Wiltshire North District Scout Council

ANNUAL TRUSTEE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ending

31st March 2025

Charity Number
305942

Wiltshire North District Scout Council

Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2025

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 small decline in youth members aged 4 to 14 years, to 783 (down from 798 in 2024), whereas growth still seen in Explorer/Network numbers to 131 (121 in 2024). The decline in 4-14 year olds is within normal variations as young people age up to the next section. Volunteers were 267, a small decline from last year. The District has opened 1 scout troop, 1 cub packs and 1 squirrel drey, which have provided capacity for growth.

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 £3,000. The District held free reserves of £10,819 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 £2,410 • A Restricted Fund totalling £2,201 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 • District Lead Volunteer • Treasurer • District Scout Youth Lead Volunteer • District 14-24 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	J Purkis	Chair	Resigned 1st February 2025
2	G Livingston	District Lead Volunteer	Resigned 31st Jan 2025
3	E Brandley	District Lead Volunteer	Appointed 31st Jan 2025
4	E Bennett	Treasurer	Appointed 1st Feb 2025. Role vacant prior to this date
	Nominated		
5	J Coombs	14-24 Team Lead	Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
6	C Butson	Group Lead Volunteer Representative	Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
7	T Roberts		Resigned 31st Dec 2024
8	M Dando		Nominated for 3 years in July 2024
	Co-opted		
9	G Livingston		co-opted 20th Mar 2025
10	A Stovell		co-opted 20th Mar 2025

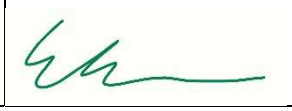
Name and address of advisor

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	13 July 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name: WILTSHIRE NORTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended 31/03/2025 **Charity no (If any)** 305 942

Set out on pages (insert box 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 31/03/2025.

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:** 10/6/25

Name: CHRISTOPHER DAVID WATCHMAN

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

(if any):	
Address:	WATCHMAN ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED 48 The Causeway, Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 3DD Company No: 13600618 Email: chris@watchmanaccountants.com Tel: 01249 659369

Section B	**Disclosure**
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	