

# SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103947

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2015-09-18

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 77 Kilmacrew Road  
Banbridge  
BT32 3TB  
BT32 3TB

**Phone** 07900490080

## Activities

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**Purposes:** Promoting 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.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development

**How the charity works:** Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Sport/recreation, Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£21,293	£1,302	£0	0

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrian Hale		
Mr Colin Mcilroy		
Mr Jason McMullen		
Mr Mark Cairns		
Mr Mervyn Ferris		
Mr Robbie Masters		
Mr Rodney Watson		
Ms Louise Mcquaid		
Ms Tracey McCall		
Sue		

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Accounts

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## **South Down District Scout Council**

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>Funds reconciliation</b>	<b>YE 31 March 2025</b>	<b>YE 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	3,485.54	2,988.52
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	19,991.30	497.02
Closing Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	<u>23,476.84</u>	<u>3,485.54</u>
<b>Bank and Cash Balances</b>		
Bank Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Bank Current Accounts	23,476.84	3,485.54
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
	<u>23,476.84</u>	<u>3,485.54</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 25 June 2025

and signed on their behalf by:



Jason McMullen  
Chair

## South Down District Scout Council

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

<u>INCOME</u>		£	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		£
County Down Restructuring			£7,105.00	OSM		£489.40
				Administration expenses		£12.80
				Summit 25		£800.00
NI Scout Membership 2025						
1st Dromore		£1,865.50				
Explorers		£318.50				
2nd Banbridge		£3,503.50				
1st Banbridge		£2,002.00				
1st Magherally		£1,911.00				
1st Rathfriland		£1,956.50				
1st Poyntzpass		£1,274.00				
Gilford		£1,092.00				
		<b>£13,923.00</b>	£13,923.00			
NI Scout Rebate			£203.00			
Badges			£62.50			
	Total		£21,293.50	Total		£1,302.20
Excess of Income over Expenditure		£19,991.30				
Balance b/fwd at 01 April 2024		£3,485.54				
Balance c/fwd at 31 March 2025		£23,476.84				

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Accounts

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## South Down District Scout Council

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Year ended 31 March 2024

	YE 31 March 2024	YE 31 March 2023
	£	£
<b>Funds reconciliation</b>		
Opening Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	2,988.52	1,462.94
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	497.02	1,525.58
Closing Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	<u>3,485.54</u>	<u>2,988.52</u>
<b>Bank and Cash Balances</b>		
Bank Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Bank Current Accounts	3,485.54	2,988.52
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
	<u>3,485.54</u>	<u>2,988.52</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 28 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
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Jason McMullen  
Chair

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Annual report

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# South Down District Scout Council

## Trustees' Annual Report

The trustee report for the charity for the period 01/4/23 - 31/3/24

### Section A Reference and administration

Registered charity name	South Down District Scout Council
Charity reg. number	103947
Principal office	109 Milltown road, Belfast, BT8 4ST

#### The trustees

The trustees who served for the period are listed as follows:

Mr. J. McMullen (Chair)

Mrs. E. McClimonds (Secretary)

Mrs. S. Smyth (Treasurer)

Mr. R. Watson (Acting Commissioner)

Ms. T. McCall

Mr. A. Hale

Mr. C. McElroy

Mr. R. Ferris

Ms. L. McQuaid

Mr. M. Ferris

Mrs. F. Graham

Ms. Y. Patterson

Mr. M. Cairns

Mr. R. Masters

Mr. M. Scott

## **Section B** **Structure, governance and management**

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.

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

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

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 the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, together with the District Commissioner, Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parents' representation and meets every 2 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' and 'Trustees' online training within the first 5 months of

joining the Board.

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

The maintenance of District property (currently none);

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 Advisors other than those who are elected.

### Risk and Internal Control

The District 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 the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group 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 fund raising.

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 Trustee 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 groups. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

## **Section C** **Objectives, activities and Public benefit.**

### **The Purpose of Scouting**

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal

development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

## **The Values of Scouting**

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

**Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

**Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.

**Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

**Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

**Co-operation** - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

## **The Scout Method**

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

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

## **The main activities in relation to these objects are:**

- Encourage and develop groups within South Down by ensuring that the rules

and governance of the movement are adhered to;

- Support Groups to deliver a quality programme;
- Be visible, approachable and have an open mindset;
- Be open to change and challenge any action which is not in the interests of Scouting;
- Provide opportunities for Groups to come together for District events.

### **Public benefit statement**

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

### **Section D Achievements and performance**

With the continued recovery from Covid, our District now supports 8 groups with 30 sections and an Explorer Unit.

- 7 Squirrel Dreys with 73 young people;
- 8 Beaver Colonies with 106 young people;
- 8 Cub Packs with 131 young people;
- 7 Scout Troops with 82 young people;
- 1 Explorer Unit with 14 young people.

This gives us an overall total of 406 young people and 79 adults.

Our goal going forward is to exceed the 2024 membership count, although the

process to officially close the 1<sup>st</sup> Drumgooland Scout Group is currently underway.

## **Section E**

## **Finance, reserves and investment**

The District's aspiration 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 group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs, circa £2,000.00.

The District held reserves of approximately **£3,000.00** against this at year end.

### **Investment policy**

The District's 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 District 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.

**Section F**

**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J McMullen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. J McMullen

Chair of South Down District Scout Council

Date 16/01/2025

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Annual return

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Independent Examiner's report to the Charity Trustees of South Down District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024

### Respective responsibilities of Charity Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:

*A. D. A. A.*

Relevant professional qualification or body:

*ATT CIOT.*

Address

*10:3 Knock Road, Belfast.*

Date:

*07/01/2025*

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Accounts

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## South Down District Scout Council

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Year ended 31 March 2023

	YE 31 March 2023	YE 31 March 2022
	£	£
<b>Funds reconciliation</b>		
Opening Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	1,462.94	1,569.94
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,525.58	(107.00)
Closing Balance - Cash at bank and in hand	2,988.52	1,462.94
<b>Bank and Cash Balances</b>		
Bank Deposit Accounts	0.00	0.00
Bank Current Accounts	2,988.52	1,462.94
Cash in Hand	0.00	0.00
	2,988.52	1,462.94
<b>Other Assets</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>Liabilities</b>	0.00	0.00

Approved by the Trustees on 31 May 2023

and signed on their behalf by:



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John Graham  
Chair



**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Annual report

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# South Down District Scout Council

## Trustees' Annual Report

The trustee report for the charity for the period 01/4/22 - 31/3/23

### Section A

### Reference and administration

Registered charity name	South Down District Scout Council
Charity reg. number	103947
Principal office	109 Milltown road, Belfast, BT8 4ST

### The trustees

The trustees who served for the period are listed as follows:

Mr. J. Graham (Chair)

Mrs. A. Mathers (Secretary)

Mrs. S. Smyth (Treasurer)

Mr. S. Leech (Commissioner) resigned 13/05/22

Mr. A. Hale

Mrs. E. McClimonds

Mrs. C. MacCormac

Mr. C. McElroy

Mr. J. Bradshaw

Mr. R. Ferris

Mrs. F. Graham

Mrs. Y. Patterson

Ms. L. McQuaid

Mrs. E. Cairns

Mr. M. Scott

Mr. M. Ferris

## **Section B** **Structure, governance and management**

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The Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the District Commissioner, Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and parents' representation and meets every 2 months.

Members of the Executive Committee complete 'Essential Information for

Executive Committee' and 'trustees' online training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

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 (currently none);

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 Advisors other than those who are elected.

### Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee 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 the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group 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 Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. Reduced income from fund raising.

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 Committee 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 groups. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

## **Section C** **Objectives, activities and Public benefit.**

### **The Purpose of Scouting**

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### **The Scout Method**

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### **The main activities in relation to these objects are:**

Encourage and develop groups within South Down by ensuring that the rules

and governance of the movement are adhered to.

Support Groups deliver a quality programme.

Be visible, approachable and have an open mindset.

Be open to change and challenge any action which is not in the interests of Scouting.

Provide opportunities for Groups to come together for District events.

### **Public benefit statement**

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

### **Section D Achievements and performance**

With the continued recovery from Covid, our District now supports 8 groups with 30 sections.

7 Squirrel Dreys with 83 young people and 22 adults;

8 Beaver Colonies with 111 young people and 21 adults;

8 Cub Packs with 129 young people and 20 adults;

6 Scout Troops with 81 young people and 16 adults;

1 Explorer Unit with 26 young people and 3 adults.

This gives us an overall total of 430 young people, 82 adults and 35 young people on a waiting list.

Our goal going forward is to exceed the 2022 membership count. This will include reviewing the Scouting provision of 1st Drumgooland, which was closed by our former District Commissioner, Simon Leech, without the requisite consensus with this District Executive.

## **Section E**

## **Finance, reserves and investment**

The District's aspiration on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs, circa £2,000-00.

The District held reserves of approximately **£2,000-00** against this at year end.

### **Investment policy**

The District's 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 Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

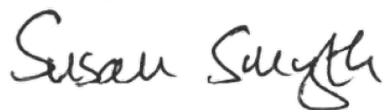
Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

**Section F**

**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Smyth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Smyth

Treasurer and Trustee of South Down District Scout Council

Date 31/05/2023

**SOUTH DOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103947

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# Annual return

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Independent Examiner's report to the Charity Trustees of South Down District Scout Council

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### Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

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3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name:

*N. J. A. O.*

Relevant professional qualification or body:

*ATT CIOT.*

Address

*10.3 Knock Road, Belfast.*

Date:

*16/01/24*