

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

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 to end date

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Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Slemish District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1 0 3 7 3 7 | | |

HQ registration number

| | | | | | |

Charity's principal address

49 BALLYBOLLEN ROAD						
BALLYMENA						
Co. ANTRIM						
Postcode	B	T	4	2	2	R F

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1		District Chair	
2	Steven Millar	District Commissioner	
3	Alex Chestnutt	District Treasurer	
4	Bill McCullough	Deputy District Commn	
5	Leslie Carswell	Deputy District Commn	
6		District Secretary	
7	Eugene Neeson	Nominated	
8	Sam Wilson	Nominated	
9	Edwin Mitchell	Nominated	
10	Ellie Hughes	Nominated (under 25)	
11	David McConkey	Elected	
12	Aaron Coates	Elected	
13	Danny Bryson	Elected	
14	Victoria Walker	Elected	
15	Adam Bond	Elected	
16	Paul Houston	Elected	
17	Helen Weir	ADC Beavers	
18	Heather Clarke	ADC Cubs	
19	Mark Dick	ADC Scouts	
20	Michel Balmer	ADC Exploters	
21	Adam Gault	ADC Activities	
22	Andy Clarke	ADC PR	

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

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.

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted

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

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods

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

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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

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

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, 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.

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 Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (Chair & Secretary currently vacant) together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and others with required skills / knowledge, and meets every four months.

Members of the Executive Committee complete '*Essential Information for Executive Committee*' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This District Executive Committee exists to support the Groups in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:
The maintenance of District property;
The raising of funds and the administration of District finance;
The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
District public occasions;
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.

Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee 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 that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. 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 the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Additional accident insurance is provided at District level for Occasional Helpers not covered by the Scout Association policy.

Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group 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. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section Group or the 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 Group in the District.

Reduction or loss of members. Groups provide 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 then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Risk and Internal Control

The group 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 cheques and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

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

Slemish District has 13 Groups within the District with a total membership of 764 including 542 members are under 18. This represents a 7% increase on last year following the severe dip caused by Covid 19. While there was a limited District programme of activities and events due further waves of Covid 19 in Spring and Autumn 2021, Scouting began returning to normality with 'face to face' Scouting. Each of the Groups within the District were active within the restrictions placed on them, and many young people were able to gain the top awards across the Sections

Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- contribution made by volunteers;
- policy on investments.

The District supported Groups in the development of leaders to facilitate programmes for the development of their members by funding all training costs.

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

The 12 months in this reporting period have continued to be challenging for everyone. All Groups resumed 'face to face' Scouting in the Spring / Summer of 2021, but many had to stop again due to the lockdowns and further waves of Covid 19 in the Autumn and Winter. In addition, ongoing financial pressures at Group level, and some adult Leaders not returning have added to the challenge. The District and most of the Groups in it availed of the very generous financial support made available from the Education Authority to 'kick start' youth programmes by purchasing equipment, holding summer camps, and organising activity days or other events for members. Many of these took place at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre and Brackenhill Activity Centre. At District level, a very successful and enjoyable canoe expedition through the Great Glen in Scotland was attended by 21 Explorers and a team of adult leaders in August. Four young people from the District have been selected to represent Scouts NI at the 2023 World Jamboree in South Korea, along with 6 adult leaders who will also attend as part of the International Service Team. The Squirrel Section officially join the Scout Association in September 2021, and there are 4 thriving Drey's enjoying exciting and fun programmes within Slemish District.

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 or there would be an unexpected financial demand. Work is ongoing to identify needs and utilise restricted funds in the spirit of which they were originally donated.

Quantify and explain any designations

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

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Further financial review details (optional information)

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

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives

The District Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances, interest rates received and returns from investments to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its investment arrangements.

Section F Other Optional Information

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

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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

<i>Steven Millar</i>	<i>L Carswell</i>
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Full name(s)

Steven Millar	Leslie Carswell
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

District Commissioner	Deputy District Commissioner
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Date

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