

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	4
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Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Stretford District Scout Council					
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Other names the charity is known by

Scouts Stretford					
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Registered charity number (if any)

5	2	1	6	7	5
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HQ registration number

1	0	0	0	1	9	2	7
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Charity's principal address

9 Poppywood Avenue							
West Timperley, Altrincham							
Cheshire							
Postcode	W	A	1	4	5	Y	U

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity
(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	David Maltby	Chair	
2	Brian Thorpe	Treasurer	
3	Matthew Osborne	Lead Volunteer	
4	Eve Gerrard	Youth Lead	
5	Mun-Kit Choy	Appointed Trustee	
6	Jennie Wadsworth	Appointed Trustee	
7	Glenis Hoskins	Appointed Trustee	
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)
(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Secretary	Patricia Whaites	9 Poppywood Ave, Cheshire. WA14 5YU

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The District's governing documents are those of the 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.

How the charity is constituted

(e.g. trust, association, company)

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

Trustee selection methods

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

Policies and procedures adopted for:

- a) the induction and training of trustees;
- b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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 Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and 5 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees, and 3 Appointed Trustees) and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Being a Scouts Trustee' learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This 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

Using a process of risk management, the District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed. These risks have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate against them. The main risk areas identified and their mitigations are: -

Damage or deterioration of equipment due to age or misuse. The District regularly updates the inventory of District owned equipment and makes inspections before use. In the event of a loss of equipment, requests to use equipment from neighbouring organisations or hiring from companies would be made.

The District carries sufficient funds to replace consumable equipment on a regular basis and sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

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.

Reduced income from fund raising. The District is entirely reliant upon income from a levy applied to national membership fees and occasional fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities for approximately 2-years should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District on an ongoing 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. The Trustees actively continually recruit volunteers into vacant positions. If there was a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level that results in poor or gaps in governance, the District would seek to initially engage support from the County. In the worst case scenario the District would come under the governance trusteeship of the County until such time additional volunteers can be recruited..

Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 24. If there was a reduction in membership affecting a particular District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the impacted District.

Loss of financial control and financial mismanagement. The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments, a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered, budget control over spend in line with agreed terms and strong accountancy control.

Section C	Objectives and activities
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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

In 2023, we made a positive difference to four young people attending the 25 WSJ in Korea, enabling them to grow in confidence and be empowered in making positive contributions to society. Our youth membership has increased across all the 4-18 youth sections by +36 to 573 and we have been able start offering training to complete expedition requirements that will enable youth members to complete their top awards. We are supporting our volunteer learning by helping volunteers to fulfill their mandatory learning obligations and provide safe enjoyable indoor and outdoor activities where everyone gains Skills For Life.

Additional details of the objectives and activities

Our District is functioning, and viable but needs attention. Ensuring we have strong Districts and a strong district team continues to be a priority and will be the main focus over the next 2 years whilst continuing to offer excellent scouting opportunities for our young people. During this time, we will rely on organised county, regional and national events to support our programmes rather than diverting resources to organise events at the expense of growth and development projects and activities. Our current volunteers are our hero's and we will support and recognise them at every opportunity.

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 the main achievements of the charity during the year

We have grown overall in the District with increases in numbers in the period Jan 2023 to Jan 2024 in all youth sections except Scout Network where we saw a slight fall. Our youth numbers overall are +36 to 573. We had a small decrease in Adult volunteer numbers of -3 to 153. Giving an overall total increase of +33 to 726. This is almost back to pre-pandemic high of 743 but the increase is mainly in youth membership rather than adult volunteers. We have work to do to grow our adult volunteer number and enjoy increased success in top award achievement. This will be achieved by growing Districts and supporting Districts at the Squirrel and Beaver Scout age and supporting our young leaders/adults in the 14-24 age range. These focus areas will be our priority through to 2026.

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

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 hold a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs, circa £8000 to £10 000.

The District held reserves of approximately £10 300 against this at year end. This is slightly above the level required for operating expenses. However this can be explained by anticipated increases in future training spend required to support transformation and up-lift in first response requirement as well, general trend in higher inflationary rises.

Quantify and explain any designations

This is continuously reviewed by the trustees on an annual basis and decisions to return excessive reserves into the current budget to benefit the charities aims will be made.

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

No funds are in or close to being in deficit

Further financial review details

Lonsdale Explorer Scouts, subscriptions and activities flowing through the District account represents most of the transactional activity within the District accounts.

Lonsdale Explorers finances flow through the District account and income of £347 for misc events and £2590 for subs was collected in the year against running costs of £677.34. After deductions for capitation fees their net surplus on the year was £781.82.

The following major items of income and expenditure are as follows: -

Camps Archery and Swimming income of £1234 was all in respect of Lonsdale Explorers activities. Expenditure was made up of £317.09 archery equipment, £472.50 swimming gala costs and £1328.91 Explorer camp costs.

Bank/Gocardless fees of £168.18 are all in respect of Lonsdale Explorers payment collection costs.

Badges income and expenditure over the period remains broadly in line with the prior years value, reflecting the continued activity of Scouting in the District. Net expenditure over income was £292.44, it should be noted though that a bulk purchase of District badges was made.

The highest value transactions flowing through the accounts however are for annual capitation fees paid to County office which in turn are funded by the various Districts within the District. Capitation fees paid out to County office totalled £27693.50 against income from Districts totalling £27464.50. The District levy to Districts generates £2855.00 which represents the Districts source of income to support operating costs. The accounts show a net revenue of £229.00 as some District capitation settlements were late and have fallen into 2024/25.

Net training expenditure for the year was £295.50 which is entirely down to First Aid training.

The £10,000.00 fund held on deposit with headquarters was returned in the year and this has now been re-invested in a 30 day notice deposit account with Lloyds Bank with the balance at year end showing £10298.89

The District Network account remains dormant. There have been no meetings or events held and no recorded funds have flowed in or out of accounts thus balances remain as stated.

Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District therefore adopts a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

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 doing so the District Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F Other Optional Information


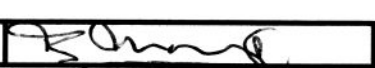
Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

In the coming year, the district is to start planning an international event for 14-24 taking place in 2026. We will prioritise supporting District development and growth for those in the greatest need. We will ensure we have adequately qualified individuals to validate first response learning for all.
 We need to grow the number of volunteers in key district roles and support Districts through the national transformation. We also will increase the number of top awards gained in 14-24 ages.

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)	DAVID MAHBY	MALISLIAN THORPE
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	131024	

Stretford District Scout Council
BALANCE SHEET 2023/24

REG. CHARITY No. 521675

ASSETS AS AT 01/04/23	£	ASSETS AS AT 31/03/24	£
Cash in Hand	26.58	Cash in Hand	21.83
Current Account	11006.89	Current Account	11080.95
Scout Investment Account	10000.00	Scout Investment Account	10298.89
District Network	657.09	District Network	657.09
Badge Account Cash	361.59	Badge Account Cash	306.90
Surplus on Year	313.51	Deficit on Year	
TOTAL	<u>£ 22,365.66</u>	TOTAL	<u>£ 22,365.66</u>

Badge Account

	£
Cash at 01/04/23	361.59
Expenditure	4,605.07
Donation from Main Account	200.00
Expenses	0.00
Sales	4,350.38
Cash at 31/03/24	306.90

Stock

Stock at 01/04/23	1,934.97
Stock at 31/03/24	2,249.67

N.B. Stock has no net realisable value as an asset for reporting in Balance Sheet

Stretford District Network Scouts
BALANCE SHEET 2023/24

REG. CHARITY No. 521675

ASSETS AS AT 01/04/23	£	ASSETS AS AT 31/03/24	£
Cash in Hand	120.94	Cash in Hand	120.94
Current Account	536.15	Current Account	536.15
Surplus on Year	0.00	Deficit on Year	0.00
TOTAL	<u>£657.09</u>	TOTAL	<u>£657.09</u>

Stretford District Scout Council
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDING 31/03/2024

	INCOME	INCOME		EXPEND	EXPEND	NETT
	2023/24	2022/23		2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
	£	£		£	£	£
1 District Service & Parades	-	-	1 District Service & Parades	27.50	-	-27.50
2 Camps, Archery & Swimming	1,234.00	3,337.14	2 Camps, Archery & Swimming	2,118.50	4,324.19	-884.50
3 Badge Receipts	-	-	3 Badge Receipts	-	-	0.00
4 Bank/Gocardless fees	-	-	4 Bank/Gocardless fees	168.18	248.47	-168.18
5 Postage, Printing etc	-	-	5 Postage, Printing etc	-	337.94	0.00
6 Annual General Meeting	-	-	6 Annual General Meeting	-	-	0.00
7 Badge Secretary's Expenses	-	-	7 Badge Secretary's Expenses	-	-	0.00
8 Badges	4,350.38	2,958.86	8 Badges	4,642.82	2,852.57	-292.44
9 Commissioner & Officer Exp	-	-	9 Commissioner & Officer Exp	4.75	-	-4.75
10 Equipment	-	-	10 Equipment	-	-	0.00
11 Capitation	27,464.50	25,750.50	11 Capitation	27,693.50	24,691.50	-229.00
12 Insurance	-	-	12 Insurance	337.74	310.07	-337.74
13 Interest	293.46	42.12	13 Interest	-	-	293.46
14 Donation	200.00	-	14 Donation	200.00	-	0.00
15 Training	51.00	-	15 Training	346.50	309.00	-295.50
16 Activities	-	-	16 Activities	-	-	0.00
17 Big Lottery Fund	-	-	17 Big Lottery Fund	-	-	0.00
18 Fund Raising Activity	-	-	18 Fund Raising Activity	-	-	0.00
19 District Explorers	347.00	922.50	19 District Explorers	677.34	1,195.27	-330.34
20 District Explorer Subs	2,590.00	3,026.00	20 District Explorer Subs	-	-	2,590.00
21 District Network	-	-	21 District Network	-	-	0.00
Deficit for Year			Surplus for Year	313.51	1,768.11	-313.51
TOTAL	£ 36,530.34	£ 36,037.12	TOTAL	£ 36,530.34	£ 36,037.12	



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

STRETFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31/3/2024

Charity no (if any)

521675

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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:

Stephen E. Wood

Date:

29/6/24

Name:

STEPHEN FRANK WOOD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

BSc (Hons) DEGREE IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

Address:

79, ROSENEATH ROAD, URMSTON
MANCHESTER M41 5AY.

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.