Trustees' Annual Report

For the period:

From	25/06/25	To	30/06/2026

Charity Name	**1st Cockermouth Scout Group**
Charity Registration Number (if registered - leave blank if excepted charity)	**1 2 0 8 0 4 2**
HQ Registration Number	**1 0 0 1 2 4 5 3**

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and 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 - 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	All members take part in a balanced programme, comprising a mix of indoor, outdoor, and offsite activities. Our activities build Skills for Life and enable achievement of various staged activity badges and multi-part badges building to Chief Scout Awards in each section. In addition, community activities, volunteering, and joint events with other sections and Groups form part of the programme. Self-esteem, reliance and other life skills are built along the Scouting journey.

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.

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: ● *Policy on grant making*	Cockermouth Scout Group does not make grants, however we do operate an inclusion fund with the aim to ensure that all children are able to access all UK-based section and group activities. The inclusion fund is open to any family who are identified or who request financial assistance.

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	This year the Scout Group has continued to grow and deliver a broad and engaging programme across all sections. Membership has risen to 198 young people, reflecting the strong demand for Scouting in our community. To meet this increasing interest, plans are in place to open a new Beaver Colony in September 2026, which will increase total membership to 218. The leadership team has also expanded, with new volunteers joining throughout the year. This growth in both youth members and adult leaders strengthens the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Group. All sections have benefited from a wide range of activities, including camp days and overnight experiences. Highlights included the District Camp for Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs, as well as Chief Scout and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for the senior sections. Older members have also taken part in challenging and adventurous activities such as manhunt, section camps, and the Monopoly Run in London. The Group has maintained a strong presence within the local community, actively promoting Scouting values through participation in events such as the Remembrance Day parade, the Christmas lights switch-on, mince pie delivery, and by providing refreshments at Lakeland sporting events. Environmental projects have also continued to form an important part of our programme. We are proud to support the Cockermouth Emergency Resilience Group (CERG) by hosting emergency materials at the Scout Centre and agreeing that the Centre may be used as a CERG base in the event of an emergency. Improvement work at the Scout Centre has continued, with a focus on energy efficiency and long-term resilience planning to ensure the building remains fit for purpose for future generations.

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: ● *Achievements against objectives* ● *Fundraising activities* ● *Contribution made by volunteers*	In 2025 the group was awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of our outstanding service to our local community. During the shortlisting process we calculated that our volunteers – leaders, trustees and support team gave over 10,000 hours of time to run sections, administer the group, lead and support expeditions and camps, and maintain and develop our premises.

Financial review

Review of the financial position	The Group's financial position remains strong. However, with rising costs, the trustees remain vigilant and ensure that the financial position is reviewed regularly at each trustee meeting. During the year, a new expense claim system was introduced to enable all volunteers to claim Scouting-related expenses promptly and fairly. This initiative supports inclusivity by ensuring that volunteering remains accessible to everyone. The Building Sub-Committee oversees all aspects of building-related finances, including refurbishment and maintenance projects, utilities, waste management, cleaning, and groundswork. The sub-committee reports directly to the Trustee Board. Further financial details are provided in the attached accounts.
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 considers that the charity should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £20K. The charity held reserves of approximately £10K against this at year end. Following the AGM the trustees intend to review the group reserves policy and increase the monies held in reserve. The charity also holds funds collected and designated for the 2026 Kandersteg trip.
Policy on Investments and investment performance	The charity's reserves are small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The charity has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.
A description of the principal risks	The principal risks to the Group include a potential decline in the number of young members, which would lead to reduced subscription income; a reduction in volunteer numbers, which could result in the closure of sections; and a decrease in external income from hiring out the Scout Centre when it is not being used for Scouting activities.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing 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 and meets 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 reviewing 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.

Plans for future periods

Plans for future Periods	The group will open a new Beaver Colony in September 2026, this will allow us to reduce the current waiting list and balance section sizes to allow young people to join the group in all sections. The group expedition to Kandersteg, Switzerland is taking place in July 2026. The trustees will establish a training fund for volunteers to ensure that the group can continue to provide an adventurous programme in all sections. Works on the building will continue with the roof, internal plumbing and bathrooms requiring attention.

Reference and administration details

Principal Address	Cockermouth Scout Centre St Helen's Street Cockermouth CA13 9HX

	Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted if not for whole year**
1	Suzanne Leather	Chair	
2	Steve Dawson	Lead Volunteer	
3	Rachel Nicols	Treasurer	
4	Hannah Bradshaw		
5	Neil Donohoe		
6	Mike Fitzgerald		
7	Myles Hamilton		
8	Steve Hardy		
9	Josh Hewer		
10	Oliver Nicols		
11	Rose Rowlands		
12	Keith Williams		

Name and address of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner / Auditor	**Steve Sharpe**	**Cockermouth**
Detail others		

Declaration

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

Signature		
Full name	**Suzanne Leather**	**Steve Dawson**
Position held	**Chair**	**Group Lead Volunteer**
Date		

1st Cockermouth Scout Group (Charity no. 1208042)
Receipts and payments account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/04/2025	To	31/03/2026

Receipts and payments

	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £	2025/26 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	26,090	19,414
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	400	-
Programme and activities income		5,141
KISC		52,524
Camp fees		5,754
D of E		2,855
Monopoly run		6,912
Donations	-	610
Legacies	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-
Other similar income	-	-
Sub total	26,490	93,210
Grants		
Maintenenace grant	-	-
Other grants	28,320	26,746
Sub total	28,320	26,746
Fundraising events (gross)		
Camp fees	11,991	
Dof E/ Misc	680	
KISC	-	5,148
Other fundraising activities	2,651	-
Sub total	15,322	5,148
Scout hut income		
Hire of building	8,571	10,368
Hire of equipment	-	-
Other Scout hut income	-	320
Sub total	8,571	10,688
Investment income		
Bank interest	71	65
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	71	65
Total Gross Income	78,774	135,857
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	78,774	135,857

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For the year from	01/04/2025	To	31/03/2026

Receipts and payments

	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £	2025/26 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/ County/Area/ Disctrict)	8,360	9,496
Youth programme and activities	23,502	12,398
Adult support and training	-	-
Rent	-	210
Water and Sewerage	441	438
Electricity and Gas	3,033	1,359
Insurance	1,551	907
Repairs and Renewals	30,042	32,481
Materials and equipment	1,023	161
Printing and photocopying	-	-
Contribution to camp costs	8,454	5,392
Misc/Dofe		1,290
KISC	-	23,827
Monopoly run costs		5,776
AGM and trustee expenses	-	-
Waste contract	471	265
Fire equipment/ surveys/ audits	1,234	228
Contractor	6,596	1,921
Staff wages	1,200	2,350
Sub total	85,907	98,499
Fundraising expenses		
Bank charges	74	26
Matching funding paid to FCC	3,225	-
Detail 3	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	996
Sub total	3,299	1,022
Total Gross Expenditure	89,206	99,521
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	89,206	99,521
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 10,432	36,336
Cash funds last year end	48,251	37,819
Cash funds this year end	37,819	74,155

1st Cockermouth Scout Group (Charity no. 1208042)
Receipts and payments account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/04/2025	To	31/03/2026

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	1st April 2025 Unrestricted funds £	1st April 2026 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account Building	18,862	22,123
Bank current account Operating	14,517	47,522
Bank deposit account	4,264	4,329
Building society account	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	176	181
Total cash funds	37,819	74,155
(agree balances with receipts and payments account)	ok	ok
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-
Matching funding paid to FCC	3,225	-
Sub total	3,225	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	-	-
Shop stock	-	-
Other stock	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-
Other	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total net assets	41,044	74,155

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 6th May 2026 (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name	
Suzanne Leather.	SUZANNE LEATHER	Chair
Stephen Dawson	STEPHEN DAWSON	Treasurer

I have reviewed the 25/26 Operating Account with the Treasurer. The use of online and electronic payments make managment a lot easier and more transparent. Invoices and expenses are backed up on Google so records are secure. The accounts and records are well run and reflect another succesful year

SA Shute 21/5/2026.