Do more.

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Be more.

Look at what we’ve achieved together

Lambeth District Scout Council Annual Report 2019-2020

SkillsForLife ****

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**Lambeth District Scout Council report 2019-202**

**Structure, governance and management**

Lambeth District’s (“The District”) 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 District is a trust established under rules which are common to all Scouts. It is an excepted Charity under Charity Commission rules

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

The Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are

the ‘Charity Trustees’ of the 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 Committee consists of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary together with the

District Commissioner and up to 12 other members. Of the 12 other members half are

elected by the District Scout Council and the other half are nominated by the District

Commissioner and approved by the District Scout Council both at the AGM. 2 of these members (1 elected and 1 nominated) shall be representative of the young people of the District and should be aged 18 – 25 years old

The Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the

responsibilities of their appointment and is responsible for:

• The maintenance of any District property;

• The development of the District;

• The training of leaders and administrators in conjunction with the Local Training Manager;

• 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;

The District Executive has one principal sub-committee to assist with these responsibilities; the Appointments Sub Committee is Chaired by Courtney Jewell, with the assistance of the Appointments Secretary Margaret Merrall. They meet as required.

The Executive itself meets quarterly, or more often if required.

**Membership of the District Executive 2018-19**

Chairman Bert Newman

Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Ian Andrews (Acting) – resigned 31.3.20

 Jackie Hanwell – co-opted 1.4.20

Elected members Nominated members

Gillian Crampton Sue Byiers-Oldfield

Maureen Downs Jackie Hanwell

Barbara Parsons Courtney Jewell

Cheryl Stonebridge Keith Merrall

Roger Whittle

18 – 25 Emma Hutcheson 18-25 (Vacant)

Ex Officio

Wendy Hutcheson (DC)

Martyn Bain (County Chair)

Darren Lodge (CC)

Matt Foster (DESC)

**Report of the District Scout Council**

Growth, sustainability and development have continued to be the key issues for the District in the past year. The incremental increases in numbers since 2013 has continued within Lambeth. This is a great achievement for all involved. The development of young people in our District is paramount and it is heart-warming to be in a position to encourage the growth of new groups.

As at the census in January 2020 we showed an increase across the board

Beavers up by 8 to 178

Cubs up by 1 to 284

Scouts up by 69 to 334

Explorers up by 12 to 70

Total membership up by 93 across all youth and adult membership at a total of 1087 members and supporters – excellent numbers.

It is a credit to everyone involved that we are not only maintaining stable numbers, but that in most cases we are growing. In what will be a theme throughout this report and the AGM however volunteers are always needed and very welcome – we are a team in Lambeth not lots of individuals “doing their own thing”

We need to maintain and build on what we have achieved so far. We still have a number of Groups that need substantial support to ensure their existence, as well as their development and growth. We are working closely with the County Development Officer – Matthew Butterfield, and with the Regional Development Service to ensure we have the best approach for each individual Group. This is never easy and needs to handled sensitively and with commitment from all concerned.

Part of the Executive remit is providing support for leaders. In particular we need to continue to support GSL’s in providing good quality Scouting in Lambeth, looking at Groups where there is no executive support, where numbers remain low or are below minimum standard and where help is identified as being needed. Groups need to work with the executive to help identify needs – there are various processes available to us, and Matt Butterfield and Wendy as our DC, along with the executive will work with Groups to do a group healthcheck and identify where help needs to be targeted.

The District Executive Committee continues to meet regularly, working hard to carry out the trustee role placed on its members effectively, responsibly, with due care and consideration. Our thanks go to Wendy Hutcheson who, as DC, leads the Executive and works tirelessly for the District and our young people. It is an enormous commitment to be DC and it’s important that the District supports Wendy in her efforts. The Executive have ensured the financial stability of the District and worked to ensure all events are self-financing. The District accounts form part of this report. Ian Andrews has worked incredibly hard as our Acting Treasurer and we are very grateful to him for his careful stewardship of the District finances. Ian stepped down on the 31st March, and Jackie Hanwell has stepping into the role of treasurer for the present and has kept the accounts “ticking over” – thank you to her for taking this on and maintaining the books

The Executive has run without the assistance of a secretary for the last year and we are still looking to fill this important role – any one interested please talk to us and we can let you know whats involved.

The Appointments subcommittee meets when required to ensure that adults looking for new or amended roles are passed through the appointments process as quickly as possible. To achieve this they **need** the support of the existing leaders in the District to support new adults, and to ensure that the necessary documentation and paperwork is passed to the appointments secretary in a **timely manner** to enable the committee to continue with its work. Please do ensure that the correct documents are provided and ensure that the paperwork is completed **correctly** before passing it to the Appointments Secretary, this will ensure all paperwork can be processed in a timely manner without delays. Thanks to the team of members of the committee who continue the vital role of ensuring adults can start in their roles. The Appointments Secretary post is now vacant and has been managed by Wendy for the present – but this can not continue!; so if you feel that you could take this role on, or know someone that might be willing please speak with Wendy for more details.

The District Management Team continues to meet providing support for Groups in terms of District Events, skills, badge events and offering general support; led by Hannah Crampton ADC (Programme Support) and Roger Whittle ADC (Activities). Matt Foster is DESC working with Explorer Units across the District. As we said last year the District team will continue to support the sections, but they **do need your support** in identifying what is wanted and needed in the District.

The new District Website has been developed, led by Wendy and Emma Hutcheson. This is a very exciting project, it’ll make Lambeth District easier to find, there will be bespoke contact details for leaders and information for prospective new joiners, and while the website is still being developed it is now live. We would encourage all of you to take a look at it.

The executive is also determined to clear out our District Store this year. A date will be set and more details will follow however we do need many volunteers to help us clear and catalogue everything in the store. The more volunteers we have the less time it will take to clear.

At the end of March we saw what had led to a fateful 6 months hiatus from face to face scouting with all meetings being suspended on the 17th March due to the COVID-19 outbreak and pandemic. IT has meant that leaders have had to deal with a stressful time, adapting to new ways of working and delivering Scouting to our members – I think all the adults who have tried it are pretty good with Zoom now!

The County have been a great support to helping provide information and activities for use during lock down and Matt produced a fantastic resource with the Adventures at Home badges, TaskMaster challenges and the 6 week of Summer challenges – Thank You Matt for helping to make what has been a trying time for all of us a little easier and for all the 100’s of hours that producing that lot must have taken. We do appreciate it.

As we move on we are now in a position of Groups starting to return to face to face meetings and the DC’s inbox of Risk Assessments must be seen to be believed I think!

In conclusion we have had an eventful year, with triumphs outweighing disappointments. We look forward to a far better 2021 and building on those successes.

Without the adults in the District none of what you read about, hear about or any of the events across the District could take place. So to all adults, be you leaders, supporters, trustees or parents – THANK YOU.

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