Annual Report 2025

Scouts

East Sussex

#YouShape

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity 291136
Bushy Wood Activity Centre
Main Road, Hailsham
BN27 3LZ
Telephone 07907 119054 www.eastsussexscouts.org.uk

SCOUT ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION

Number 00170; 1 April 1974

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO.

291136

PRESIDENT

Andrew Blackman, Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex

TRUSTEE BOARD

Kathryn Frost	County Chair
Elaine Gausden	County Lead
Tony Richardson	County Treasurer
Sharon Bishop	
Stephen Dawson	
Mark Lloyd	
Andrew Smith to 19 November 2025	
Izzy Rance from 19 November 2025	

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

MR M CLARK

Report from the County Chair

It is my pleasure to present the Chair of Trustees' report for the East Sussex County Scout Council for the year ended 2025. This report forms part of the Trustees' Annual Report and is prepared in accordance with Charity Commission guidance and The Scouts' Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).

Overview of the Year

The past year has been one of progress, resilience and continued commitment to delivering high-quality Scouting across the County. The Trustee Board has remained focused on ensuring strong governance, financial stability, and strategic oversight, enabling volunteers to provide excellent Scouting opportunities for young people in our communities.

Growth and Development

Growth has been a key strategic focus throughout 2025. The continued employment of the County Growth Officer has been a successful and worthwhile investment, providing focused capacity to support districts and groups, enable new provision, and strengthen participation across the County.

This work has contributed positively to census outcomes and has helped to ensure that Scouting remains accessible, inclusive and sustainable in both established and developing areas. The Trustee Board is confident that this strategic focus on growth positions the County well for the future.

Programme, Events and Opportunities

During the year, the County has supported a wide range of Scouting opportunities that have enriched the experience of young people and volunteers. This has included support for young people and leaders participating in the World Scout Jamboree, providing life-changing international experiences that reflect the global values of Scouting.

County and district-led activities, including County and District camps and the Overland Hike, have continued to offer adventurous, high-quality programme delivery, enabling young people to challenge themselves, grow in confidence and develop teamwork and leadership skills. These opportunities remain a key strength of Scouting across the County.

Leadership, Volunteers and Delivery

Challenges at UK Headquarters during the year inevitably impacted some aspects of national leadership and support. However, as has consistently been the case within Scouting, local leaders and volunteers across the County have demonstrated professionalism, resilience and commitment, continuing to deliver excellent Scouting experiences despite wider challenges.

The Trustee Board wishes to record its sincere thanks to all leaders, volunteers and supporters whose dedication underpins everything the County achieves.

Safeguarding and Safety

Safeguarding continues to be a central priority for the Trustee Board. Trustees are satisfied that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, aligned with POR and national requirements, and that appropriate oversight arrangements support a culture of safety and responsibility across the County.

Financial Position and Stewardship

The County's financial position at the end of 2025 is in line with strategic plans. Strong financial management and prudent stewardship have ensured the County remains financially resilient, enabling continued investment in growth, programme delivery and volunteer support.

This financial strength allows the County to deliver impactful Scouting to young people across the County, while maintaining appropriate reserves and controls in line with Charity Commission guidance. The Trustee Board expresses its appreciation to the Treasurer and those responsible for financial administration and oversight.

Risk Management

The Trustee Board has continued to review the principal risks facing the County, including governance, safeguarding, financial sustainability and volunteer capacity. Appropriate mitigations are in place, and risks are reviewed regularly to ensure the County remains resilient and well managed.

Looking Ahead

Looking forward, the Trustee Board remains confident in the County's strategic direction. Priorities include sustaining growth, building on positive census outcomes, continuing to support volunteers, and ensuring governance and financial arrangements remain strong.

The Trustees are committed to enabling the County to continue delivering safe, inclusive and high-quality Scouting that makes a positive difference to young people and communities across the County.

Trustees' Responsibilities and Approval

The Trustees confirm that they are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and accounts and that this report fairly reflects the County's activities and position during the year.

Approved by the East Sussex County Trustee Board on behalf of all Trustees.

Kathryn Frost

Chair Board of Trustees

CENSUS OF MEMBERSHIP AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026

	Squirrel Scouts	**Beaver Scouts**	**Cub Scouts**	**Scouts**	**Explorer Scouts**	**Network Scouts**	**Adults**	**Total 2026**	Total 2025
Ashdown	49	195	234	226	79		262	**1,045**	1,148
Brighton & Hove	20	206	291	287	75	27	317	**1,223**	983
Eastbourne	51	208	257	254	105	21	456	**1,352**	1,206
Hailsham & Heathfield	28	117	143	146	60		194	**688**	590
Hastings & Rye	68	196	209	206	61	9	320	**1,069**	1,134
Lewes	4	87	107	126	38	5	169	**536**	477
Seahaven	12	59	61	62	27	18	125	**364**	397
Senlac	30	117	170	148	87	11	225	**788**	779
County							120	**120**	17
Total 2026	**262**	**1,185**	**1,472**	**1,455**	**532**	**91**	**2,188**	**7,185**	
Total 2025	208	1,298	1,560	1,506	551	71	1,467		6,731

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The East Sussex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting within the County. The Scout County consists of eight autonomous Districts: Ashdown; Brighton & Hove; Eastbourne; Hailsham and Heathfield; Hastings and Rye; Lewes; Seahaven; and Senlac. The constitution of the Scout County is set out in the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

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. The County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The function of the Trustee Board Committee is to:

- support the County Lead in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment.
- provide support for the Scout Districts and Scout Network within the County.

Members of the Trustee Board are appointed in accordance with Policy, Organisation and Rules (P.O.R.) of The Scout Association. The County Chair, County Lead, County Treasurer and the County Youth Lead are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee. Other members are elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the County Scout Council. The Trustee Board may co-opt members to fill casual vacancies.

Trustees already have, from the appointments they have held, basic understanding of both Scouting generally and of how the County is organised and run. With effect from 1 January 2016 all new Trustees were required to become members of The Scout Association and undertake the Association's training for Trustees.

It is a duty of the Trustee Board to identify, review, and mitigate the major risks to which it believes the County is exposed. The main areas of concern remain the need to recruit sufficient volunteers to provide the requisite management and support of Scouting within the County; and the requirement to set and maintain high standards of health, safety, and protection of the environment.

Risk Assessments are undertaken for all major County Activities in accordance with the recommendations and requirements of the Scout Association's published document entitled "Policy, Organisation and Rules". Regular risk assessments of the County's activity centre are carried out and reported to its Management Committee.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Scout County, as part of the national Scout Association, is to help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national, and international communities. The method of achieving this aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.

The Scout County's overall objective is to encourage the development of Scouting in East Sussex. It does this by supporting the County Lead and their team in ensuring that appropriate administrative and financial arrangements are in place to promote good practice in the Scout Districts and Groups. In particular, it provides all adult leader training free of charge at the point of delivery and organises certain activities which are not provided at a more local level. It publishes internal newsletters to keep adults informed of developments. Promoting good health and safety practices also remains a key activity.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit (Charities and Public Benefit). The trustees believe that the benefits enjoyed by young people participating in Scouting activities, supported by East Sussex County Scout Council, meet the public benefit criteria of the Charities Act 2011, without distinction by reason of age, diversity or disability.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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 charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable laws and regulations.

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.

Financial Review

The consolidated accounts for all County activities shows Income of £65,884 (2024 £66,498) with expenditure of £41,281 (2024 £43,701). This has left a surplus of £24,603 as compared with a surplus in 2024 of £22,797.

£9,953 has been transferred from the general reserve to the International Fund to support international Scouting events and £35,061 to the Development Fund.

The trustees have a policy of retaining monies in the general fund to meet 9 months expenditure and to allow for any emergency assistance required by Scout Districts or Groups within the County. The reserves policy is reviewed annually. The non-designated unrestricted fund balance as of 31 December 2025 is £164,027 (2024 £175,184).

During 2026 and 2027 the County will be financing the costs of the Growth Officer who works solely within East Sussex. The estimated cost over two years is some £118,000.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of East Sussex County Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of East Sussex County Scout Council (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. 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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independentexamination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr M Clark
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex

15 March 2026

East Sussex County Scout Council

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Designated funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources	3				
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		41,024	-	41,024	37,284
Donations and Grants		-	1,500	1,500	2,000
Investment income		11,798	-	11,798	12,359
Incoming resources from charitable activities		11,562	-	11,562	14,855
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	0
Total incoming resources		64,384	1,500	65,884	66,498
Resources expended	4- 6				
Charitable activities		30,527	10,754	41,281	43,701
Total resources expended		30,527	10,754	41,281	43,701
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		33,857	(9,254)	24,603	22,797
Gross transfers between funds	12.3	(45,014)	45,014	0	0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains/(losses)		**(11,157)**	**35,760**	**24,603**	**22,797**
Net movement in funds		(11,157)	35,760	24,603	22,797
Total funds brought forward		175,184	131,240	306,424	283,627
Total funds carried forward		**164,027**	**167,000**	**331,027**	**306,424**

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Note	31-Dec-25 Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total £	31-Dec-24 Total £
Current assets					
Stocks	7	1,814	-	1,814	2,704
Debtors	8	19,504	-	19,504	10,659
(Short term) investments	9	95,167	167,000	262,167	258,187
Cash at bank and in hand	9	78,169	-	78,169	45,302
Total current assets		**194,654**	**167,000**	**361,654**	**316,852**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	30,627	-	30,627	10,428
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**164,027**	**167,000**	**331,027**	**306,424**
Total assets less current liabilities		**164,027**	**167,000**	**331,027**	**306,424**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities and charges		-	-	-	-
Net assets		**164,027**	**167,000**	**331,027**	**306,424**
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted funds	12	164,027	-	164,027	175,184
Designated Funds	12	-	167,000	167,000	131,240
Total funds		**164,027**	**167,000**	**331,027**	**306,424**

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by

K Frost
Chair

A M Richardson, FCCA
Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historic cost (except that investments are shown at market value) in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015);
- and with Accounting Standards
- and with the Charities Act 2011.

Note 2 Accounting policies

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: · the charity becomes entitled to the resources; · the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and · the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Membership subscriptions	Membership subscriptions collected on behalf of other parts of the Scout Movement are reported in the SoFA net of any amount paid out. This is because these subscriptions are in effect held as agents before being paid out.
Incoming resources with related expenditure	Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.
Gifts in kind	Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included although the reliance placed on this vital resource is referred to in the annual report.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Investment gains and losses	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.
Grants payable without performance conditions	These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1000. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.
Investments	Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.
Stocks	These are valued at the lower of cost or market value.

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

	Analysis	2025 £	2024 £
Voluntary income	Membership subscriptions	258,751	230,147
	Less: Membership subscriptions paid to National Scout Headquarters	(217,727)	(192,863)
	Net membership subscriptions retained	**41,024**	**37,284**
Grants & Donations	Grants & Donations	**1,500**	**2,000**
Investment income	Bank & Short term Investment Interest	11,798	12,359
	Total	**11,798**	**12,359**
Incoming resources from charitable activities	Youth Programme and activities	11,562	14,855
	Total	**11,562**	**14,855**

Note 4 Analysis of

	Analysis	2025 £	2024 £
Charitable Activities	Youth Programme and activities	18,412	23,206
	Governance	283	648
	Adult Training	3,155	3,584
	Development of Scouting	10,301	7,160
	County Office	9,130	9,096
	Total	**41,281**	**43,701**

Note 5 Expenses

5.1 Trustee expenses

The total amount of payments or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to	2025	2024
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	0	0

5.2 External Examiner Fees

The following fees were paid for the statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other	2025 £	2024 £
	0	0

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 6 Paid employees

6.1 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	7,151	7,291
Total staff costs	7,151	7,291

6.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year	2025 Number	2024 Number
	1	1

No employee emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year

Note 7 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Activity Books & Badges	1,814	2,704
Total	**1,814**	**2,704**

Note 8 Debtors and prepayments

Analysis of debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	11,200	-
Prepayments and accrued income	8,304	10,659
Total	**19,504**	**10,659**

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

Analysis of deposits

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Accounts	78,168	45,287
Investment Accounts	262,167	258,187
Cash in hand	1	15
Total	**340,336**	**303,489**

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	31/12/2025 £	31/12/2024 £
Trade creditors	181	142
Receipts in advance	30,446	10,286
Accruals and deferred income	-	-
Total	**30,627**	**10,428**

Note 11. Analysis of County Activities

	Income	Expenditure
Development Costs	-	10,301
County Office & General Stationery	-	9,130
Scout Events	7,048	8,644
Overland Hike	2,976	3,970
Other Costs	-	3,806
Adult Training	-	3,155
Badges & D of E awards	1,538	1,313
International Events	1,500	484
Governance	-	283
Explorers	-	100
ACC Youth Involvement	-	95
Membership Fees	41,024	-
Investment Interest	11,798	-
Totals	**65,884**	**41,281**

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Note 12 Designated and restricted funds

12.1 Funds held
The charity held the following funds at the year end
General Fund (GE); Designated Funds (D)

Fund Name	Type GE, D	Purpose and Restrictions
International Reserve	D	To support Scouts taking part in international activities.
Development Fund	D	To support future Development of Scouting within East Sussex

12.2 Movements of major funds

Fund names	Type GE, D	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
General Fund	**GE**	**175,184**	**64,384**	**(30,527)**	**(45,014)**	**164,027**
International Reserve	D	63,000	1,500	(453)	9,953	74,000
Development Fund	D	68,240	-	(10,301)	35,061	93,000
sub total designated funds		***131,240***	***1,500***	***(10,754)***	***45,014***	***167,000***
Total Funds		**306,424**	**65,884**	**(41,281)**	**-**	**331,027**