



Wiltshire Scout Council

Trustees Annual Report

and Accounts

for the year ending

31 March 2023

Scout Association Registration Number 10000120

Charity Commission Registration Number 1025277

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A. Objectives and Activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The objectives of the charity are as a part of the Scout Association.</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</p> <p>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 - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their promise - gain skills for life
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects</p>	<p>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. As a County, the main activities during the last twelve months have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing management, leadership, governance and support, in partnership with the Headquarters and South West Region Growth and Communities Teams in ensuring Scouting continued to grow throughout the County. The 2023 census saw a 5% increase (257) giving a total of 5,814 in 4-18 year old youth members and 2% increase (36) giving a total 1,890 in adult volunteers compared to last year's census outcome. 2. Supporting the development and delivery of quality programmes and activities to young people across the County and in the Districts and their Groups, including by the provision of dedicated development and programme support. This support is aimed at increasing adult volunteers, reducing waiting lists to join, growing small Groups, introducing 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 Countywide events for all those involved in Scouting, including an Annual Celebration of Scouting held at the Wiltshire Scout Centre which saw over 1,000 participants and activity days / County competitions for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and now for the new Squirrel Scouts provision. 4. Running a twice yearly, online modular based Section Leader, Manager and Supporter training programme for all adult 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 transformational changes that are being implemented though 2023, 2024 and 2025. 6. Participating in online Regional Support Meetings for County Chairs, County Commissioners, County Youth Commissioners and Deputy County Commissioners for Development, Programme Support and youth-shaped support, including updating and upskilling County Training Managers.

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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.
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B. Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	<p>The County Scout Centre is now fully operational following restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of the reporting period and is now experiencing an increase in both external agency and internal Scout bookings, which have included the return of face to face delivered adult training weekends, County Trustee Board meetings, Section based activities and large scale, whole County celebration events. Furthermore, the Scout Centre has received a major digital upgrade that has included faster broadband, IT equipment and enhanced security video surveillance equipment.</p> <p>With the return of face to face Scouting and all restrictions removed from overseas events, including the reopening of European border crossings, International Scouting events are now being resumed including a World Scout jamboree to South Korea in July 2023, including two European skiing events having been planned and delivered at the beginning of 2023 to Andorra and Valle d'Aosta, Italy with the latter delivered as a county-wide event. In addition to this, the County Activities Team resumed their Mid-Winter Expedition to North Wales between Christmas and the New Year.</p> <p>Training for Adult Leaders, Managers and Supporters has been successfully delivered using a combination of both face to face and online delivered training session by members of the County Adult Training Team and locally, within Districts, 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 taken place at Wiltshire Scout Centre over a weekend in November 2022, with a second weekend course recently completed in March 2023. As a result of the additional mandatory training and support offered, the number of those outstanding in this particular training has significantly reduced to below the HQ directed maximum of 5% and is currently just 2% 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 and Rules and HQ directives.</p> <p>In line with our growth and development over the reporting period, our Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Network members from all seven Districts continue to deliver exciting and fun-packed quality programmes and therefore meeting our skills for life objectives, undertaking regular, hybrid Section meetings using a combination of online virtual platforms and face-to-face programme delivery, including taking part in The Scout Association's national activities and events. Now that we have successfully adopted a hybrid approach to programme and activity delivery our youth membership has grown and continues to grow, with many Groups now reporting healthy waiting lists. The focus now is on recruiting, inducting, training and retaining young people and adult volunteers that will enable those young people currently on waiting lists join Scouting and learn valuable skills for life. In support of this, the County has recruited two Local Growth Assistants, managed by a County Volunteer and the Local Growth and Communities Team who will work on specified tasks across all areas of the County to ensure that we continue to grow as a youth organisation in Wiltshire.</p>
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C. Finance review

Policy on Reserves	<p>The total funds are £867,257 of which £104,039 are restricted for specific purposes, including for legacies gifted. Of the unrestricted funds £520,026 are held as fixed assets (including the Wiltshire Scout Centre). Therefore at 31st March 2023 the charity had net unrestricted current assets of £243,192.</p> <p>The County's policy on reserves has been to hold the equivalent of a year's lettings plus a fund for redecorating the centre every four years and to be able to continue with our development work on growing the movement. This equates to £30,000. Any additional funds will be to develop the activities offering made available at the centre and to support development and Scouting across the County, including supporting Districts and Groups facing financial difficulties, and also to support the return to Scouting.</p>
Further financial review details	<p>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</p>
Finance review	<p>The Total income for the year was £103,121 (2022 £50,251) and the total expenditure £118,408 (2022 £56,726) The reduction in income and costs reflects the reduction of Scouting activities and lettings due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The net current assets at year-end were £338,258 (2022 £336,636).</p>

D. Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	<p>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 of The Scout Association.</p>
How the charity is constituted	<p>The County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts</p>
Trustee selection methods	<p>The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association</p>
Additional governance issues	<p>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.</p> <p>The Board, who meet 6 times a year, consist of 14 Independent members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Ex – officio (Chair, County Commissioner, County Youth Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer) • 5 Elected Members • 2 Nominated Members • 2 Co-opted Members <p>This Board exists to support the District and Group Leaders in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments. It is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed and this includes responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that 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;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Appointing any sub committees that may be required; • Appointing County Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected; • Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect of reporting and risk management. <p>The County 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 comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered</p>
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E. Plans for Future Periods

Plans for future Periods	To ensure the continued support of Scouting in Wiltshire. To ensure the long term future of the County Scout Centre and to develop the offer of well managed and available outdoor activities.
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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.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
	Ex Officio		
	Mrs S R Troughton HM Lord Lieutenant	President	
1	J Purkis	County Chair	
2	S Barley	County Commissioner	
3	M Nevill	Youth Commissioner	
4	S Rose	Secretary	
5	P Ingram	Treasurer	
	Nominated		
6	R Reeves		
7	R Holmes		
-	G Belsten		Resigned 1 st February 2023
	Elected		
8	G Thornton		
9	I McLean		
10	D Waspe		
11	T Dobson		
12	D Bavister		
	Co-opted		
13	D Jones		Appointed 17 th Jan 2023
14	T Roberts		Appointed 1 st March 2023

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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	GR Rose
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Full name	Suzanne Joan Rose
Position held	County Secretary
Date	7 th July 2023