

Lambeth District Scouts

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1 April 2025-31 March 2026

Section A – Reference and administration details

Charity name Lambeth District Scouts

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Chair Alan Walker

Treasurer Jackie Hanwell

Minutes Hannah Crampton

Appointed members

Cheryl Stonebridge Emma Hutcheson Jimmy Weekly

Rosemary Merricks Gillian Crampton

Appointed 18-25 members

Jamie Francis

Ex Officio members

Konrad Bishop District Lead Volunteer

Remy Maxwell-Thompson District Lead Volunteer

Ben Stewart-Tomkins District Youth Lead

Honorary members

Keith Merrall President

Keith Hill (MP for Streatham 1992-2010) Vice President

The County Chair and County Lead Volunteer are entitled to attend Trustee Board meetings but neither have done so during 2025-26.

Section B - Structure, governance and management

The governing documents of Lambeth District (“The District”) 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 (“POR”)

Every Group, District, and County in England and Wales must register with the Charity Commission for England and Wales if at least one of these conditions is true:

1. Their annual income exceeds £100,000.
2. They own land or buildings and have an annual income of £5,000 or more.
3. They have a permanent endowment (a rare interest in land or assets that cannot be spent as income) and an annual income of £5,000 or more.

Because none of these conditions apply to Lambeth District, the District is an unincorporated charity established under rules which are common to all Scouts. It is an excepted Charity under The Charities (Exception of Certain Charities for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from Registration) Regulations 1961.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Governance of the District is the responsibility of the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the District, which is an educational charity.

As with all charity Trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. In England and Wales, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2022 apply and the charity regulator is the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

To quote directly from the POR (extracts from section 5b):

“Charities exist to fulfil their charitable purposes. Trustees must understand the environment in which the charity is operating and lead the charity in fulfilling its purposes as effectively as possible with the resources available. To do otherwise would be failing beneficiaries, funders and supporters.

The Trustees must collectively: a) ensure that the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit b) comply with the charity’s governing document and the law c) act in the charity’s best interests d) manage the charity’s resources responsibly e) act with reasonable care and skill f) ensure the charity is operating in compliance with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in POR Chapter 2a”

The team description for a Trustee Board is as follows:

“The District Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy,

performance and assurance, working to ensure that the District is meeting The Scout Association's overall aims and strategic goals.

Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life."

All Trustees are equally responsible, but they might decide to split the tasks between them.

Trustees work together to make sure Groups, Districts, and Counties:

Manage money well

- Have enough money for now and in the future. This means having a reserves policy and making sure fundraising takes place, if it's needed.
- Have a budget in place. Trustees then agree how to manage the budget with other volunteer teams.
-

Follow Scouts policies and relevant legislation

- Follow POR, key policies (including safety, safeguarding, data protection, and equality, diversity and inclusion), and charity regulations.
- Follow employment law if staff are employed, and act as a responsible employer in line with relevant legislation and Scout values. Make sure effective line management is in place for each staff member, which can be delegated to others.
- Create Trustees Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
- Have Statement of Accounts audited by an appropriate person before the Annual General Meeting. If they're a registered charity, they'll need to share it with the charity regulator.
- Hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Look after buildings, insurance and property

- Look after records of ownership of property and equipment.
- Have the right insurance for people, buildings, and equipment.
- Make sure buildings and equipment are working well.

Manage risks

- Maintain a risk register and put the right risk mitigations in place.

Help the charity to operate well, today and in the future

- Work with Lead Volunteers to meet their charity aims.
- Champion Our Volunteering Culture, and make sure volunteers are aware of it, reflect on it, commit to it, and apply it in their teams.

In carrying out the above, Trustees also:

- Make sure effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board.
- Make sure records of Trustee Board meetings are kept, and complete any actions that are agreed.
- Run open selection processes for appointing Trustees.

- Co-opt Trustees onto the Board if they need people with particular skills or knowledge.
- Get expert advice, if needed. This could be on health and safety, managing money, buildings, equipment, or employment.
- Network with other Scouts Trustees to share knowledge and experience.

There were 6 Trustee Board meetings held in 2025-26, plus the 2025 AGM.

During the year 2025-26, 4 of these meetings took place in person at the South London Scout Centre, with additional individual attendance on Zoom for those otherwise unable to join.

One meeting took place entirely on Zoom to accommodate scheduling commitments for all participants.

One meeting took place in person at Granton School SW16 – this is the planned location for future Trustee Board meetings.

Our thanks to the whole team at The South London Scout Centre ('The Fort') for facilitating our meetings there, and to Steve Hanwell for facilitating our meeting and meeting plans at Granton School.

The Board has updated its regular Agenda based on the refreshed model Agenda for Trustee meetings which can be found on the County website. Board meetings focus on five key themes:

- Safety & Safeguarding - including training compliance
- Property & Premises - including the minibuss and District Store
- Finance - Treasurers report and Finance decisions
- Policy and Risk updates
- Operational compliance, including GDPR

as well as updates from any sub-committees and an Operational and Support Team update from the DLVs.

It is also recommended that there be an annual review of insurance, the asset register, a risk register, and Gift Aid at the first Trustee Board meeting after an AGM.

Three sub-committees of the 2025-26 Trustee Board met during the year.

- to develop a Risk Register in line with guidance set out by the Charity Commission in their document "Charities and Risk Management (CC26)". This enables the District Trustee Board to identify and monitor the risks to which they believe the District is exposed, and establish systems to mitigate against them. The sub-committee will meet again during the new year 2026-27 to review and update the Risk Register as needed.
- to consider the District minibuss in terms of financial performance, usage and promotion. In summary the vehicle is mechanically sound and has relatively low mileage but is under-used and arguably underpriced, especially for Groups outside

the District, leading to an ongoing loss to the District of approximately £1,200 per year. Pricing for hires from outside the District has already been raised to £55 per day; pricing for Lambeth bookings will rise from £30 to £35 per day from 1 September 2026. The sub-committee will meet again during the new year 2026-27 to review situation with the minibus as needed.

- to review the financial position of the District in terms of uses of District monies, capital expenditure, insurance and provisions for unknown circumstances. District finances are managed for worst case scenarios e.g. to be prepared to cover membership fees for all Groups in case of inability to pay these and to have provision to replace the minibus. District monies can and should be used to support District events to happen. The sub-committee will meet again during the new year 2026-27 to review options to put some of the balances into an interest-bearing deposit account in order to generate some return.

The District Trustee Board is made up as follows:

- Chair and Treasurer
- District Lead Volunteer and District Youth Lead who sit “ex officio” by virtue of the role they hold
- A number of other members, which the Scout Association and the Charity Commission recommend (but do not insist) be capped at 8, to make a total of 12 Board Trustees
- With the aim that at least 2 of the 8 to be aged between 18 and 25 so that the views of our young people are properly represented on the Trustee Board
- Secretary was previously a Trustee role but administrative support can now be provided by a non-Trustee, as it has been to our District for several years

It is important to repeat that as from the 2024 season of AGMs across the Scout Association, Trustees may serve no more than 9 years on any given Trustee Board, and must then spend at least 3 years away from being a Trustee before applying to return, should they wish to. Succession planning will be part of the Trustee Board agenda for consideration during 2026-27.

Section C - Objectives and activities

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 fun of Scouting challenges young people to embark on exciting, new adventures.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - we say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it.

Respect - we listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground.

Care - Scouts are friends to all and think of others before themselves.

Belief - we believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes.

Cooperation - Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.

The Scout Method

Scouting works well when young people enjoy 'learning by doing' working in partnership with adults - taking part in activities and new experiences, exploring the outdoors, participating in teams and taking responsibility.

Our method for giving young people the opportunity to 'learn by doing' is called the programme. The programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that cover everything that young people should do in scouting from the ages of 6 to 25.

The Scout Promise

Scouting has a simple and positive promise that all members are required to make. The promise, together with the scout law, gives a distinctive ethos to the practices of the movement and acts as a bond with scouts in other countries.

Everyone in scouting expresses their membership and acceptance of our scouting values by making the scout promise and following the scout law. Beaver scouts and Cub scouts have their own version of the promise and law, which is relevant for their age.

Public benefit statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship and community development.

Section D - Achievements and performance

Membership

Numbers declared across the District in January 2026 were flat or down in all Sections except Scouts when compared to January 2025 – the total number of members was 925 (827 in 2025) split as follows:

- 108 Beaver Scouts (118 in 2025; 125 in 2024)
- 205 Cub Scouts (214 in 2025; 201 in 2024)
- 276 Scouts (231 in 2025; 233 in 2024)
- 75 Explorer Scouts (98 in 2025; 73 in 2024)
- 261 Adults (166 in 2025)

As always, the Trustee Board extends a big thank you to all our volunteers who work so hard to provide Scouting in our District Groups. The District team is keenly aware of the lower numbers reported in the younger Sections and will be working more closely with Groups to

support recruitment of new Beavers and Cubs, especially important in light of the continuing decline in the numbers of school age young people in the Borough.

Section E - Financial Review

District capitation for 2026 was raised by 50p from 2025 and set at £3. This is in line with the 50p increase in the HQ levy (up from £43 to £43.50) and in the County levy (up from £10 to £10.50).

The District's regular Income and Expenditure continues to be relatively small, but major capital expenditure would be required if the District minibus were to be replaced rather than retired. The District has maintained a low-risk strategy for reserve funds, which are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

A sub-committee of the 2026-27 District Trustee Board will follow up on the 2025-26 Finance Review, including a review of reserve funds and how they are held. A separate sub-committee will review the income, costs and vehicle replacement options for the District minibus.

Thank you to Marco Lecca for his management of minibus bookings, servicing and repairs this year, and thank you to Jackie Hanwell for looking after our District finances.

Section F – Other Optional Information

We look forward to an expanded and varied 2026-27 programme under the continued leadership of Konrad Bishop and Remy Maxwell-Thompson who were appointed as joint District Lead Volunteers in 2025, ably supported by a strong and growing team across the District.

The District will continue to support all Groups in maintaining and deepening their Trustee boards, and will continue to ensure sound finances so that District can support the ongoing development of Scouting in our area.

Without the energy, commitment and skills of our Young Leaders and adults all across the District, none of what you read about, hear about or see and experience across the District could take place. So to all adults - Leaders, supporters, Trustees and parents – THANK YOU.

Section G – Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signature

Full names

Position

Date