Woodlands District Trustees' Annual Report 2025-26

Section A – Reference and administrative details

Charity Name: Woodlands District Scout Council (hereinafter referred to as "the District")

Registered Charity Number: 1212273

HQ Registration Number: 010623

Charity's principal address: c/o Wilders Grove Farm, Ryeish Lane, Spencers Wood, Berkshire, RG7 1EL

Names of Charity Trustees who manage the charity:

Nicholas Mann – Chair
Duncan Scattergood – Treasurer
Robert Thorpe – District Lead Volunteer and Trustee (ex-officio)
Jena Thethi – District Youth Lead and Trustee (ex-officio)
Ashley Clarke – Trustee
Clive Green – Trustee
Timothy Williams – Trustee
Lalarukh Asim – Trustee
Papinder Singh Phull - Trustee

All Trustees (with the exception of the two ex-officio Trustees, who are automatically members of the Trustee Board in view of their operational roles in Scouting) were elected at the Woodlands District Scout Council AGM on 22.09.2025

Section B – Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts

Type of Governing Document

The District'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 (POR).

How is the charity constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The District has formally adopted the official model constitution as detailed in POR Clause 5c.2.

Trustee selection methods

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

Additional Governance

Policies and procedures adopted for

a) the induction and training of trustees and

b) trustees' consideration of major risks and systems and procedures to manage them

The District is managed by the District Leadership Team and governance/oversight is provided by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the District. The District 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.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and up to 11 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustee (the District Lead Volunteer, Youth Team Lead) and up to 2 co-opted Trustees) and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Trustee Board have all completed "Being a Trustee in Scouts" learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board plus all other Mandatory Learning.

The District Trustee Board exists to make sure 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 organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been or will be established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern are:

1. **Damage to buildings, property and equipment**. The District is responsible for the Dorneywood Camp Site and a Safe Scouting Audit has been carried out on the site. Sufficient buildings and contents insurance is in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
2. **Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members**. The District through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
3. **Reduction or loss of 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 section or a group then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a group/section.

The District Leadership Team is responsible for management of this scenario with the help and oversight of the Trustee Board.

4. **Reduction or loss of members**. The District provides activities for all young people and young adults aged 4 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or a group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a group/section. The District Leadership Team is responsible for management of this scenario with the help and oversight of the Trustee Board.
5. **Financial loss**. The District has in Place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include a payment policy agreed by the Trustee board and either insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered or, in some cases, an explicit policy of self-insurance.

Section C - Objectives and activities of the District

Summary of the objectives of the charity

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.

Our impact
Our young people and adults:

Gain...
A place to belong
Skills for life

Become...
Happier, more connected, resilient, employable
Active citizens
Inspiring volunteers

Contribute to...
Closer Communities
A kinder, more cohesive society

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objectives

1. Running an Explorer Scout programme including many "nights away" and Young Leader training.
2. Support of Scout Groups in the District
3. Running the Dorneywood Scout Camp

Additional Details

Policy of Grants
The District makes available funds for grants to the various Scout Groups and Explorer Units to improve their facilities or purchase major equipment. Applications for grants are reviewed by a District Grants Committee who then recommend to the District Trustee Board whether a grant should be made.

In the year, grants of £8,500.00 were made and at the year-end. £50,229.50 of the District's reserves was allocated to future grants.

Contribution made by volunteers
The contribution made by our volunteers cannot be underestimated. Indeed, Scouting would not exist without the numerous volunteers across the country. Our District has over 400 adult volunteers delivering or supporting amazing experiences and learning for our young people. We celebrate them all.

Public benefit statement
The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D – Achievements and Performance

Summary of main achievements of the charity during the year

During the year our groups and explorer units continued to provide fantastic activities for 838 young people (as at the 2026 Census in January giving these young people #Place to Belong and leading to #skillsfor life. In 2025-26, Groups will be supported to develop their activities and recruit further volunteers and young people. This includes the opening of further Squirrel Dreys and three Groups now have active Dreys.

The reorganisation of Scouting and the launch of new digital systems is now complete but the District has had to continue its work to support the Groups in using these systems. It is fair to say that 'My Membership' is less than user friendly and unless it is used on a regular basis many volunteers struggle to use it.

This support has ensured that the District has not had any compliance issues beyond a few people not completing their mandatory learning or disclosures not being completed on time. However robust oversight by the District has ensured only a few volunteers have had to be suspended or their roles terminated.

Safeguarding is key to ensuring the safety of our young people and vulnerable adults. The District is proud that, by strictly adhering to Safeguarding policies at all levels during the year, there were only two Safeguarding incidents, which were quickly escalated to the Scouts Safeguarding team and dealt with by them.

The Explorer Leadership Teams have put significant effort (which is ongoing) to ensure as many young people as possible move from Scouts to Explorers. This is in no short measure due to the delivery of an amazing Explorer programme.

The adventurous activity team provided some great camps and activities from the ever-popular mountain biking weekend in the New Forest and hiking weekend for Explorers in Snowdonia.

Our activities team, BASIC, who maintain a number of activity permits, have been available to help out with activities such as archery and tomahawk throwing.

The District now has a Leadership Team in place which is aligned with the County Leadership Team.

A report on our main achievements would be lacking, if we did not also mention the Dorneywood Management Team and the First Tuesday work group, who ensure that Dorneywood is in 'tip-top' shape for numerous Scout Groups, Explorer Units and DoE organisations who use it on a regular basis. In addition, we are close to signing a new lease for the site from the National Trust, through the Dorneywood House Trust, which will secure the site for scouting activities for the foreseeable future.

Section E - Financial Review

The full accounts are presented separately to this report and currently the District is financially in good health.

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs, circa £80,000.

The District held reserves of approximately £260,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. However, this can be explained by: i) the circa £50,000 allocated to future grants to groups; ii) the potential need to replace buildings at Dorneywood Campsite. The main building cannot continue to be used in its current state and, at this stage, the costs to refurbish/rebuild could be anywhere between £30,000 and £170,000.

Investments Policy

With the need to fund the long-term viability of the Dorneywood Campsite, the Trustees believe we do not have sufficient funds to invest in longer to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only banks or building societies with FSCS protection, with funds in any one institution generally limited the £120,000 FSCS protection limit.

The District Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. This involves using accounts that require a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn. Before doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F - Other Optional Information

Plans for future

With the appointment of a Programme Team, the District will be working to ensure as many young people as possible attend County Activities and Plan such events as a Leaders Skills/Social Camp weekend, a sports day for the younger sections, a back-to-basics camp for scouts and a Beavers skills day. The first of these will be a Leaders Hiking Camp to be held in mid Wales in late September. We also plan to hold a new volunteers coffee morning on Saturday 12th September. The District will also work towards holding a District Camp in 2027.

Section G - Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Woodlands District Scout Council (Charity no. 1212273)
Receipts and payments account

For the year from **01 April 2025** **To** **31 March 2026**

Receipts and payments

	2025/26 Unrestricted funds £	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Membership Subscriptions, Donations and Similar Income		
Subscriptions (Explorers)	7,599.00	6,250.00
Membership Fees from Groups (current FY)	49,407.00	49,024.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on to County	-51,500.00	-49,476.00
Donations to Dorneywood	0.00	100.00
Donations to Explorers	120.00	0.00
Gift Aid	1,083.53	1,168.51
Sub total	**6,709.53**	**7,066.51**
Activities		
Explorer Activities	16,450.00	14,375.00
Other District Run Activities	2,520.00	2,085.00
Jamborees (WSJ / EGT)	375.00	0.00
Dorneywood Camp Fees	11,092.83	30,993.33
BASIC Activities	1,875.00	0.00
Sub total	**32,312.83**	**47,453.33**
Fundraising Events (gross)		
Explorer Fundraising	1,644.44	1,783.48
Sub total	**1,644.44**	**1,783.48**
Other Income		
Badges & Uniform Sold	247.56	122.90
11th High Wycombe Loan Repayment	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub total	**1,247.56**	**1,122.90**
Investment Income		
Interest	5,740.19	8,376.82
Sub total	**5,740.19**	**8,376.82**
Total Gross Income	**47,654.55**	**65,803.04**
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	**47,654.55**	**65,803.04**

Woodlands District Scout Council (Charity no. 1212273)
Receipts and payments account

For the year from **01 April 2025** **To** **31 March 2026**

Receipts and payments

	2025/26 Unrestricted funds £	2024/25 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
District Grants to Scout Groups	8,500.00	13,203.00
Activities - Explorers	13,174.50	17,077.66
Activities - Other District Run Activities	2,770.81	2,159.64
Activities - Jamborees (WSJ / EGT)	0.00	0.00
Dorneywood - Lease payments	1000.00	1000.00
Dorneywood - Utilities	1227.05	3704.69
Dorneywood - Maintenance	2072.81	1139.77
Dorneywood - Insurance	1721.87	1896.90
Dorneywood - Professional Services	4440.00	4672.80
Insurance - non Dorneywood	278.72	405.23
Leader Training	1380.00	686.42
Equipment	705.80	2923.54
Badges + Uniform	1249.20	645.19
Administration	484.40	615.69
Bank Charges & Related	739.08	647.76
Miscellaneous	284.62	600.00
Sub total	**40,028.86**	**51,378.29**
Fundraising expenses		
Explorer Fundraising Expenses	63.42	0.00
Sub total	**63.42**	**0.00**
Total Gross Expenditure	**40,092.28**	**51,378.29**
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	**40,092.28**	**51,378.29**
Net of receipts/(payments)	**7,562.27**	**14,424.75**
Cash funds last year end	310,428.67	296,003.92
Cash funds this year end	**317,990.94**	**310,428.67**

Woodlands District Scout Council (Charity no. 1212273)
Receipts and payments account

For the year from **01 April 2025** **To** **31 March 2026**

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2026 Unrestricted funds £	31st March 2025 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
NatWest Current Account	56,151.55	56,800.01
United Trust Bank 180 Day Notice Account	82,462.72	78,994.54
Dudley Building Society 120 Notice Account	0.00	63,524.90
NatWest 35 Day Notice Account	222.00	22,490.03
Hampshire Trust Bank Instant Access Account	81,000.00	0.00
Explorers HSBC Current Account	10,432.02	2,362.57
Explorers HSBC Savings Account	6,278.16	6,183.98
Dorneywood Lloyds Current Account	5,847.43	11,407.66
Dorneywood Lloyds Savings Account #1	13,885.60	17,644.00
Dorneywood Lloyds Savings Account #2	11,385.36	51,020.98
Dorneywood Lloyds 95 Day Notice Account	50,231.10	0.00
Dorneywood Petty Cash	95.00	0.00
Total cash funds	**317,990.94**	**310,428.67**
Other monetary assets		
Loan to 11th Wycombe Scout Group	11,052.74	12,072.19
Debtors	0.00	0.00
Sub total	**11,052.74**	**12,072.19**
Investment assets		
Sub total	**0.00**	**0.00**
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Dorneywood Equipment	0.00	659.80
Sub total	**0.00**	**659.80**
Liabilities		
Membership Fees owed to Bucks County Scouts	-53,599.50	-51,500.00
Net Jamboree Fees owed to Bucks County Scouts in FY27	-9,175.00	0.00
Other creditors	-1,836.00	0.00
Payments received for activities where matching expense not yet incurred	-3,298.40	0.00
Sub total	**-67,908.90**	**-51,500.00**
Total net assets	**261,134.78**	**271,660.66**

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 11 May 2026 (the date of the Trustee Board meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
Nicholas Mann (Jul 6, 2026, 1:10pm)	Nicholas Mann (Chair)
Duncan Scattergood (Jul 6, 2026, 2:31pm)	Duncan Scattergood (Treasurer)

Signable

Issuer	Woodlands District Scout Council
Document generated	Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:53:38 BST
Document fingerprint	774efc9771953766e93a13089cccbd7a

Parties involved with this document

Document processed	Party + Fingerprint
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 13:10:27 BST	Nicholas Mann - Signer (d0f39ebb9f98ccb43ee52d93cd8f01ac)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	Duncan Scattergood - Signer (d082eeb025f967a31c896aa5373a3d7f)

Audit history log

Date	Action
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:53:38 BST	Envelope generated with fingerprint bb7f0797185e092dcfac6ce4168f1ae4 by treasurer@woodlands-scouts.org.uk (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:53:38 BST	Document generated with fingerprint 774efc9771953766e93a13089cccbd7a (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:54:36 BST	Nicholas Mann has been assigned to this envelope. (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:54:36 BST	Duncan Scattergood has been assigned to this envelope. (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:55:25 BST	Sent the envelope to Nicholas Mann (chair@woodlands-scouts.org.uk) for signing (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 12:55:26 BST	Document emailed to chair@woodlands-scouts.org.uk
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 13:09:57 BST	Nicholas Mann viewed the envelope (192.173.80.3)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 13:10:27 BST	Nicholas Mann signed the envelope (192.173.80.3)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 13:10:27 BST	Sent the envelope to Duncan Scattergood (treasurer@woodlands-scouts.org.uk) for signing (192.173.80.3)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 13:10:27 BST	Document emailed to treasurer@woodlands-scouts.org.uk
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:22 BST	Duncan Scattergood viewed the envelope (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	Duncan Scattergood signed the envelope (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	This envelope has been signed by all parties (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	Signed document confirmation emailed to chair@woodlands-scouts.org.uk (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	Signed document confirmation emailed to treasurer@woodlands-scouts.org.uk (145.224.66.227)
Mon, 6th Jul 2026 14:31:52 BST	Signed document confirmation emails have been sent to all parties (145.224.66.227)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Woodlands District Scout Council.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Woodlands District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2026

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Woodlands District Scout Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts inaccordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Woodlands District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given bythe Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination, which was designed to verify that the reported income, expense and year-end balances were in line with, and properly supported by appropriate invoices, receipts and bank statements. It was not designed to establish whether there was a level of financial internal control that would ensure optimum use of funds and avoidance of misuse.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Woodlands District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

In summary, income, expense and closing balance figures as reported, reconciled correctly to detailed internal spreadsheet records and bank statements. Sample checks were made of these records to invoices and receipts. No errors were found, and supporting documentation was available for all of the sampled transactions.

Signed: SA Bocquet

Name: Stephen Bocquet

Address: Higher Wick House, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8JN

Date: 6th July 2026