00
Rates (Kayll House)	227.84	232.61
Water and sewerage (Kayll House)	170.60	149.84
Electricity and gas (Kayll House)	2,225.84	3,731.18
Maintenance and cleaning (Kayll House)	0.00	0.00
Telephone, alarm and broadband (Kayll House)	94.56	797.88
Rent and rates (Dene Lane)	68.52	65.35
Water and sewerage (Dene Lane)	172.71	161.04
Insurance	1,130.88	1,006.12
AGM and trustee expenses	100.00	0.00
Shop purchases for resale	4,674.53	3,938.33
Legal etc. Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank charges	50.10	20.97
Audit fee	75.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	161.84	0.00
Sub total	33,621.69	29,056.09
Total Gross Expenditure	33,621.69	29,056.09
Asset and Investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	33,621.69	29,056.09
Surplus/(Deficit) generated in the year	8,508.72	(684.43)

Statement of cash balances at the end of the year

	2022/23 Unrestricted funds £	2021/22 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	80,492.93	74,663.22
Soldo account	992.76	820.97
Equals Money account	507.28	0.00
Cash Float	75.00	75.00
Total cash funds	82,067.97	75,559.19
Investment assets	0.00	0.00
Shop stock	5,922.32	5,873.56
Land and buildings		
Kayll House	75,000.00	75,000.00
Trailer	500.00	500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total non-cash assets	82,922.32	82,873.56
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid – Electricity bill	0.00	2,000.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total net assets	164,990.29	158,432.75

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 04/09/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Keith Lowes

 Signature

_____ Keith Lowes _____ District Chair
 Name

7 Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 next statement.

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 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts that accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting

requirements of the 2011 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:

Name: **John Edwards**

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address: **2 Rose Cottages, Windlass Lane, Washington, Tyne and Wear NE37 1BD**

Date: **June 29th 2023**

8 Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: *Keith Lowes* **Date:** 04/09/2023

Full Name: Keith Lowes

Position: District Chair

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 520713

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

Section A

References and administration details

Charity name

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

5	2	0	7	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

Charity's principal address

Kayll House					
9 Foyle Street					
Sunderland					
Postcode					
	S	R	I	L	B

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name 2021/22	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1 Keith Loxes	Chair	
2 Pip Cottan	Secretary	
3 Fiona Slater	Treasurer	
4 Carlton Gronow	District Commissioner (Acting)	From 1st July 2021
5 Ben Hudson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner	
6 Aaron Horton	District Scout Network Commissioner	From 3rd November 2021
7 Phil Atkinson	Elected Member	
8 Kris Woods	Elected Member	
8 Victoria Hunter	Elected Member	
10 Lesley Robinson	Nominated Member	
11 Steven Whart	Nominated Member	
12 Dave Russell	Coopted Member	From 14th July 2021

Please note for clarity:

- Our operating/financial year runs from 1/4/2021 to 31/3/2022.
- Trustees that are either nominated or elected to serve at Annual General Meeting of the District Scout Council will hold office until the date of the following year's Annual General Meeting
- An AGM was held on 30th June 2021.
- An AGM was held on 14 June 2022.
- The trustees in the table to the left served during that period.
- Trustees by virtue of office remain in place until their term of appointment ends.
- Additional trustees can be coopted at any point in the year.

Section A

References and administration details (continued)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Conveyancing	Gordon Brown Law Firm	143 Front Street, Chester le Street, Co. Durham, DH3 3 AU
Property Disposal	Addisons Chartered Surveyors	13 Galgates, Barnard castle, County Durham, DL12 8 BQ
Property Valuation	ABP Property Consultants	Arrow Business Centre, 14 Foyle Street, Sunderland, SR1 1LE

Section B		Structure, governance and management	
<p>Description of the charity's trusts</p> <p>Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)</p> <p>How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)</p> <p>Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)</p> <p>Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)</p> <p>Policies and procedures adopted for:</p> <p>a) the induction and training of trustees;</p> <p>b) trustees' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them</p>	<p>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 of The Scout Association.</p> <p>The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.</p> <p>The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.</p> <p>The District is managed by the District Executive Committee. The members of which include the 'Charity Trustees of the District Scout Council' which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with a constitutionally defined number of nominated, elected and co-opted members of the District Scout Council as well as District Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner and District Scout Network Commissioner who act trustees by right of their role. The District Executive Committee usually meets bi-monthly, unless a more urgent meeting is required. The District Executive Committee can also make decisions digitally within the terms laid out in the Constitution of the District Scout Council.</p> <p>All trustees are required to undertake and receive a satisfactory DBS check.</p> <p>All trustees are required to complete mandatory training modules (certificated-learning) within 5 months of being appointed which includes: The Scouts Essential Information Training (Module 1), Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR and Trustees Induction.</p> <p>This District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:</p> <p>The maintenance of District property;</p> <p>The raising of funds and the administration of District finances;</p> <p>The insurance of persons, property and equipment;</p> <p>District public occasions;</p> <p>Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;</p> <p>Appointing any sub committees that may be required;</p> <p>Appointing District Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.</p>		

Section B

Structure, governance and management (continued)

Risk

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Executive is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- 1) Damage to the building, property and equipment. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- 2) Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the membership fees and other funds contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- 3) Reduced income from fund raising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions donations and occasional realisation of surplus assets. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.
- 4) Reduction or loss of adult volunteers. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of adult volunteers to an unacceptable level in a particular Group or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District.
- 5) Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular Group or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District.

Internal Control

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

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>The District Scout Council exists to support and develop Scouting within the Sunderland area. It attempts to do this in several ways: the main ones being as follows: a) Operating, equipping and maintaining the District Headquarters and Resource Centre at Kay's House which also provides a focal point and meeting rooms for District members; b) Provision of adult support and training, Recruitment of potential leaders and helpers through to interview with the Appointments Advisory Committee, Organising training courses as required including skills training days and "Getting Started Sessions"; c) Provision of advice from specialists such as Assistant District Commissioners, activity permit advisors, and the District Treasurer as well as the general pool of leaders and other adult volunteers with a wide range of experience to call on; d) Organising and funding District events. These include competitions and non-competitive events. Encouragement and support is also given to members who wish to participate in County, National and International events.</p>
Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)	<p>Activities have included competitions and non-competitive events, covering aspects of the training programme of the different sections. Encouragement is also given to those who wish to participate in County, National or International events. All District activities take place within the regulatory framework of Policy, Organisation and Rules, and within budgeted financial limits as agreed by the District Executive Committee. Whilst the amount of activity has been reduced as we recovered from Covid lockdowns and Scout Association rules around the type and scale of activities we have been allowed to provide, activities have included:- Weekend Camps, Sleepovers, Christmas Campfire, Indoor Games, and General Knowledge to list some examples. Groups have also taken part in County events for all sections The focus has been on supporting Groups to run their own activities by helping with risk assessments, planning and permit support.</p>
Public Benefit Statement	<p>The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship and community development headings.</p>

Main achievements during the year	2020/21 Summary and Performance
	<p>The focus of the first 6 months of this period was to support groups who were unable to meet physically by facilitating digital online programme working with the Scout Centre on Camp@Home programmes. As we came out of lockdowns we had to help support Groups manage a phased return to normal Scout activities, this was managed by National Scout HQ having clear colour coded 'Red, Amber, Yellow & Green' statuses that advised of what activities were and were not permissible and what guidance/controls needed to be in place at each stage. District support became less about delivering activities and more about helping volunteer leaders navigate what each 'colour' meant and how to translate that into the Scout Groups day to day operation. This required a lot of training administrative support to check risk assessments, give District permission for each Group's proposed adoption of national advice and support for further support and guidance. The underlying aim of encouraging as much face to face activity in line with The Scout Programme, but safeguarding our young people and volunteer leaders from harm.</p> <p>The second 6 months became a period of assessing the fallout from Covid which impacted the Groups the District seeks to support in a number of ways, loss of adult volunteers, loss of members, loss of income due to the inability to fundraise through the period of national restrictions and also loss of meeting venues due to 3rd party providers changing or renegotiating on pre-existing agreements of hall usage. Recruitment support and support to change roles within Groups to ensure minimum staffing levels were maintained in all sections. A grant of £20 per youth member from the District to Groups paid against the annual membership fee helped reduce financial burden and we were able to ensure each Group continued to have a place to meet from. Since the start of the year we recruited over 50 new adults, and although our overall youth numbers are still below pre-covid levels, a head count in October 2020/21 our annual census taken as at 31/03/21 showed healthy growth in this area with lots of enquiries coming through the District of more people wishing to join. We also laid the foundations for a new Scout Group - Sunderland City Community Scouts, a joint venture between Hudson Road Primary School and Young Asian Voices Community Centre, which will bring Scouting to a much under-represented community. We also managed to start to introduce a number of District events, such as the District Cub Camp and support leaders to undertake Nights Away experiences with their groups through permit removal, training and support. We have also continued to maintain a less than 98% compliance rating of adult volunteers completing mandatory training of safety, safeguarding, GDPR and First Aid either within 5 months of starting their role, or renewing within 3 years of former completion.</p>

Section E	
Financial Review	
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	<p>Reserves Policy The Trustees recognise that given the age and size of the Headquarters building together with its status as a Grade II Building of Architectural or Historic Interest that sufficient resources should be held to cover the costs of necessary maintenance, security and repairs. Likewise the mobilised building at Deane Lane, Scaburn means running costs although to a lesser degree. It would also be desirable to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fund raising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee has previously decided that reserves should be held at a sum equivalent to not less than one year's running costs against these items, circa £9,500. However, the future of the District's property assets are under review. Should any substantive changes be made to property or assets the trustees would review the reserves policy amount to ensure it continued to meet and support our charitable objectives.</p>
Quantify and explain any designations	Not applicable
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	Not applicable
Further financial review details (optional information)	<p>Investment Policy - Normally, the District's Income and Expenditure excluding membership fee collection is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District 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. Expenditure has focused on meeting the District's running costs, including the costs of utilities, rates and rents, insurance, building maintenance and security, supporting members activities and other expenditure, where essential.</p>
How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity:	<p>The District Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements. However given the current situation in relation to low interest rates on accounts available to charities funds have now been consolidated in a single account.</p>
Investment policy and objectives	Not applicable

Section E
 Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

Other Optional Information


Future plans for Sunderland District Scout Council outside of our 'business as usual' activities for year 2022/23 are, but not limited to:

- Continue to support the opening of Sunderland City Community Scout Group
- Progress the disposal of the Dean Lane Property by sourcing relevant quotes, assess feasibility of grant funding and proceed
- Explore alternative locations for the District HQ and Resource Centre and should suitable accommodation be found, embark upon the transfer to the new location and sale of Kay's House.
- The re-introduction of a full calendar of District events.
- Improved internal and external communications to make supporting adult volunteers easier and increase passive recruitment of young people and adult volunteers.
- Learn of, understand, implement and review The Scout Association's proposed strategic changes to our operating structures and teams, way of working, appointments process, introduction of new digital tools and overhaul of volunteer training. This is a large piece of 'transformative' work which will require careful management and support and is part of a larger piece of work running through HQ > Country > Region > District > Group > Sections so will be carried out in partnership with other relevant stakeholders.
- It is not envisaged to re-visit the previous long term development plans created by the District circa 2018 due to the amount of change from the impact of Covid and the imminent transformative change due to take place, which is a developmental project in itself. Once complete a root and branch review of the District will take place and a more suitable and reflective long term development plan will be put into place.

Section G
Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Keith Lowes
Position	Chair, Sunderland District Scout Council
Date	28/1/23

Sunderland District Scout Council (Charity no. 520713)

Receipts and payments account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	1st April 2021	To	31st March 2022
-------------------	----------------	----	-----------------

Receipts and payments

	2021-22 Unrestricted funds £	2020-21 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscription from groups	12,321.00	15,217.50
Membership rebate received from County	142.50	244.00
Explorer subscriptions	1,093.00	820.00
Donations	6,496.74	2,700.00
Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
Other similar income	0.00	0.00
Sub total	20,053.24	18,981.50
Grants		
Maintenance grant	0.00	0.00
Other grants (City of Sunderland Council)	0.00	20,000.00
Sub total	0.00	20,000.00
Fundraising events (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events (non-Explorers)	300.00	25.00
Camps, training courses, events (Explorers)	2,103.50	797.50
Camps, training courses, events (Network)	0.00	0.00
Shop income	4,911.12	1,024.60
Sub total	7,314.62	1,847.10
Rental income		
Hire of Kayll House car parking space	1,000.00	1,250.00
	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Sub total	1,000.00	1,250.00
Investment income		
Bank interest	3.80	0.03
Sub total	3.80	0.03
Total Gross Income	28,371.66	42,078.63
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	28,371.66	42,078.63

Sunderland District Scout Council (Charity no. 520713)

Receipts and payments account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	1st April 2021	To	31st March 2022
----------------------	----------------	----	-----------------

Receipts and payments

	2021-22 Unrestricted funds £	2020-21 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	15,651.00	13,822.50
Membership rebates paid	108.50	203.50
Youth programme and activities	54.43	72.00
Adult support and training	300.00	43.03
Kayll House costs		
- Rates	232.61	0.00
- Water and Sewerage	149.84	150.39
- Electricity and Gas	3,731.18	1,332.21
- Telephone, alarm and broadband	797.88	1,021.76
- Repairs and Renewals and cleaning	0.00	276.00
Insurance (not including Dene Lane)	754.45	747.82
Dene Lane costs		
- Rent and rates	65.35	24.96
- Water and Sewerage	161.04	164.34
- Insurance	251.67	244.83
Materials and equipment	0.00	0.00
Printing and photocopying	0.00	0.00
Contribution to camp costs	0.00	0.00
AGM and trustee expenses	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	71.94
Other costs detail 2	0.00	0.00
Other costs detail 3	0.00	0.00
Sub total	22,257.95	18,175.28
Fundraising expenses		
Camps, training courses, events (non-Explorers)	0.00	0.00
Camps, training courses, events (Explorers)	2,838.84	1,304.50
Camps, training courses, events (Network)	0.00	0.00
Shop purchases and expenses	3,938.33	489.00
Bank charges	20.97	11.05
Sub total	6,798.14	1,804.55
Total Gross Expenditure	29,056.09	19,979.83
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	29,056.09	19,979.83
Net of receipts/(payments)	-684.43	22,098.80
Cash funds last year end	74,243.62	52,144.82
Cash funds this year end (before accrual)	75,559.19	74,243.62

Sunderland District Scout Council (Charity no. 520713)

Receipts and payments account

Year start date

Year end date

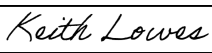
For the year from	1st April 2021	To	31st March 2022
----------------------	----------------	----	-----------------

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2022 Unrestricted funds £	31st March 2021 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Lloyds current account	74,663.22	72,243.17
RBS current account	0.00	1,179.85
Building society account	820.97	670.60
Soldo account	0.00	0.00
Cash/Floats	75.00	150.00
Total cash funds	75,559.19	74,243.62
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	0.00	0.00
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	0.00	0.00
Insurance claim	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	0.00	0.00
Quoted investments	0.00	0.00
Other investments - detail	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	0.00	0.00
Shop stock	5,873.56	7,045.00
Other stock	0.00	0.00
Land and buildings	75,000.00	75,000.00
Trailer	500.00	500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total	82,873.56	84,045.00
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid - electricity invoice accrued	-2,000.00	0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Sub total	-2,000.00	0.00
Total net assets	156,432.75	158,288.62

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 11 July 2022 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature



Print Name

Keith Lowes Chair

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 next statement.

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 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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: *T Armstrong*

Name: Tracy Armstrong

Relevant professional qualification or body: Association of Accounting Technicians

Address: 4 Bowood Close, Tunstall Grange, SUNDERLAND, Tyne & Wear SR2 0BY

Date: 17 July 2022

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 520713

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Sunderland District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

5	2	0	7	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

Charity's principal address

Kayll House
9 Foyle Street
Sunderland
Postcode S R 1 1L B

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name 2019/2020	Trustee Name 2020/21	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1 Keith Lowes	Keith Lowes	Chair	
2 Pip Cottam	David Russell	Deputy D.C./Acting D.C.	1 January 2017-10 July 2020/6 July 2020
3 Lesley Robinson	Lesley Robinson	Deputy D.C./ADC Cubs	
4 Roz Barker/Fiona Slater	Fiona Slater	Treasurer	12 Feb 2020
5 Dave Russell	Dave Russell	Deputy DC	
6 David Kay	Pip Cottam/David Kay	Secretary	9 January 2017-22 Feb 2021
7 John Michael Galley	John Michael Galley		17 September 2017-1 July 2020
8 Steven Whatt	Steven Whatt		
8 Ben Hudson	Ben Hudson	District Explorer Scouts Commissioner	
9 Andrew Robinson	Andrew Robinson		
11 Joanna Chapman	Joanna Chapman		
10 Phil Atkinson	Phil Atkinson		
11 Victoria Hunter	Victoria Hunter		
13 Kris Woods	Kris Woods		01/07/20

Section A Reference and administration details (continued)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Conveyancing	Gordon Brown Law Firm	143 Front Street, Chester le Street, Co. Durham, DH3 3 AU
Property Disposal	Addisons Chartered Surveyors	13 Galgate, Barnard castle, County Durham, DL12 8 BQ
Property Valuation	ABP Property Consultants	Arrow Business Centre, 14 Foyle Street, Sunderland, SR1 1LE

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of the 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 of The Scout Association.

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods

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

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Policies and procedures adopted for:

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

a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders and parents' representation and meets once every school term.

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

The maintenance of District property;
The raising of funds and the administration of District finance;
The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
District public occasions;
Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
Appointing any sub committees that may be required;

Appointing District Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	<p>Risk</p> <p>The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Executive is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Damage to the building, property and equipment. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss. 2) Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the membership fees and other funds contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. 3) Reduced income from fund raising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions donations and occasional realisation of surplus assets. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently. 4) Availability or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of Executive Committee Members to an unacceptable level then steps would be taken to recruit new Members from both within the District's Groups and from outside of the organisation. <p>Internal Control</p> <p>The District has in place systems of <i>internal controls</i> that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The objectives of the District Scout Council are as a unit of the Scout Association.</p> <p>The Aim of The Scout Association is 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. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>The District Scout Council exists to support and develop Scouting within the District boundaries within the Sunderland area.. It attempts to do this in several ways; the main ones being as follows:-a) operating, equipping and maintaining the District Headquarters and shop at Kayll House which also provides a focal point and meeting rooms for District members; b) provision of adult support and training. Recruitment of potential leaders and helpers through to interview with the Appointments Sub-Committee. Organising training courses as required including skills training days and "Getting Started Sessions"; c) provision of advice from specialists such as assistant district commissioners, activity permit advisors, and the District Treasurer as well as the general pool of leaders and other adults with a wide range of experience to call on; d) organising and funding District events. These include competitions and non-competitive events. Encouragement and support is also given to members who wish to participate in County, National and International events.</p>

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)	<p>Activities have included competitions and non-competitive events, covering aspects of the training programme of the different sections. Encouragement is also given to those who wish to participate in County, National or International events.</p> <p>All District activities take place within the regulatory framework of Policy, Organisation and Rules, and within budgeted financial limits as agreed by the District Executive Committee.</p> <p>Activities have included:- Weekend Camps, Sleepovers, climbing event, Cross Country Run, Christmas Campfire along with Competitions covering Handicrafts, Photography, Safety, Indoor Games, and General Knowledge to list some examples.</p> <p>Groups have also taken part in County events for all sections.</p> <p>Members have also taken part in international camps, tall ships training and outward bound.</p>
--	---

Public Benefit Statement	<p>The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>
--------------------------	--

Section D	Achievements and performance
Main achievements during the year	<p>In the months leading up to the AGM Scouting in Sunderland continued to be severely impacted by the Covid 19 crisis. Our mission statement for last year – no business as usual but open for business – was followed through as far as was possible and particularly by the application of information technology, we have carried on. It is the case however, that we have lost a number of young people and adults for a variety of reasons such as time constraints but we have also found strength in adversity and our members and volunteers have risen to the challenge of how to make Zoom meetings work, participated in the County Camps@Home and are slowly getting back to face to face meeting when restrictions allow (and risk assessments have been signed off!). There has also been an inordinate amount of training happening and we are the only District in Durham County with 100% compliance for all Mandatory Modules.As a district we haven't been able to hold any events this year but as restrictions ease, our usual program will be slowly reinstated. The fact that Scouting in Sunderland still exists is our lasting achievement thanks to the effort and commitment of all concerned.</p>

Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	<p>Reserves Policy</p> <p>The Trustees recognise that given the age and size of the Headquarters building together with its status as a Grade II Building of Architectural or Historic Interest that sufficient resources should be held to cover the costs of necessary maintenance, security and repairs. Likewise the mothballed building at Dene Lane Seaburn incurs running costs although to a lesser degree. It would also be desirable to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fund raising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee has previously decided that reserves should be held at a sum equivalent to not less than one year's running costs against these items, circa £9,500. However, as noted elsewhere the future of the District's property assets is under review.</p>
Quantify and explain any designations	<p>Not applicable</p>
Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)	<p>Not applicable</p>

Further financial review details (optional information)

• how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

• investment policy and objectives

Investment Policy - Normally the District's Income and Expenditure excluding membership fee collection is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District 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. Expenditure has focussed on meeting the Districts running costs, including the costs of utilities, rates and rents, insurance, building maintenance and security, supporting members activities and other expenditure, where essential.

The District Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements. However given the current situation in relation to low interest rates on accounts available to charities it is proposed to consolidate funds in a single account.

Not applicable

Other Optional Information

Section F

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

The key objective for the District will be an assessment of the emerging numbers of young people and adults following the reintroduction of face to face activities. A recruitment drive will be considered both in terms of overall numbers and at the level of individual groups where viability is threatened because of falling membership. Little progress has been made in relation to the District's property review, largely due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 lockdowns. The Executive Committee had previously taken the decision in principle to dispose of redundant property in Dene Lane, Sunderland, which continues to be a drain on resources, currently for no return, and is still investigating the best way of doing this. The Property Sub-committee of the District Executive Committee established to pursue this matter, for the reasons stated above has had no opportunity to progress its remit. Likewise the same Sub-committee has had little opportunity to pursue all other options, including possible disposal of the District HQ building Kayll House. This Sub-committee is to be reconstituted and convened by early date. The H.Q. Building is expensive to maintain and other than currently hosting the district shop is underused and its purpose and future is to be thoroughly reviewed. In addition the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions has exposed the viability of some of the groups in operating from the premises they currently use and the Executive Committee will explore how it can help to address these challenges by making the most effective use of the Districts property assets.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Keith Lowes

Position

Chair

Date

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scouts

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) But that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 the 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 you as 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 next statement.

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 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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 *TArmstrong*

Name: Tracy Armstrong

Relevant professional qualification or body: AAT

Address: 4 Bowood Close, Tunstall Grange, SUNDERLAND SR2 0BY

Date: 18th May 2021