



117th Belfast Scout Group

Charity No. 109476

**Annual Report 2024-2025,
Financial Year End of March 2025**



About us

We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give almost half a million people aged 6-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

At a time when communities are becoming more divided, we bring people together. When many young people are struggling to find purpose and belonging, Scouts helps them develop skills, confidence and a sense of hope. We inspire positive futures and help young people find their place in the world by developing the character, employability and practical skills they need to succeed.

'Scouts made me a do-er and a give it a go-er. Made me question and listen and have a wide-open mind. Scouts made me take a deep breath and speak up. Made me think on my feet, made me see the big picture, made me ignore the butterflies and go for it. Scouts made me get back up and try again. Made me think about what's next, and plan for it. Made me jump in, get muddy, give back and get set.'



What do Scouts do?

Scouts take part in a wide range of activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. As a Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming or even how to fly a plane. There's something for everyone. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

What do volunteers do?

Helping young people develop skills for life is only possible thanks to our team of adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a local community-based Group, to being a charity Trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.



'I believe that Scouts empowers young people. It gives them skills to achieve the remarkable, and opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the rapidly changing world.'

Carl Hankinson, UK Chief Volunteer

Our values

Integrity

We say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it.

Respect

We listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground.

Care

Scouts are friends to all and think of others before themselves.

Belief

We believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes.

Cooperation

Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.

Our key policies

All members follow our key policies. The policies cover:

Child Protection

Equal Opportunities

Religion

Safety

These policies are fully explained on our website at <http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/key-policies/>



117th Belfast Islamic Scout Group – Year Review

It is a privilege to present to the Scout Group Council the 2024-2025 Annual Report for 117th Belfast Scout Group. As the Group completes its second year, there is much to be proud of in how Scouting continues to establish itself and grow within the local community. From the enthusiasm of our young people to the commitment of our volunteers and the support of parents and guardians, the foundations established during the Group's first year have continued to strengthen.

As the first Islamic Scout Group in Northern Ireland, 117th Belfast holds a particularly important place within our wider Scout community. The establishment and continued growth of the Group demonstrates our ambition to ensure that Scouting is reflective of the communities we serve and that more young people, regardless of their background or faith, have the opportunity to experience adventure, develop skills for life and find a place where they belong.

This year has very much been about building on those foundations, growing our membership, developing our volunteer team and importantly, continuing to improve the quality and range of programme opportunities available to our young people. Establishing a new Scout Group takes time, energy and determination and it has been fantastic to see 117th Belfast develop its own identity and community while becoming increasingly connected with the wider family of Scouting across Northern Ireland.

A particular highlight has been the opportunity for 117th Belfast to develop its relationship with the Muslim Scout Fellowship (MSF). Through this partnership, young people and volunteers have been able to experience Scouting beyond their own Group and connect with the wider Islamic Scouting community across the UK. The experience of participating in the MSF Summer Camp provided opportunities for adventure, friendship and learning alongside Scouts from across different communities and areas. Importantly, it also gave our volunteers the opportunity to see established Islamic Scouting in action, bringing ideas, experience and confidence back to Belfast as we continue to develop our own programme.

Another significant step forward has been the commencement of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award within 117th Belfast. Introducing DofE represents an important expansion of what we can offer our older young people, providing opportunities to develop independence, resilience, leadership and practical skills through volunteering, physical activity, skills development and expeditions. As this develops, I am excited to see DofE become an established part of the programme and another pathway through which our young people can challenge themselves and have their achievements recognised.

As we look ahead, our priority is to continue building. That means welcoming more young people into

Scouting, developing and supporting more adult volunteers and ensuring that growth in membership is matched by continued improvement in the quality of our programme. Numbers are an important measure of a growing Scout Group, but our success must equally be measured by the experiences our young people have, the skills they develop and whether they leave each week looking forward to coming back.

As a relatively new Group, we also recognise that 117th Belfast has benefited enormously from the support and experience of the wider Scout movement. I want to record my particular thanks to Belfast County Scouts, Lagan District Scouts and Scouts NI for the support, encouragement and mentorship they have provided to the Group and its volunteers. Their willingness to share experience, provide guidance and work alongside the Group has been invaluable as 117th Belfast has established itself and begun to build the structures and confidence needed for its long-term future.

There is still much for 117th Belfast to achieve. As we move beyond these first two years, we have the opportunity to establish the traditions, experiences and culture that will shape the Group for many years to come. The progress already made gives us a strong platform from which to do that and I am excited about what the next chapter will bring.

I would like to close by thanking every volunteer who gives their time to make 117th Belfast possible, alongside the parents, guardians, partners and supporters who continue to encourage the Group. Most importantly, thank you to our young people who turn up, get involved, try something new and ultimately make the Group what it is.

Scouting does not happen because of one person; it takes everyone working together. As 117th Belfast moves into its third year, I look forward to seeing the Group continue to grow, strengthen and create even more opportunities for young people.

Group Location

117th Belfast Scout Group is located in the premises of Belfast South Methodist Church & Agape Centre.

Scouts – Saturday from 6pm to 8pm

Explorers – Saturday from 6pm to 8pm

117th Belfast Scout Group Structure

The 117th Belfast Scout Group is a constituent member of the UK Scout Association and follows its rules and policies as laid down in a document known as POR (Policy Organisation and Rules). There are 2 sections – Scouts and Explorers which are age-related as set out below in the census section.

Purpose and Benefit

Scouting is established to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

This also benefits the local and wider communities to which they belong. By gaining awards and badges set up by Scouts UK they learn and display knowledge and skills which will be of value to them throughout their lives. Activities and badges are tailored for the separate age groups.

117th Belfast: Finances

Financial Overview

The financial year ending 31 March 2025 represents an important period in the development of 117th Belfast Scout Group as the Group has continued to establish its activities, membership and financial arrangements.

- During the year, the Group received total income of £4,201. This included £2,015 from membership subscriptions, £1,600 in grant funding and £586 from other income. This represents a significant increase in financial activity from the previous year and reflects the continued growth and development of the Group.
- Total expenditure for the year was £2,167. The largest area of expenditure was accommodation and rent at £1,510, reflecting the importance of having suitable facilities from which to deliver the weekly Scout programme. Further expenditure included £278 on Group activities, £276 on equipment and £103 on miscellaneous costs.
- The Group therefore recorded an income surplus over expenditure of £2,033 for the year. At 31 March 2025, the Group held £2,013 in cash at bank, with no cash held in floats.
- As a relatively new Scout Group, building an appropriate level of reserves will be important in ensuring the Group is financially sustainable and able to respond to future programme, equipment and operational needs. The positive position at the end of this financial year provides a good foundation as 117th Belfast continues to grow its membership and develop the quality and breadth of its programme.
- I would like to thank those who have supported the Group through grant funding and other financial support during these formative years. I would also like to thank the volunteers involved in establishing and managing the Group's financial processes and ensuring that appropriate financial oversight continues to develop alongside the Group.
- Looking ahead, our focus should be on maintaining sound financial management, developing an appropriate reserves position and ensuring that the resources available to the Group are used to provide the greatest possible benefit and opportunities for our young people.



Financial Accounts – Year Ended March 2025

117 Belfast Scout Group					
Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 109476)					
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025					
		2025	2025	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Subs - Scouts and Explorers		£ 2,015		£ -	
EA Grant		£ -		£ -	
Other Grants		£ 1,600		£ -	
Other Income		£ 586		£ 5	
Total			£ 4,201		£ 5
EXPENSES					
Capitation - Scouts and Explorers		£ -		£ -	
Accommodation / Rent		£ 1,510		£ -	
Group Activities		£ 278		£ -	
Badges and Scarves		£ -		£ -	
Miscellaneous		£ 103		£ 26	
Equipment		£ 276		£ -	
Total			£ 2,167		£ 25.84
Income surplus over expenditure		£ 2,033		-£ 21	
Opening Balance at 1 April		-£ 21		£ -	
Closing Balance at 31 March (Year-end)		£ 2,013		-£ 21	
Cash at Bank on 31st March		£ 2,013		-£ 21	
Cash in Floats on 31st March		-£ 0		£ -	



Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of 117th Belfast Scout Group.

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

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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- ❖ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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.

My 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.

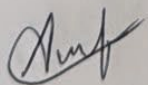
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

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; and
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: **Zarar Khan**



Address: **8, Willow Way, Belfast BT17 9RA**

Date: **25/08/2026**