BRIGHTON & HOVE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
1st January – 31st December 2025

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Brighton & Hove District Scout Council

Registered Charity number 305826

Principal Address: 66 Overhill Drive, Patcham, Brighton, BN1 8WJ

Names of the Charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee Name	***Office (if any)***	***Dates acted if not for whole year***
Ex officio		
Peter Elliff	Chairman	
Chris Denham	District Lead Volunteer	
Vacant	District Secretary	
Vacant	District Treasurer	
Glen Downs	District Support Team Lead	
Tim Thorley	District 14-24 Lead	
Rose Fisher	District Youth Lead Volunteer	
Anne Claxton	Deputy Chairman	
Nominated		
Tom Simon	3Deans Explorer Team leader	Co-Opted 22/07/2025
Co-opted		
Neil Leggett	Parkwood Representative	

Right to attend
County Commissioner and County Chair

Sub Committees, to which the District Commissioner and District Chairman have the right to attend

Parkwood Sub-Committee

Kevin Ranger	Chair
Chris Denham	Treasurer
John Cripps	Bookings Secretary

Stephen Cropp, Alison Denyer, Glen Downs, Neil Leggett & Liz Wakeling

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The governing documents of Brighton & Hove District Scout Council [herein referred to as The District] 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 District is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the charity trustees of the District Scout Council, 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.

The committee consists of three independent representatives, chair, secretary and treasurer, together with the District Lead Volunteer and nominated, elected and co-opted members. It is intended that the committee is representative of Brighton & Hove Scouting – of sections, Groups and reflective of the range of members.

The District Trustees Board role is to support the District Lead Volunteer and his team of Volunteers and Advisers in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments, which are laid down by the Scout Association. The Trustee Board also advises the Scout Groups registered at the census on 31st December 2025 , some of which are registered independent charities. In particular it is responsible for finance and property issues. It appoints three sub-committees. The Appointments Advisory Sub-Committee satisfies itself as to the suitability of applicants for Group or District appointments. The Parkwood Sub-Committee is responsible for the management of this property, within certain delegated powers. Other informal teams manage specific aspects of District affairs such as adult training and support for the training sections.

The Scout District's bankers are Metro Bank, One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA.

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 established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern which have been identified are:

- ***Damage to building, property and equipment***
  The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- ***Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members***
  The District, through membership fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident policy. In addition, the District obtains additional cover for adults supporting District activities. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- ***Reduced income***
  The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an on-going basis, either temporarily or permanently.
- ***Reduction or loss of leaders***
  The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level, there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities. In the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the District.
- ***Reduction or loss of members***
  The District provides activities for all young people aged 5¾ to 24. If there were a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District as a whole, then there would have to be contraction, consolidation or closure of activities. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include two person approval for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Objectives & Activities

The aim of the Scout District, as part of the Scout Association, is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. 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.

Scouting has an Equal Opportunities Policy and it has public benefit since it complements the formal education received by the young people who join it. 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.

The Scout District's overall objective is to encourage the development of Scouting in Brighton & Hove. It does this by supporting the District Commissioner and his team in ensuring that appropriate administrative and financial arrangements are in place to promote good practice in the Scout District and Groups. In particular it organises certain activities for the young people in the District, which are not provided at a more local level. It manages electronic communications to keep the community, volunteer adults and members informed of activities and developments.

The Parkwood Sub-Committee's objective is to manage the campsite and activity centre on a commercial basis for the benefit of Scouting. Within this overall objective the site endeavours to provide and improve facilities, particularly those which are attractive to Scouts, to encourage greater use. It also seeks to increase bookings from outside organisations at times when it is not being used by Scouts so as to maximise its income.

Achievements & Performance

2025 brought a series of highs and lows for Brighton and Hove scouting. Groups and sections are working harder than ever to deliver exciting opportunities for the young people including some summer camps. The numbers were down sadly due to a loss of leaders again with youth numbers below 1000 for the third year in a row. We do see several sections running with barely enough young people, leaders and many leaders having multiple roles.

Parkwood had another busy year and income grew steadily. Our thanks go to the crew who keep the place running despite the extra usage. Work was completed on a new heating system, Hammock Village area and work started on the replacement of the Garage and trolley store.

Both beavers and cubs had a combined district camp. Many of the scout and explorer leaders got together to train as a group for the overland which was a great success with the scouts teams being well placed and the Hove Actually Explorers winning the Explorer trophy. Thanks to Tom and John for leading this project of co-operation.

Many top awards were presented during the year with Izzy Rance achieving her Gold DofE

And finally… thanks to all the leaders, administrators and other adults across the District who have worked hard this year to keep us moving forward.

Financial Review

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District should retain a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs, circa £60,000 plus funds held by the Explorer Scout and Network sections, which can fluctuate between £5,000 and £30,000, depending on the activities being undertaken. These funds (£16,710.85 at the end of 2025) are raised by the members of these units and cannot be considered available for use by the District. Given the growth of Parkwood over the last 5 years the Trustee Board have recommended an increase for prudence reasons to £75,000. This is subject to review annually as the growth experienced to date may beginning to plateau. Expenditure is directly proportional to income.

At the end of 2025, the District held balances of £253,013.25, including the Explorer and Network funds. This balance is above the level required for operating expenses, but continued expenditure is planned at Parkwood to further development the site and a recruitment drive.

The District operates a break-even policy in relation to activities and requires the Parkwood Committee to request approval for larger, non-routine items of expenditure.

The District's income and expenditure is small and, as a consequence, has adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds, which are held as cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

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

Future Plans

Our efforts going forward must be on supporting our current leaders and adult supporters. We set up in 2023 our own section of the county training team to deliver more First Response courses in 2026 than ever before. . The Regional Services Team has identified several groups they wish to work with and plan to assist in generating growth.

We will also use this legacy to boost our visibility in the communities we serve so we can attract and keep new leaders and volunteers.

We are reworking our 5 Year Development plan for Parkwood in 2026 once we finish the replacement for the garages as well as upgrading the current activities and plans are moving forward on some new ones.

Further work will be needed in 2026 to bed in the major changes brought about by the transformation project.

Work is also gathering pace to see the development of our District website which went live in 2024.

Above all, we will continue to support our existing volunteers to cope with the demand from young people across the City and hope to see an increase in membership especially in adults in 2026.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Name(s)	Peter Elliff	Chris Denham
Position	District Chairman	District Lead Volunteer
Date		

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2025

RECEIPTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Membership fees	55,680	8,246
Activities	10,417	6,847
Badge sales	68	316
Donations	150	926
	66,315	16,335
DISTRICT SECTIONS		
Membership fees	7,298	3,688
Activities	5,300	3,898
Fundraising		81
	12,598	7,667
PARKWOOD		
Campsite fees	85,835	70,073
Souvenir sales	1,889	1,249
Donations & grants	9,951	1,446
	97,675	72,768
HOVE BUILDING		
Rental income	3,214	3,760
	3,214	3,760
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Interest received	610	179
	610	179
INTERNAL RECHARGES		
		-
Recharges	(5,989)	
	(5,989)	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	174,423	100,709
PAYMENTS		
		-
Capitation to County	46,864	
Activities	11,868	6,567
		-
Grants	1,916	
Equipment	1,313	225
Administration	199	963
Insurance	52	1,671
Computing & PR	1,296	854
	63,508	10,280
DISTRICT SECTIONS		
Capitation	4,020	-

Activities	5,837	8,086
Rent	1,650	1,395
Equipment	702	200
Scarves, clothing etc	532	149
		-
OSM Fees	505	
	13,246	9,830
PARKWOOD		
Maintenance	15,393	21,613
Development	9,625	11,462
Utilities & rates	17,604	11,759
Insurance	3,576	3,361
Equipment/consumables	1,264	1,295
	-	
Sales stock		2,030
Booking system	1,291	1,484
Cleaning	2,723	2,636
Bounce back loan repayment	4,259	4,259
		-
Grants	4,720	
	60,455	59,899
HOVE BUILDING		
Rates	350	350
Utilities	2,671	4,471
Insurance	1,678	-
Maintenance	458	2,111
Cleaning	1,997	2,762
	7,154	9,694
INTERNAL RECHARGES		
		-
Recharges	(5,989)	
	(5,989)	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	138,374	89,703
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	36,049	11,006
Funds brought forward	216,964	205,958
Funds carried forward	253,013	216,964

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	253,013	216,964
Liabilities		
Bounce back loan	(4,892)	(8,974)

Net assets at 31st December	248,121	207,990

Notes

1. The trustees have taken the decision not to include the value of assets within the accounts, as it can suggest that the District has more money available than it does. The majority of the District's assets are low value items of equipment. However, there is Parkwood.

   Parkwood has enormous value to the District, both for the outdoor activities it allows us to provide for young people and its income generation, but it is not a realisable cash asset. The current value of Parkwood is in the region of £2,300,000. This will be reviewed in a year's time.

2. Due to a change in the method of accounting practices adopted for net subscriptions and OSM fees taken for parent payments, there are some figures this year which were not reflected in the 2024 accounts.
3. The closing balance in Assets for 2024 has been increased by the Explorer expenses card balance which was omitted last year but now included to account for movement of balance over 2025.
4. Internal recharges represent cost transfers between sections and have been deducted to reflect true external cash transactions.
5. A Bounce Back Loan of £20,000 was taken out in 2021 to support the loss of Income to Parkwood caused by Covid 19. It was loaned by HSBC our bankers at the time. The interest rate is 2.55% and will be repaid in February 2027.

Approved and signed on behalf of all the trustees

District Chairman Peter  Elliff:

Date of approval: 08/06/2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighton & Hove District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Brighton & Hove District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Brighton & Hove District Scout Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

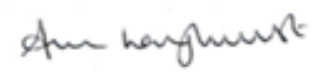
I report in respect of my examination of the Brighton & Hove District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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:

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

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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ann Longhurst FCCA
11 Varndean Gardens
BRIGHTON
BN1 6WJ

24th October 2026

ADDRESSES OF SENIOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Chair	Peter Elliff 66 Overhill Drive Brighton BN1 8WJ	01273 501852 p.elliff@brightonandhovescouts.org.uk
District Lead Volunteer	Chris Denham 6 Truleigh Close Brighton BN2 6TS	01273 302549 c.denham@brightonandhovescouts.org.uk