Wiltshire Scout Council

Trustees Annual Report

& Accounts

for the year ending

31 March 2025

Scout Association Registration Number 10000120

Charity Commission Registration Number 1025277

Wiltshire Scout Council
Trustee Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

A. Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objectives of the charity are as a part of the Scout Association. **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 - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their promise
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The County's main function is to support the seven Districts in achieving the strategic objectives of the Scout Association based on growth, inclusivity, community impact, youth-shaped Scouting and quality programme delivery. As a County, the main activities during the last twelve months have been: 1. Providing management, leadership, governance and support, in partnership with Headquarters and the South-West Region Growth and Communities Team, including our very own three locally employed Local Growth Officers, in ensuring that Scouting continued to grow throughout the County. The 2025 census saw a 3% increase (179) giving a total of 6,224 in 4-18 year old youth members, and a 1% increase (15) giving a total 1,975 in adult volunteers compared to last year's census outcome. This was significantly above national averages. 2. Supporting the development and delivery of quality programmes and activities to young people across the County and in the Districts and their respective Groups, including the provision of dedicated development and programme support. This support is aimed at increasing the number of adult volunteers, reducing waiting lists to join, growing small Groups, introducing new Sections to those Groups that do not have a full complement of Sections and reaching into areas where there is limited or no Scouting provision at present. 3. Providing County-run events for all those involved in Scouting, including activity days / County competitions for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders. 4. Running a twice yearly, combined face-to-face and online trainer-led, modular based Section Leader, Manager and Supporter training programme for all adult volunteer members. Providing on-going bespoke online training and personalised support for County, District and Group Trustee Boards and their Sub-Committees. 5. Providing active County-wide support for the Scout Association's transformational changes that were implemented in November 2024 and continue to be implemented throughout 2025, supporting those logging into the new membership system, updating their profiles and accessing 'Growing Roots' and 'Branching Out' learning opportunities including mandatory safety and safeguarding training modules. 6. Actively participating in Regional and Headquarters support meetings for County Chairs, County Lead Volunteers, County Youth Leads, County Programme, Volunteer Development and Support Team Leads, including County Growth Sub Team Leads and County Learning Team Leads. Additional Headquarters support

	meetings for County Transformation Leads and their 'Go-Live' teams remain extant to address changeover challenges.
Public Benefit	The County meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

B. Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	The County Scout Centre continues to be used for adult learning residential weekends, County Trustee Board meetings, Section-based activities and large scale, whole County events. It is also continued to be use by external agencies and organisations. During 2024/2025, a local Explorer Unit and Scout Group have made use of the centre and its facilities as their Headquarters. This reporting period has seen a marked increase in both national and international nights away experiences, whether this has been under canvas, in tented accommodation, or in the use of hotels or similar venues, particularly during abroad visits and expeditions. Scout Groups and their Sections are reaping the benefits of such experiences in the development and wellbeing of young people. Examples of home nights away experiences undertaken include Groups and Sections making use of Wiltshire Scout Centre or going further afield to venues in other Counties such as Horner Wood Campsite in West Somerset, Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre in Bristol, Our annual Midwinter Expedition, which on this occasion was held in Ennerdale, the Lake District between Christmas and New Year, and taking part in Strategy and Evolution – an event specifically aimed at the Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Rangers age range, held in Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The main County-run event of the year was the Wiltshire 'Weekender' camp held at Wiltshire Scout Centre in September 2024. This event saw a large number of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers camping together and actively taking part in a number of exciting, challenging and adventurous activities delivered by our adult volunteers and supported by external activity providers. Activities ranged from arts and crafts, air rifle shooting to bouncy castles, tomahawk throwing, archery and a climbing wall, ably delivered by the Army. Examples of international visits abroad include 1st Ramsbury Scouts visit to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, a venue where Salisbury and South Wiltshire District will also be visiting at the end of July 2025, County Skiing Expedition to Gressoney, Aosta Valley, Italy back in February, and Roverway in Norway last July, which also saw a number of our members volunteering for International Service Team roles. Training for Adult Leaders, Managers and Supporters has been and continues to be successfully delivered using a combination of both face to face and online delivered training sessions by members of the County Adult Training Sub-Team and locally, within Districts, carried out by suitably qualified and experienced leaders. This training has included mandatory ongoing learning for example, safety, safeguarding, GDPR, Trustee Introductory and First Aid training. County-led face to face training has predominantly taken place at Wiltshire Scout Centre. As a result of the additional mandatory training and support offered, the number of those outstanding in safety and safeguarding training has significantly reduced to below the HQ directed maximum of 5% of membership and is currently just 1% of the total adult membership for the County, with a number of Districts reporting 0%, ensuring that our membership remains compliant with our Policy, Organisation, Rules and central directives. In line with our growth and development over the reporting period, our Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer Scout and Network members from across the seven Districts continue to deliver exciting, challenging and fun-packed quality programmes and therefore meeting our 'Skills for Life' (now

	'Reflect, Refocus and Renew') objectives, including taking part in The Scout Association's national and international activities and events. The main focus continues to be on recruiting, inducting, training and retaining young people and adult volunteers, that will enable those young people currently on waiting lists to join Scouting and learn valuable skills for life. In support of this, the County has recruited two Local Growth Assistants and a Local Growth Officer (since 1st April 2025, these roles have changed to three Local Growth Officers), who are directly managed by the County Growth Team Lead and a Manager from the HQ Local Growth and Communities Team, who are contracted to work on specified and agreed projects across all areas, that is, Districts, Groups and Sections within the County to ensure that we continue to grow, year on year, as a youth organisation in Wiltshire.

C. Finance review

Policy on Reserves	The total funds are £726,305 of which £69,239 are restricted for specific purposes, including for legacies gifted. Of the total funds, £488,166 are held as fixed assets (including the Wiltshire Scout Centre). At 31st March 2025 the charity had net unrestricted current assets of £168,900, which includes deferred and amounts received in advance for future events. The County's policy on reserves has been to hold the equivalent of a year's lettings plus funds be able to continue with our development work on growing the movement. This equates to £40,000. Any additional funds will be to develop the activities offering made available to support development and Scouting across the County, including supporting Districts and Groups facing financial difficulties.
Further financial review details	The County does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The County 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
Finance review	The Total income for the year was £157,880 (2024 £218,496) and the total expenditure £231,6575 (2024 £285,653) The decrease in income and costs reflects receipts and payments in respect of the 2023 World Scout Jamboree, as well as a reduction in lettings for the Wiltshire Scout Centre, which also saw an increase in running costs. The net current assets at year-end were £238,139 (2024 £292,203).

D. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The County'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.
How the charity is constituted	The County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues	The County is managed by the County Board of Trustees, the members of which are the "charity Trustees" of the Scout County 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. In addition the Board of Trustees maintain appropriate governance policies and a Risk Register, which are reviewed periodically.

	The Board, who meet 6 times a year, consist of 9 Independent members: • 4 Ex – officio (Chair, County Lead Volunteer, County Youth Lead Treasurer) • 5 Appointed Members Board is supported by a Board Administrator. All of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scout Trustee learning within the first six months of joining the Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning as required. This Board exists to support the District and Group Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Board is responsible for ensuing 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 organisations policy rules. It is also responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly. This includes responsibility for: • Developing and maintaining a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations; • Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting; • Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development; • Ensuring that County property is appropriately managed; • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees; • Appointing any sub committees that may be required; • Appointing County Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected; • Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Board of Trustees; • Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations; • Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM; • Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation; • Acting as a responsible employer for any employees, who are effectively managed. The County has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

E. Plans for Future Periods

Plans for future Periods	To ensure the continued support of Scouting and its growth in Wiltshire. To support the viability of the County Scout Centre and to develop the offer of activities.

F. Reference and administration details

Charity name	Wiltshire Scout Council
Charity number	1025277
Charity's principal address	Wiltshire County Scout Centre, Potterne Wick, Wiltshire SN10 5QT

The charity holds the title to the property belonging to it.

Wiltshire Scout Council
Trustee Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
	Ex Officio		
	Dame Sarah Troughton HM Lord Lieutenant	President	
1	J Purkis	County Chair	
2	S Barley	County Commissioner	
3	M Nevill	Youth Commissioner	
	S Rose	Secretary	Resigned 24th July 2024
	P Ingram	Treasurer	Resigned 24th July 2024
4	R Holmes	Treasurer	Appointed 24th July 2024
	Appointed		
5	R Reeves		
6	T Roberts		
7	D Waspe		
8	T Dobson		
9	D Bavister		
	Co-opted		
	-		

Name and address of advisor

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	James Gare, Monahans	Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2GA

G. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

Signature	J Purkis
Full name	**Justin Purkis**
Position held	**County Chair**
Date	**26th June 2025**