Scouts

237th Birmingham 1st Castle Bromwich

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026

Registered charity no 504710
Scout Association registration no 14234

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Section A – Reference and administration details

Name of Charity 237th Birmingham (1st Castle Bromwich) Scout Group

Registered Charity No 504710
Scout Association registration No 14234

Charity's principal address
Scout HQ
Brownsover Close
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
B36 9EF

Address for correspondence
Becky Gregory-Tooke
Group Administrator
237th Birmingham Scout Group
30, Pithall Road
Shard End
Birmingham
B34 7PR

Email: becky.gregory-tooke@237scouts.org.uk
Website: www.237scouts.org.uk

Names of Trustees who managed the charity in 2025-26

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Laura-Marie Millward	Group Lead Volunteer	
Philip Barrie Jackson	Chair	
Ian Yeomans	Treasurer	
Paul Anthony Brettell	Group Lead Volunteer (2)	
Lewis James Millward	Youth Trustee	
Mark Bostock	Compliance	
Richard Hands	Maintenance	
Justine Whittaker	Finance	
Elaine Patricia Chaplain	Events & Fundraising	September 2025 – April 2026

Section B – Structure, governance and management

The Group'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 Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Groups.

The Group Scout Council consists of all parents, leaders and others as defined in the Group's constitution. It meets once a year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It has no Trustee responsibilities.

The Group's constitution is based on guidance from the Scout Association and is formally adopted by the Group Scout Council at the AGM.

The Group is managed by the Group's Trustee Board. 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 Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association and Charity Commission Guidance. They are appointed by the Group Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Trustee Board consists of one ex-officio member, namely the Group Lead Volunteer plus eight appointed trustees and meets bi-monthly.

Members of the Trustee Board complete *'Essential Information for Executive Committee'* training within the first 5 months of joining the Board. They also complete safety and safeguarding and GDPR training.

This Trustee Board exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

The maintenance of Group property;
The management of the Group's funds;
The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
Appointing any sub teams that may be required;
Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors, other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control
The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. We receive requests for the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as local churches, community groups and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. We maintain sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members, and claims for negligence etc. The Group is covered by the Scout Association's national insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. All leaders, trustees and other adults are vetted through the DBS process and

are trained in safety and safeguarding in line with the requirements of the Scout Association.

Reduced income from fundraising. We rely on income from subscriptions and fundraising. We hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustee Board could, and occasionally do, also raise the value of subscriptions to increase our income on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. We are totally reliant on volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole, there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole there would have to be a contraction, consolidation, or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction of financial loss.
The group 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. Equals cards have been introduced so that electronic transfer of funds can be made to section leaders instead of handling cash.

Section C – Objectives and activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Our purpose is 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 Scout Group

We have age specific sections, which meet at separate times in the week. (1 x Squirrel Drey, 2 x Beaver Colonies, 3 x Cub Packs and 3 x Scout Troops). The Squirrel Drey is a reasonably new section for 4-6 year olds which opened in October 2022. In addition, there are two Explorer Units catering for 14-18 year olds, which meet at our headquarters and work closely with the Group.

Each section runs a balanced programme consisting of weekly meetings, with team building games and training, outside activities and visits. The sections also run camps and weekends away. These are complemented by activities and camps run at Group, District, County and national level.

We meet at our own, brick built, headquarters in Brownsover Close, Castle Bromwich.

Policies on grant making and investments

In general, we do not make grants. We will occasionally support individual members with grants for specific expeditions. Each application is considered individually by the Trustee Board.

The Group does not make investments.

Staff

The Group is run by volunteers. There are no paid staff.

Public benefit statement

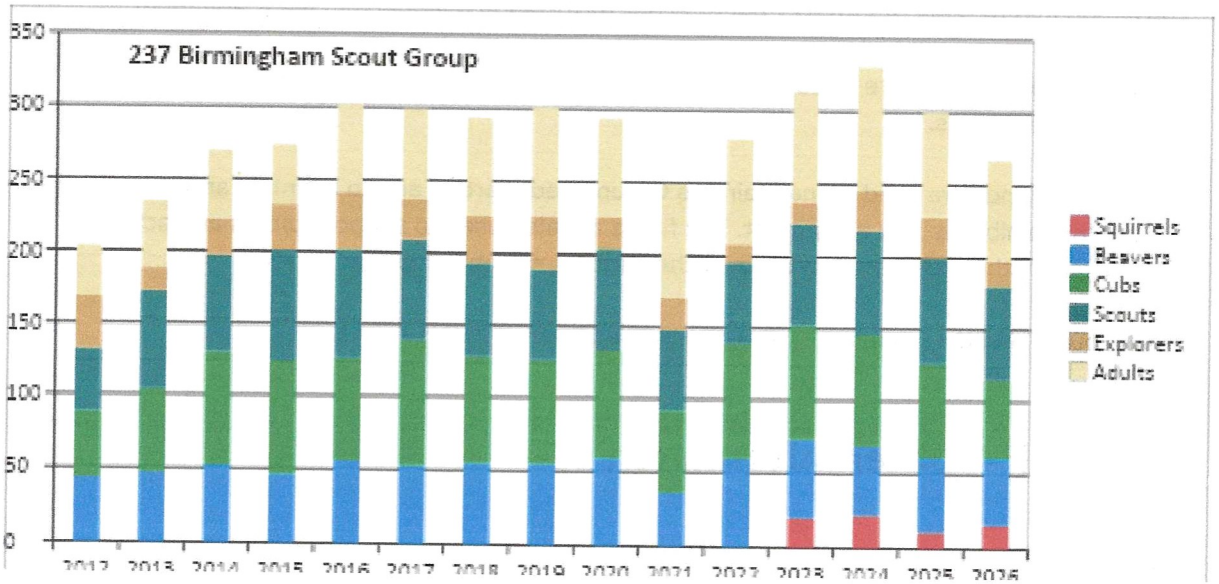
The Trustees confirm that the Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D – Achievements and Performance

Whilst we remain the largest group within the Spitfire District and are proud to be so, our overall numbers have reduced by 13%. In fact, the only section to show an increase was Squirrels, whilst all other sections have revealed a reduction. This may be partly accounted for through movements of our young people across the sections but we have also had less enquiries from outside the Group for new places. Additionally, the constraints placed upon us in respect of the ratio of Adult Volunteers to young people, has a negative impact.

The below chart shows the numbers recorded on the Scout Association annual census, which is completed at the end of January each year and reflects the challenges we face as our adult volunteer numbers have dropped. This appears to be a general trend amongst voluntary organisations at this time.

Although Explorers are officially part of District Scouting, in line with previous years, our numbers continue to include Explorer Scouts (14-18yr olds) and their leaders which meet at the Group HQ.



We have continued to make improvements to our Headquarters during the year, mainly through the efforts of our volunteers and fantastic maintenance support team. After fifty years of hard wear, our main hall floor requires to be re-laid, which involves a significant cost and is planned for early in the new financial year. Minor upgrades have also taken place around the headquarters and garden, plus new camping and activity equipment purchased

We also do our best to support the community in Castle Bromwich. Litter picks have been carried out again and we have supported the Parish Council at various event, including attendance at the Parish Remembrance Day Parade.

Section E – Financial review

Reserves Policy

Our policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. We also hold reserves to cover specific future expenditure and to allow for unexpected repairs to the building.

We held unrestricted reserves of approximately £95,556.71 against this at year end.

Funds in deficit

There are no funds materially in deficit.

Review of 2025-2026

The Group raises funds through quarterly subscriptions and a programme of fundraising events. The Group claims Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations where possible. The Group will apply for charitable grants to support specific projects.

The Group had receipts of £46,672 net of Scout Association membership fee (Capitation).

The Group had expenditure of £32,929 leaving a surplus in the year of £13,743. There are no outstanding liabilities.

The Group's funds are used to maintain the Group headquarters and to maintain and periodically replace the minibuses and equipment. The funds are also used to support camps and activities undertaken by the members and to cover the national membership fee.

The accounts and the Examiner's statement are appended to this report.

Section F – Other information

Future Plans

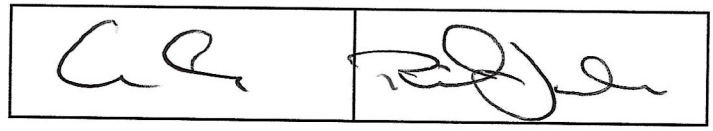
When leader resources permit, we will continue to try and open a second Squirrel Drey. We look to continue to strive to grow the group across all sections with both the recruitment of Young People and Adult Volunteers.

We have restructured our leadership teams in line with guidance from the Scout Association and whilst this remains a challenge, we are making good progress that enables us to provide fantastic scouting to the young people within the group.

Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Laura-Marie Millward	Philip Barrie Jackson
Position	Group Lead Volunteer	Chair
Date	10/09/26	

Charity Name		No (if any)
237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group		
Receipts and payments accounts		

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2025		31/3/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	*Last year*
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	*to the nearest £*
Receipts				
Membership Subscriptions	26623.00	-	**26,623**	*29451*
less Capitations paid on	10296.00	-	**10,296**	*11832*
Net Subscriptions	**16327.00**	-	**16,327**	*17619*
Gift Aid	7878.16	-	**7,878**	*6580*
Donations	421.73	-	**422**	*2140*
Other Income	3.30	-	**3**	*268*
Funds Match	619.48		**619**	*120*
Fund Raising	5118.89	-	**5,119**	*4500*
Covid Grants	0.47	-	**0**	*0*
Jamboree		-500.00	**- 500**	*0*
Explorers Camp		0.00	**-**	*0*
Solar	1505.93		**1,506**	*2371*
Building	0.00		**-**	*0*
Camps/Activities	13191.04		**13,191**	*14563*
Sub total	**45066.00**	**- 500**	**44,566**	**48160.94**
Bank Interest	1626.78	-	**1,627**	*1501*
Total receipts	**46,692.78**	**- 500**	**46,193**	***49662***
Payments				
Camps/Activities	15189.80	-	**15,190**	*20326*
Training	0.00	-	**-**	*310*
Utilities	3807.25	-	**3,807**	*5094*
Van Costs	1197.87	-	**1,198**	*1262*
Insurances	5188.85	-	**5,189**	*5104*

Repairs & Maintenance	2247.62	-	2,248	4999
Uniforms & Badges	1481.61	-	1,482	1618
equipment	2834.16	-	2,834	3041
Misc	982.44		982	712
Overseas Trip		-	-	0
Building	0.00		-	0
Total payments	**32929.60**	-	32,930	***42464***

Net of receipts/(payments)	**13763.18**	- 500	**13,263**	***7198***
Transfers between funds			-	
Cash funds last year end	*82314*	**7,135**	**89,449**	
Cash funds this year end	**96077.42**	**6,635**	**102,713**	

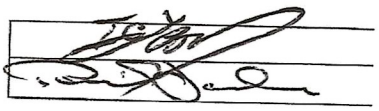
Categories	Details	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total Funds**
			to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash funds	Bank Current Account	-2171.02	**6,635**	**4,464**
	Bank Deposit Account	53990.21	-	**53,990**
	32 Day Notice Account	21195.30		**21,195**
	95 Day Notice Account	21713.02		**21,713**
	Equals Cards	1349.91	-	**1,350**
	Total cash/Equals funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	**96077.42** OK	**6,635** OK	**102,713**

	Details	Current value	Current value	
Other monetary assets			-	-
			-	-

	Details			
Investment assets			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Current value	Current value	Total
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Land & Buildings	152,480	-	152,480
	Motor Vehicles	20,000	-	20,000
	Trailer/Solar Panels	10,500	-	10,500
	Scouting Equipment	35,000	-	35,000
	Furniture & Fittings	7,000	-	7,000
	Total	**224,980**	-	224,980
Total Assets		**321,057**	**6,635**	327,693

	Details	Amount due	When due
Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		IAN HEDMANS PHILIP JACKSON	10/9/26 10/9/26

M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ICAEW CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

213 Station Road
Stechford
Birmingham B33 8BB
Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk

237 CASTLE BROMWICH SCOUT GROUP

CASTLE BROMWICH BIRMINGHAM

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the 237 Castle Bromwich Scout Group for the period 01/04/25 to 31/03/26.

Signed ..... H Lawrence
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date ..... 2/9/26 .....

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor

H. Lawrence ACA
Chartered Accountant

S. Lawrence ACCA
Certified Chartered Accountant