Wiltshire North District Scout Council

ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ending

31st March 2026

Charity Number
305942

Wiltshire North District Scout Council

Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2026

Section A Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objectives of the District are its operation as a unit 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.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The District's main function is to support the sections in achieving the aims of the Scout Association. As a District the main activities during the last twelve months have been: • Support for Groups, Explorer Scout Units and Group Lead Volunteers • Support for adult training • District events which this year have included, hikes, camps and sleepovers. The Provision of Scouting within the District is totally dependent on the contribution made by unpaid volunteers.
Public Benefit	The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit on deciding what activities the charity should undertake. Membership subscriptions are charged to cover the immediate running costs of the District and these do not unduly restrict membership. The District follows the principle that no one should be excluded because of their inability to pay membership subscriptions. Two key principles which demonstrate that Scouting's aims are for the public benefit are that through the scout method young people develop towards their full potential and there is a clear link between the benefits for young people and the purpose of scouting. The safety of young people is taken very seriously and the benefits scouting activities provide far outweigh the risks. Any private benefits from scouting are incidental, other than to those as beneficiary.

Section B Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	This year the district saw a 6% increase in youth members aged 4 to 18 years, up to 957 (from 904 in 2025), this includes a 9% growth in Explorer numbers (aged 14-18). This is despite one Cub pack closing in the last year. The increase in young people follows a general trend of growth over the last five years (+19%). The Network members (aged 18-24) are up from 10 to 26 this year (a 160% increase), this is due to the reorganisation and rebranding of the District Network group. This is however a decrease of 11 (-30%) since 2021 but does show that the decline has now reversed. District Adults Volunteers numbered 404 this year (including 26 Network, most of whom do volunteer with a group). This is technically an increase of 127 (+46%) since last year, although this is likely to reflect more accurate records due to a change of the Scout Volunteers IT System. Records show a comparable increase of 143 (+55%) over the last 5 years. During this year there have been several Events, including the District Explorer and Network trip to Iceland where 88 district members enjoyed a

	week of activities including Glacier walking, Kayaking, visiting dormant volcanos, waterfalls and Geysers. The District sailing trip was the largest so far with four boats, with Explorers and scouts attending. District Beavers and Cubs have held their annual trip to PGL, Christmas Cinema and a Funday. Volunteer development continues to be a key focus of the District. As in previous years, the District has run a number of First Aid courses as well as two Young Leader Training Weekends.

Section C Financial review

Policy on Reserves	The District's primary source of funds is from membership contributions; its primary outgoings relate to membership subscriptions payable to the Scout Association, and administrative running costs for the District. The District policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Board of Trustees considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs. This is equivalent to £7,900 covering core district costs as well as Explorer unit costs. The District held free reserves of £18,484 against this at year-end. The District also holds two designated funds; • The Jamboree Fund, up to £3,000, to provide help with the cost of attending Jamborees, currently at £50 as grants have been made to District members attending World Scout Jamboree 2027. This includes 2 leaders, 3 Explorers and a leader attending as part of the CST. • A reserved Fund totalling £2,116 which is a ring-fenced amount to be used for development within the District.

Further financial review details	The District does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The District has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Section D Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The District governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the By Laws of the Association and The Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The District is further governed by the District Constitution.
How the charity is constituted	The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Additional governance issues	The District is managed by the Board of Trustees, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees" of the Scout District that 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 applicable. The committee consists of several Independent members who meet at least four times a year.

	Ex–officio Members: • Chair (vacant) • District Lead Volunteer • Treasurer • District Scout Youth Lead Volunteer
	Elected Members: Persons elected at the District Annual General Meeting. • These should normally be two to six in number. The actual number must be the subject of a resolution by the District Scout Council. **Nominated Members:** • Persons nominated by the Chair and District Commissioner • The nominations must be approved at the District Annual General Meeting. **Co-opted Members:** • Persons co-opted annually by the Board of Trustees. This Board of Trustees exists to support the Group Leaders, Explorer and Network Units in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and is responsible for: • Ensuring that there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high quality Scouting; • Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development; • Ensuring that District property is appropriately managed; • Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment; • Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support; • Appointing any sub committees that may be required; • Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected; Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect of reporting and risk management. The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered. The District maintains and regularly reviews a Risk Register of its keys risks and controls.

Section E Reference and administration details

Charity Name	Wiltshire North District Scout Council
Charity Number	305942
Charity's principal address	Unit 177, 8 The Bridge, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 1FY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office	Dates if not for whole year
	Ex Officio		
1	E Brandley	District Lead Volunteer (Designated Chair)	Appointed 31st Jan 2025
2	Luke Harvey	District Youth Lead	Appointed 5th Jan 2026 Role vacant prior to this date
	Nominated		
3	E Bennett	Treasurer	Nominated for 3 years in July 2025
4	J Coombs	14-24 Team Lead	Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
5	C Butson	Group Lead Volunteer Representative	Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
6	M Dando		Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
7	G Livingston		Nominated for 3 years in July 2025 (resigned 16th July 2026)
8	A Stovell		Nominated for 3 years in July 2025
	Co-opted		

Name and address of advisor

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Christopher David Watchman Watchman Accountants Ltd	48 The Causeway, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3DD

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	

Full name	**E Brandley**

Position held	**District Lead Volunteer**

Date	**6th September 2026**

Examiners Report

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees WILTSHIRE NORTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended 31/03/2026 **Charity no (if any)** 305942

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2026

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 independent examination.

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.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 29/6/26

Name: CHRISTOPHER DAVID WATCHMAN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body F.C.C.A.

Wiltshire North District and Minibus
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	4/1/2025	To	3/31/2026

Receipts and payments

	2025/26				2024/25
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations, legacies and similar income					
Membership subscriptions	56,369	-	-	56,369	47,637
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 51,200	-	-	- 51,200	- 45,200
Net membership subscriptions retained	5,170	-	-	5,170	2,437
Donations and fundraising	250	-	-	250	-
Gift Aid reclaimed	4,927	-	-	4,927	-
District Events	53,142	-	-	53,142	31,582
Loans Repaid	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Received		35,000		35,000	
Badges and Network Neckers	177			177	43
Other similar income	53	-	-	53	
Sub total	63,719	35,000	-	98,719	34,062
District Minibus					
To cover starting costs and 1st year of use	-	-	-	-	-
Hire income	1,050	-	-	1,050	720
Cash/cheques held		-	-	-	-
Other similar income	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,050	-	-	1,050	720
Explorer Units and Network					
Wiltshire North Network	745			745	-
Aye Foure (Chippenham)	8,493	31,274	-	39,767	15,999
Creoda (Crudwell)	1,764	-	-	1,764	2,379
Endeavour (Chippenham)	12,257	-	-	12,257	8,723
Jaggards (Box)	4,992	-	-	4,992	2,452
Sea Squad (Corsham)	11,421	27,930	-	39,350	104,862
Twynnoy (Malmesbury)	6,446	-	-	6,446	4,918
River Rats (Colerne)	4,084	-	-	4,084	1,379
Sub total	50,202	59,204	-	109,405	140,714
Investment income					
Bank interest	60	-	-	60	-
Secure Trust Deposit Account	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	60	-	-	60	-
Total Gross Income	115,030	94,204	-	209,234	175,496
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	115,030	94,204	-	209,234	175,496

Wiltshire North District and Minibus
Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	4/1/2025	To	3/31/2026

Receipts and payments

	2025/26				2024/25
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Payments					
Charitable Payments					
Adult support and training	100		-	100	608
Donations and funding issued	3,115		-	3,115	-
Loans issued	-	-	-	-	-
District Events	50,893	-	-	50,893	30,569
AGM and trustee expenses	547	-	-	547	289
Gift Aid paid on	4,927	-	-	4,927	-
Equipment Insurance	606			606	1,085
Badges and Neckers	354			354	109
Young Leaders	299			299	
Other costs	710		-	710	1,022
Sub total	61,551	-	-	61,551	33,681
District Minibus					
Starting/running costs	-	-	-	-	-
Tax	-	-	-	-	-
MOT		-	-	-	330
Insurance	795	-	-	795	1,019
Other maintenance costs	303	-	-	303	-
Other costs	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,098	-	-	1,098	1,349
Explorer Units and Network					
Wiltshire North Network	720			720	
Aye Foure (Chippenham)	6,341	34,257	-	40,598	17,510
Creoda (Crudwell)	1,241	-	-	1,241	1,975
Endeavour (Chippenham)	10,835	-	-	10,835	9,870
Jaggards (Box)	3,341	-	-	3,341	3,651
Sea Squad (Corsham)	11,889	116,390	-	128,278	25,644
Twynnoy (Malmesbury)	5,841	-	-	5,841	5,292
River Rats (Colerne)	3,326	-	-	3,326	1,456
Sub total	43,533	150,647	-	194,180	65,397
Total Gross Expenditure	106,182	150,647	-	256,828	100,427
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	106,182	150,647	-	256,828	100,427
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,848	- 56,443	-	- 47,595	75,069
Transfers between funds	3,208	- 3,208	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	36,951	94,651	-	131,602	56,533
Cash funds this year end	49,007	35,000	-	84,007	131,602

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2026				31st March 2025
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Cash funds					
District bank current account	6,793		-	6,793	17,206
Minibus bank current account	12,231	-	-	12,231	11,181
District Instant Saver bank account	11,560	35,000	-	46,560	-
Explorer Units bank current accounts	16,819		-	16,819	103,194
Expense Cards	686			686	
Explorer Units cash/floats/expense cards	920	-	-	920	20
Total cash funds	49,007	35,000	-	84,007	131,601
Other monetary assets					
Insurance/Tax claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Badge stock	94	-	-	94	75
Land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicles - District Minibus	8,394	-	-	8,394	8,394
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,488	-	-	8,488	8,469
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-	103
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	103

Contingent liabilities and future obligations	None	None

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 16 July 2026 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name	
	Ed Brandley DLV	(acting chair)
	LIZ BENNETT	Treasurer