



Bristol South District Scouts
Trustees'
Annual Report

For the Year Ending 31st March 2026

Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1091301

Bristol District Scouts Trustee Board Annual Report
For the year Ending 31st March 2026

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References and Administrative Details

Registered Charity No: 1091301

Patron of the Scouts Association

His Majesty the King

Officers April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026

Board Of Trustees

Name	Office	Date Elected/co-opted if not for the whole year
1. Tina Symons	Chair	15.6.25
2. James Blackmore (ex-officio)	Lead Volunteer	07.9.24
3. Aaron Wheatley		30.7.21
4. Jessica Tulit		07.9.24
5. Nick Winter		12.3.11
6. Paul Harper		01.4.21
7. Catherine Harding		06.6.14
8. Leo Kitley (Co-Opted)	Youth Lead	16.9.25
9. Alexander Eccles (Co-Opted)	Youth Lead	25.11.25
10. Olivia Shackell (ex-officio)	Youth Lead	25.11.25

Offers Appointed after March 31st 2026

1. Callum Rubel (Co-Opted)	Treasurer	07.7.26
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Independent Examiner

Emily Reeve

Principal Address Mrs Tina Symons
 67 Birch Drive
 Pucklechurch
 Bristol BS16 9RW

Trustees Report

The Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purpose of Company Law) have the pleasure in presenting the annual report and the financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2026. The provisions for the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP FRS 102 – implemented 1st January 2019) have been adopted in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Objectives and activities

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
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their promise

Summary of the main activities in relation to the purpose and objects

As a Trustee board we support the sections and groups within our District to offer a safe, all-inclusive programme of training, adventure and support to all the young people and volunteers within our District.

Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

The Board of Trustees meets a minimum six times a year, and exists to support the District Leadership Team in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of district property.
- The raising of funds and the administration of district finance.
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment.
- Supply grants where appropriate.
- Supports young people, group trustee boards and sections with requested, if within our power.
- Appointing any working groups that may be required.
- Providing general oversight and management where appropriate.
- Support the District Management Team with programme and events as required.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance Document

The charity'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 charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.

Trustee selection methods

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

Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees

All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.

Additional governance arrangements

The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". 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 the Chair, Treasurer and 10 Trustees (including 2 Ex-Officio Trustees) and meets a minimum of 6 times a year. The Trustee Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Trustee Board exists to support the 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 Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.

The Trustee Board is 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.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.

This includes responsibility for:

- Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development;
- Developing, maintaining and regularly 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;
- Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss;
- Ensuring that 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 Advisors as required;
- Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board;
- Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding;
- Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy;
- Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate;
- 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.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability

As a District we operate 17 scout groups and 2 explorer scout groups. These consist of 52 Squirrels, 318 Beavers, 394 Cubs, 370 Scouts and 103 Explorers a total of 1237 young people within the district. (Census 2026) this does not include our Network.

We pride ourselves in our inclusion, diversity and the growth (an extra 45 young people) our groups have achieved since our last census figures in 2025. Completing a total of 192 group nights away between all of our groups.

As a District we encourage many activities include sailing, kayaking, archery, Duke of Edinburgh, Chief Scout Award as well as many other top awards in each section and the multiple badges that our young people have gained throughout the year.

Opportunities for our young people to experience camps not only in the UK but also abroad allows them to expand their knowledge and horizons, as they develop and grow.

The district held a St Georges Day Parade which allowed those who attended to renew their promise and reflect on how the organisation came to be and why.

We have increased our age range within the district to include a number of Squirrel Dreys at the 11th and Windmill Hill which have been very successful.

The Trustee board has kept Membership for all its young People to a minimum of £1.00 per person with the hope that this will help support the groups and the young people whose family's may be struggling with the ever-rising cost of living.

Through the ongoing support of our District Lead Volunteers Ben and James, the Board ensures that adult volunteers have their mandatory training up to date, that POR requirements for activity and nights away notifications are adhered to and groups are adhering to the requirements of The Scouts Framework.

We continue to:

- Reduce non-compliance of safeguarding and safety
- Reduce GDPR non-compliance
- Review pre-provisional roles, either closing or actioning outstanding actions.

As a District we will continue to provide support to all our volunteers and groups so that they can continue to guide the young people in their care and allow them to experience the amazing adventures that are afforded to them. As a district we would like to thank all our districts helpers and leaders who give up so much time to enable this.

As a District we have made a number of contributions to young people to enable them to visit jamborees and camps both at home and abroad.

We have also supported groups with unforeseen costs with building moves and repairs throughout the year.

The District have invested in training equipment to enable in house First Responder training to take place, free of Charge for all our Volunteers and leaders as well as our young people.

Financial review

Review of the financial position

Policy on Reserves, why they are held, and the amount of reserves

The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity, should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board has not designated a sum for this but will be working on a policy and process for assessing this in the new financial year.

Policy on Investments and investment performance

The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances, and the interest rates received to ensure the charity 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 Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

A description of the principal risks

Within the District we have several buildings which will in the near future require work and lease renewal. The Trustee board will work closely with all groups to support them with any requirements, but this will be subject to POR guidance and funds available.

As a Board we are currently responsible for the Eastwinds building and in the very near future will be negotiating with Bristol City Council to secure ongoing access and Lease/Purchase of this site.

Safeguarding - The safeguarding of young people in our care remains our number one priority. We look to ensure that we have a continued culture of openness and transparency vital in having an effective safeguarding system. Our Yellow Card, Code of Conduct, is embedded in everything we do and makes clear to young people and parents/carers the behaviour expectations of our volunteers. All Adults in Scouting regularly working with young people will have been subject to a disclosure and barring service review at least every 5 years. Safeguarding training is mandatory for all volunteers and is refreshed every 3 years. The levels of mandatory training carried out by adult volunteers across the district is regularly reviewed at District Trustee meetings. Notifications of near end or lapsed checks are sent to individuals and the GLV

Safety matters continue to be reviewed and addressed at the Trustee meetings. The Trustees recognise the imperative of ensuring that all Scouting activities are carried out in a safe manner by managing, so far as reasonably possible, risk to the participants.

The district is reliant upon income from subscriptions and a small income from Eastwinds.

The district is mindful to hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income although this figure is not identified in the accounts.

Reduction or loss of leaders (Volunteers) - The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular Group, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Group.

Reduction or loss of members - The District provides activities for young people aged 4 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. Currently, though, there are over 427 names on the waiting lists.

Data - Loss or theft of sensitive personal data would result in individuals being compromised and would have an adverse effect on the reputation of the District. The District's handling of sensitive personal data has been reviewed utilising the framework provided by The Scout Association to ensure best practice is in operation and compliance with GDPR regulations. The Chairman of the Trustee Board has taken on the responsibility of Data Lead to ensure our compliance.

Fraud - Would result in a potential loss of funds and adversely impact the reputation of the District. The District is committed to developing an anti-fraud culture and keeping the opportunities for fraud, bribery and corruption to the absolute minimum. Trustees and volunteers are encouraged to raise any suspicion or concern, however small or immaterial this may seem.

Cyber Risk - Would result in a potential loss of sensitive data and funds and adversely impact the reputation of the district. The district will be working on this in the coming years.

Fundraising:

There has been no District fundraising and therefore no agencies involved in supporting fundraising or complaints related to fundraising, groups manage their own fundraising.

Plans for future Periods

The forward thinking of the board is based around:

- Securing buildings – To review sustainability of group HQs for the future.
- Financial Policies – Reviewing current financial policies and procedures to improve security and budgeting going forward.
- Online access/Data protection: To encourage the use of scout emails, web sites and shared drives to manage data.
- Governance: To support groups and sections to operate effective trustee boards that comply with POR and Charity commissions requirements.
- Communication: To improve communication with groups to help support and deliver training as needed.
- To support the management team in delivering effective programmes and activities for young people.

- To embrace the new Scouts association strategy.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

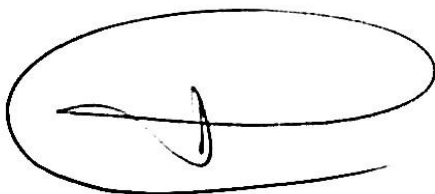
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' annual report was approved on the 27th August 2026 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Tina Symons
Chair



James Blackmore
District Lead Volunteer