

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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to end date

3	1	0	8	2	5
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Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

4th East Belfast Scout Group

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1	0	4	1	5	0
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HQ registration number

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Charity's principal address

53 Kings Road

Belfast

Postcode

B T 5 6 J H

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mr Gareth McAuley	Boy Cub Leader	Until 14 May 2025
2	Mrs Helen McConkey	Girl Beaver Leader	Until 14 May 2025
3	Ms Louise Scott	Girl Cub Leader	Until 14 May 2025
4	Mr Paul Brown	Sponsor Representative and Chairperson	Chairperson from 1 September 2025 to 14 May 2025 and then as a trustee from 14 May 2025 on
5	Mrs Denise Wilson	Girl Scout Leader	Until 14 May 2025
6	Mr Iain Hall	Boy Scout Leader	Until 14 May 2025
7	Mr Bill Ashe	Group Scout Leader	Until 14 May 2025
8	Mrs Lesley Wilson	Treasurer	Until 14 May 2025
9	Mrs Ann Watt	Secretary	Whole year
10	Mrs Jill Ashenhurst	Girl Cub Leader and Sponsor Representative	Whole year
11	Mr Adrian Colmer	Parent Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
12	Mr Stuart Gilmore	Parent Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
13	Dr Emma Ross	Parent Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
14	Mr Malcolm Kerry	Independent Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
15	Mr John Reed	Treasurer	From 14 May 2025 onwards
16	Mr Colin Mounstephen	Sponsor Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
17	Mr Cliff McLoughlin	Sponsor Representative	From 14 May 2025 onwards
18	Mr Dawson McConkey	Sponsor Representative and Chairperson	From 14 May 2025 onwards

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

1 4th Belfast Scout Group Year Ending August 2025

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(eg trust deed, constitution)

The Group'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.

How the charity is constituted (eg trust, association, company)

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

Trustee selection methods
(eg appointed by, elected by)

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

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

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group 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.

Policies and procedures adopted for:

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

Following the change in Scout groups' governance required by Scouting UK, all section leaders stepped down as members of the Committee to allow them to focus on their sections. A new Committee consisting of representatives of the sponsor body (Knock Presbyterian Church) and of parents were appointed and meet approximately two to three times a year.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

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

Section B	Structure, governance and management (continued)
	<p>Risk and Internal Control The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group 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> <p>Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. 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.</p> <p>Reduction or loss of members. The Group 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.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

Section C	Objectives and activities (continued)
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>This year the Group sections delivered Scouting programmes across the following sections:</p> <p>Girl Beavers Girl Cubs Girl Scouts Boy Beavers Boy Cubs Boy Scouts Explorer Scouts (both girls and boys)</p> <p>The programmes included a variety of educational elements which promoted the values of Scouting and embraced the Scouting method.</p>

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- contribution made by volunteers;
- policy on investments.

The Group applied to the Education Authority for non-generic/non targeted grant for Boy Scouts. The Scout leader applies for funding on behalf of the Group to the Education Authority and return forms to be signed off by Treasurer and Chairperson. The sponsor applies for EA and Belfast City council grants that additionally support the other sections.

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.

The Group's Executive Committee as trustees have read the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Requirements statutory guidance.

Section D	Achievements and performance
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Group can claim a wide variety of achievements as a direct outworking of the Scouting programme across the 7 sections.

Examples include:

- Attainment of a wide selection of badges with the group of across the 7 sections. Delivery of camp skills, sponsor walks, sporteering, athletics, games, sports tournaments, arts and craft sessions, wide games, tent pitching, off site trips and canoeing across the 7 sections.
- Progression of members to higher sections within the Group and attracting new members from within the community with over 260 young people across the sections.
- Over 160 attending residential camps throughout the year locally in Crawfordsburn, the Mournes and Ireland.

Section E	Financial Review
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Reserves Policy The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short.
Quantify and explain any designations	The Group held reserves of circa £37,000.00 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None
Further financial review details (optional information)	
You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; investment policy and objectives 	Primary Sources of Income Income is derived primarily from individual member subscriptions and Gift Aid. Expenditure has been primarily undertaken to underpin and facilitate the delivery of the Scout programmes across the Group's sections. Investment Policy The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies. Restricted funds All funds are unrestricted, with the exception of EA grants which must be used for the purposes under which they are granted. Account codes are used to informally separate funds between different sections within the Group, and types of income and expenditure.

Section F

Other Optional Information

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

The 4th group sections are still meeting in a variety of premises by reason of the Knock Presbyterian rebuilding project, which started in September 2024 and is due to complete by the summer of 2026.

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)

Dawson McConkey John Reed

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chairperson Treasurer

Date

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