Scouts Worcester

Annual Report 2025-26

Report from the Trustee Board

I am happy to say that 2025-26 has once again been a successful year for Scouting in Worcester, with a variety of engaging activities for our young people and leaders to get involved in.

In our work this year, the trustee board has been sure to align with the aims and objectives of the District Operational Team. In particular, we have been continuing to build up our equipment stockpile to increase the variety of activities we can provide. This has included improving our inventory systems to simplify groups' access to this equipment. Alongside this, we have reviewed our support funding process to try and reduce the barrier of cost to any members of the movement hoping to engage with any activities.

The trustee board has put a lot of work in continuing and improving on our oversight of all district activities over the last 12 months. This has included reviewing a number of our policies, as well as drafting some to cover areas we previously did not. We are also conducting a full review of our risk register to ensure it comprehensively reflects all district operations. We have also reviewed some of our financial control measures to ensure we have a thorough understanding of the financial status of all activities whilst maintaining a balance between the treasurer's governance and operational responsibilities.

Moving forward, the district trustee board is exploring the different ways that we can support group trustee boards and support governance across the District. So far this has included opening more direct lines of communication and attending meetings to support their trustees directly. This is further supported by signposting resources from TSA and the recruitment efforts of our Volunteer Development team. We are continuing to review what support we are able to offer, including potential networking opportunities to promote mutual support.

I would like to thank all members of the trustee board for their continued support of scouting across the city.

Callum Walters

District Chair - Scouts Worcester

On Behalf of the Worcester District Scout Council Trustee Board

Report from the District Lead Volunteer

Brian Jenkins - District Lead Volunteer

The district continues to go from strength to strength with groups continuing to provide many opportunities for our young members. Safety and Safeguarding compliance throughout the district is excellent and I thank all volunteers for their commitment to keeping up with this training to help ensure the safety of our young people and fellow volunteers. DBS (disclosure and barring service) compliance is also practically 100%, an excellent statistic. First Response training remains a challenge, but there has been great progress over the year using the online training for Module 10A and more F2F sessions for 10B and validation.

Throughout the year, Kim Carwardine (9th W), Helen Russell (20th W), Alison Haines (8th W), and Paul Carpenter (2nd W) concluded their GL duties, following many years of dedicated service. We extend our sincere appreciation for their commitment to these roles. We also mourn the loss of Chris Margettes (10th W), a respected member of GL, who passed away following a short illness. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his family and fellow volunteers.

Recognition of Service

We continue to recognise years of service within the district with sixteen five-year service, nine ten-year service, five fifteen-year service, two twenty-year service, five twenty-five-year service and finally one forty-year service. We have also had several commendation awards during the year.

Membership Overview

Although there has been a reduction of 2.5% in young member numbers there has been an impressive 20.6% growth in adult volunteers, aligning with the district adult recruitment plan. These encouraging results underscore effective recruitment and a welcoming district culture. The influx of new adult volunteers has invigorated the group with enthusiasm and fresh perspectives, boosting support for youth members and expanding the range of activities and opportunities offered by the district.

District Team

We have maintained a very active district team covering many aspects of the district day to day operations including planning of our biannual district camp. A big thank you for all their dedication during the year.

Looking Ahead

The district has established a robust foundation and is well-prepared for sustained growth and innovation in the upcoming year. Initiatives are being implemented to expand youth programs, enhance community collaborations, and provide ongoing support to both new and current members throughout their development.

Report from the District Events Team

Meg Larner - District Events Lead

Over the past year, Scout Worcester has delivered a fantastic programme of events that brought together fun, learning, and adventure for young people of all ages. We kicked off in September 2025 with a lively Beaver Air Activities day at RAF Museum Cosford earning our Stage 2 Air Activities badges. October saw the first fishing sessions for Explorers followed by Beavers. A group of Scouters working towards their KSA ran a JOTI/JOTA day for the Scout section and we rounded off the month with the now annual Squirrel/Beaver Bonfire. Cubs also enjoyed a Board Games Day in November and we began gathering leader feedback on the plans taking shape for DC26.

As we moved into 2026, events continued to build momentum. Scouts participated in the international Jambowlree bowling challenge in January, strengthening cross District teamwork in a fun and competitive setting. In March, Cubs travelled to Ridgeway for a day of outdoor adventure, tackling activities like human table football, rifles and archery. The summer term was packed with the highlight of DC26 being a firm favourite among many young people. Explorers had an especially active summer term, taking on gliding, Stand-Up Paddleboarding and an epic Water Fight evening. These events reflect the diversity and spirit of Scouting in Worcester, where young people continue to build skills for life in safe, inclusive, and adventurous settings.

It has been a fantastic year of fun, learning, and growth across Scouts Worcester. Every event – from small section meetings to large-scale activities – has contributed to building confidence, resilience, and friendships among our young people.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all volunteers, leaders, helpers, parents, and supporters who made these events possible. Your time, passion, and commitment are what keep Scouting in Worcester thriving.

We look forward to an even more exciting year ahead!

Report from the Explorers Team

Mat Richardson-Jack - District Explorers Lead

2025/26 has been a year of packed programmes being delivered across Worcester's nine Explorer Scout Units. District-led events have included an evening of gliding near Stratford, a day of fishing near Wichenford, and the waterfight at Ridgeway Farm. Congratulations to all of our members who achieved their Top Awards this year – Chief Scout's Awards, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and Young Leader Belts.

Priorities for the year ahead include:

- Strengthening collaboration between Worcester's Explorer Scout Units.
- Supporting further success in Top Awards.
- Enhancing delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- Building on the success of the Young Leader Scheme.
- Ensuring every Explorer Scout has the opportunity to participate in an exciting and challenging programme.

These priorities will be supported by the new Explorer Scout programme, launched in June 2026, which brings a refreshed approach to activity badges, six new Challenge Awards and a new visual identity for the Explorer Scout section. With this strong foundation, together with a dedicated team of volunteers and enthusiastic young people, the year ahead promises continued growth, adventure and achievement. We look forward to building on this year's successes and ensuring that every Explorer Scout in Worcester has the opportunity to gain Skills for Life through fun, challenge and unforgettable experiences.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to every volunteer who gives their time and energy to make these opportunities possible. Their dedication ensures that Explorer Scouts across Worcester continue to enjoy an exciting programme and gain Skills for Life.

Report from the Network Team

Steven Eddies - District Network Lead

Black Pear Network have had an adventurous year, with two international Explorer Belt expeditions, a week in Edinburgh, King's Scout Award expeditions via paddleboard (supported by 5th Worcester), and several members on County's Costa Rica trip and World Scout Moot. They started regular chilled social activities on Sunday evenings, and continued a wide variety of other activities and smaller camps, from podcasting to Dungeons and Dragons to canoe adventures. Between them, they achieved 6 King's Scout Awards, 3 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, and 4 Explorer Belt Awards.

Looking ahead to 2026, they're planning a week in Norfolk in the Summer, King's Scout Award expeditions in the Autumn, and already thinking about an Interrail adventure for 2027. In the meantime, there's plenty of everyday Scouting happening with a Network twist, including mixology, trips to IKEA, book club, day walks, venue maintenance, and terrarium making. They're also looking to build closer links with Explorers over the next year, as well as completing their 26 in 26 awards for working through an alphabet of activities this year.

Constitution and Charitable Aims

The full name of the charity is ‘Worcester District Scout Council’ and the charity registration number is 524644. The charity is an educational charity established in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association. The District Scout Council has adopted the standard constitution recommended in chapter 5 of POR and adopted the necessary associated resolutions, e.g. quorum for meetings.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

As defined in POR, 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.

This 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 give young people skills for life.

Trustees - 2025-2026

Ex-Officio

Brian Jenkins - District Lead Volunteer
Charles Schofield - District Youth Lead

Appointed

Callum Walters - Chair
Andy Hopkins - Treasurer
Carol Silvester
Owen Williams
Sue Ranscombe

Financial Report

For the Financial Year Ended 31st March 2026

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the financial activities and position of the Worcester District Scouts for the financial year 2025/2026, covering the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The aim is to present a clear and concise summary of our financial health, highlighting key income and expenditure streams, and our overall financial stability.

Key Highlights

The Worcester District Scouts has maintained a sound financial position throughout the 2025/2026 financial year, allowing us to continue supporting our groups and providing high-quality Scouting experiences. We saw a flatline in our membership subscriptions, though a decrease in income due to an alternative payment plan arranged with one group due to extenuating circumstances. We have a deficit with international trips due to income being received in the previous financial accounting period. To spread the cost for young people most deposits and payment plans had started before the trips that happen in this financial year, Denmark and Belgium respectively. This deficit was planned into our cashflow and noted in the previous years accounts.

Income Summary

Our income for the year was primarily derived from the following sources:

- **Membership Subscriptions:** The primary source of income, reflecting the strength of our membership across the District.
- **Grants and Donations:** We were fortunate to receive a grant from Worcestershire County Council.
- **Badge Sales:** Income taken from the sale of Scout badges, primarily to local groups. This income primarily goes towards our support fund.

Expenditure Summary

Expenditure for the year was carefully managed to ensure maximum benefit for our young people. Covering essential operational costs and maintaining our cost neutral approach to District-level activities:

- **District Activities & Events:** Costs associated with District camp as well as district events for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.
- **Equipment & Resources:** Purchase and maintenance of District equipment.
- **Container ground rent**: For storing the district equipment safely and securely
- **Administration & Insurance:** Essential costs for District administration.

Financial Position

As detailed in the accounts, our financial position remains robust, with healthy reserves providing stability and security for future operations. We are able to fulfil our reserve policy which is fixed at 15k minimum for the year

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Worcester District Scout Council		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	524644
Set out on pages	1		

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 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.

Signed:	S Wise	**Date:**	04/09/2026
Name:	Sandra Wise		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	CIPFA		
Address:	124 Beaumont Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2DX		

Scouts
Worcester

Worcester District Scout Council, working name Scouts Worcester, is a registered charity with the registration number 524644. The recognised address for the charity is Scout Association, Norton Road, Worcester, WR5 3BB.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Worcester District Scout Council	524644

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01/04/2025	To	31/03/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Net Membership subscriptions	11,063	-	-	11,063	14,465
Sundry Income	1,091	-	-	1,091	49
Grants & Donations	2,854	-	-	2,854	1,500
Club Income	113,938	-	-	113,938	78,960
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	128,946	-	-	128,946	94,974
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	3
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	3
Total receipts	128,946	-	-	128,946	94,977
A3 Payments					
District Expenses	108,573	-	-	108,573	22,415
Direct Expenses	5,463	-	-	5,463	2,179
Trip & Parade Expenses	41,465	-	-	41,465	41,435
Equipment	2,027	-	-	2,027	4,195
Other Support and Services	1,237	-	-	1,237	1,036
Software	506	-	-	506	1,082
Insurance	352	-	-	352	414
Rent and Hire	3,102	-	-	3,102	3,036
Training, Travel, Donations, Secretarial, Stationery & Bank Charges	1,281	-	-	1,281	8,182
Sub total	164,006	-	-	164,006	83,974
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total		-	-	-	-
Total payments	164,006	-	-	164,006	83,974
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 35,060	-	-	- 35,060	11,003
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	81,134	-	-	81,134	70,127
Cash funds this year end	46,074	-	-	46,074	81,130

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Lloyds - Main Account	38,228	-	-
OSM - Expense Cards	7,642	-	-
Stripe accounts	204	-	-
Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	46,074	-	-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	B JENKINS	21/8/26
	CALLUM WALTERS	24/8/26