

The Scout Association
Northern Ireland Scout Council

Annual Report



for the year ended 31 March 2025



THE ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Letter from the President

80 years ago, as the end of the Second World War was celebrated, our community began to look forward to better times and a fresh new start. Scouting was there at the forefront, with a massive growth in new Scout Groups with many who had served in the war effort joining as Leaders.

Today we have much to be thankful for and as you will find in this Annual Report, Scouting has had another great year.

Good leadership has always been the key to successful programmes and development and in October 2024 we thanked Stephen Donaldson for his great service as Chief Volunteer and then welcomed Stephen Bell to this important role. My thanks to all those who have stepped down from various roles during the year and I wish every success to those who have taken on the challenge of new posts and responsibilities.

I am so appreciative of all those Leaders who gave of their time and talents to help me on my Scouting trail and to those who supported me in my other roles and adventures. So, I must take this opportunity to pay tribute to the commitment and effort of all those involved in Scouts NI, both volunteers and staff, who ensure that the young people of today are still getting a joyous adventure and a worthwhile Scouting experience. It was, as always, a great pleasure to hear of all those adults who received their well-earned Scout Awards this past year and be able to congratulate them at the Presentations in June.

This report shows how the Scout Programme provides challenge and adventure in a framework of safety which was so evident at the Chief Scout's and King's Scout Awards Ceremony in the Belfast City Hall, as we heard of the many achievements of our young people receiving Top Awards.

I and the Scouts NI Team continue to be encouraged by the amount of good will and practical support that Scouting received from the NI community. The financial support through donations, legacies and grants enable us to provide new facilities, programmes, activities and training, so I would thank everyone who have helped us in any way.

On behalf of the NI Scout Council I would offer my deepest sympathy to all the relatives and friends of all those members of our Scout family who sadly passed away during the past year. They will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

So, as you continue to look through this report you will discover that Scouting in Northern Ireland is still vibrant and looking forward to the future of our young people, our Scouts, the community of tomorrow. I do hope that this gives you as much pleasure and encouragement as it has to me. Scouting, enjoying the present and being prepared for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Scott".

Philip Scott
President

Northern Ireland Scout Council

The Scout Association

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

Founder: The Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, OM, GCMG, GCVO, KCB, LLD

Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

Chief Scout: Dwayne Fields

President:	Philip Scott BEM
Vice Presidents	Ian Coates Stephen Donaldson Kenneth Gillespie BEM Colin Lammey DL Wilfred Mulryne OBE George Purdy CBE
Chief Volunteer of Northern Ireland	Stephen Bell
Chair of the Board of Trustees:	Henry Brown
Hon Treasurer:	Gary Proctor
Secretary:	Jonathan Gracey
Bankers:	Ulster Bank Ltd 11-16 Donegall Square East Belfast BT1 5UB
Northern Ireland Registration Number with the Scout Association:	30000
Charity Commission Registration No.	NIC103542
Contact:	Jonathan Gracey Chief Executive The Scout Association Northern Ireland Scout Council 109 Old Milltown Road Belfast BT8 7SP

Northern Ireland Scout Council Membership

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Slemish District

Steven Millar, DLV
Aaron Coates
Declan Larkin (18-24)

Lisburn District

Colin Hewitt, DLV
Paul Clydesdale
Cameron Ringland

South East Antrim District

Carmen Irvine, DLV
Taylor Black (18-24)
Lee Walker (18-24)

Armagh District

Joy Minish, DLV
Caroline Dawson
Hannah McCullough (18-24)

East Belfast District

Gareth McAuley, DLV
Tom Corr
Betty Robb

North Belfast District

Agnes Colgan, DLV
Valerie Gibson

Lagan District

Norman McKee, DLV
Maureen Campbell, DLV
Ian Stewart

North West Belfast District

William Humphrey MBE
Danni Chambers (18-24)

North Down District

Pamela Dunseath, DLV
Chris MacArtney
Mark Hennessy (18-24)

South Down District

Rodney Watson, DLV
John Bradshaw
Taylor Masterson (18-24)

Strangford District

Danielle Markwell, DLV
Maureen Smyth
Adam McCracken (18-24)

Fermanagh District

Rosemary Forde, DLV
Kenny Reilly
Estrella Sanchez Barahona (18-24)

Londonderry District

Stephanie Meikle, DLV
Jean Major
Paul Meikle
Joshua Dripps (18-24)

Tyrone District

Andy Sheen, DLV
Neal Linnegan

Northern Ireland Team

Tracey Ogg, Squirrels
Georgina Huston, Cubs
Trevor Hendren, Scouts
Peter Wilson, 14-24
Vic Wootton, Crawfordsburn
Andrew Stacey, Activities & Activity Permits
Ciaran McGrath, Adult Support
Danielle Markwell, Deputy Adult Support
Stuart Osborne, International
Kayleigh Finlay, Youth (18-24)

Regional Lead Volunteers

Jeanette Allen, North
Scott Robinson, South
Julie Wilson, East
Adam Meikle, West

Sub-Committee and Sub-Group Chairs

Marjorie Guiler, Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee
Ciaran McGrath, Strategy & Delivery Sub-Committee
David Scott, Programme Sub-Group

Nominee of Chief Volunteer

Chris Thompson

NISC Board & Committees, membership meetings and attendance

Executive Committee

Meetings held on

23rd May 2024

18th November 2024

22nd January 2025

Henry Brown 3/3

Marjorie Guiler (from Sept) 2/2

Ciaran McGrath (from Sept) 2/2

Stephen Bell 3/3

Gary Proctor 3/3

Chris Thompson 1/3

Colin Lammey 2/3

Kayleigh Finlay 3/3

Board of Trustees

Meetings held on

13th June 2024

12th September 2024

3rd December 2024

5th March 2025

Stephen Bell 4/4

Henry Brown 4/4

Gary Proctor 2/4

Ciaran McGrath 3/4

Marjorie Guiler (from Sept) 2/2

Chris Thompson 4/4

Colin Lammey 3/4

Anne Nicholson (from Sept) 2/2

James Greer (from Sept) 2/2

Danni Chambers 1/4

Joshua Dripps 4/4

Stephen Mallett 3/4

Grace Owens 3/4

Sasha Barrett-Ferris 0/4

Becca Buchanan 2/4

Jean Major 2/4

Norman McKee 1/4

Kayleigh Finlay 4/4

Strategy and Delivery Sub-Committee

Meetings held on

5th June 2024

26th November 2024

20th February 2025

Chair: Ciaran McGrath (from Sept) 2/2

Stephen Bell 3/3

David Scott 3/3

Kayleigh Finlay 3/3

Norman McKee (from Sept) 1/2

Finance and General Purposes

Meetings held on

16th May 2024

12th September 2024

14th November 2024

5th February 2025

Marjorie Guiler (from Sept) 2/2

Gary Proctor 3/4

Colin Lammey 2/4

Chris Thompson 2/4

Henry Brown 2/4

Stephen Bell (from Sept) 3/3

Joshua Dripps 3/4



Chief Volunteer's Report

I was honoured to take on the role of Chief Volunteer of Northern Ireland in September 2024, following Stephen Donaldson. Throughout his many years of committed service to Scouts NI, Stephen led with integrity and in keeping with our five core values. I have witnessed firsthand his dedication to our Movement and his genuine care for our volunteers and Young People. It has been a privilege to work alongside him and to learn from his example. I thank him sincerely for his friendship and wish him every success in the future.

This year has been one of significant change and progress for Scouts NI. Our Organisation remains focused on growing youth membership, improving volunteer recruitment and retention, and delivering safe high quality Scouting experiences across NI. A major milestone has been the implementation of a new digital membership system. This is a core part of our wider Transformation Journey, designed to improve operational efficiency and communication. The system represents a broader shift towards a digital first approach and supports improvements across recruitment, learning, membership management and volunteer experience. In addition to this, updated safety training was introduced in response to the Prevention of Future Death notice, reinforcing our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the welfare of Young People and volunteers.

One of the most significant changes this year was the transition from the traditional County structure to a new Regional framework. Moving from Counties to four Regions, North, South, East and West, marked a new approach for NI. I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in managing the closure of Counties, a challenging and complex task. In particular, I extend my appreciation to the County Lead Volunteers and their respective Trustee Boards for their commitment during this period. The establishment of the Regional structure has been supported by Regional Lead Volunteers, District Lead Volunteers and volunteers across NI. Their

dedication and collaboration have helped ensure a smooth transition, ensuring that volunteers continue to receive strong support at every level of the Movement.

The Programme Sub-Group led by David Scott has made important contributions through planning long term events that signal the return of large scale Scouting activities, which are vital for youth engagement and the vitality of our Movement. It has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm across the Sub-Group and their commitment to ensuring that Young People across NI have access to a wide range of events. These events will provide valuable opportunities for Young People to develop skills and experience the full breadth of Scouting.



Young People today face a complex and challenging world. Now more than ever, they need access to what Scouting offers. From Group nights to camping and outdoor adventures, Scouting provides an environment where Young People can unlock their potential. Through our programmes, they gain skills for life including leadership, teamwork, resilience and self confidence. These experiences not only help Young People to grow but also empower them to become the best ambassadors our Movement

can have, carrying forward the values of Scouting in their communities and beyond. The work that Volunteers are doing to deliver for our Young People is truly inspiring.



Our Trustee Board has maintained a clear focus on good governance and oversight throughout the year. I would like to acknowledge Henry Brown's time as Chair of the Board of Trustees as he prepares to step down at our Annual General Meeting in September after seven years in the role. I thank him for his service during this period and wish him well for the future. I would also like to thank all of our Trustees for their diligence and guidance throughout the year. Their support has been invaluable in helping both Scouts NI and me in my role as Chief Volunteer.

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do and this year has reinforced the importance of supporting them effectively. Although the move to the Regional model has been demanding, thanks to the commitment of volunteers at all levels it has been managed well. We continue to prioritise volunteer training, development and recognition. The People Sub Group, Chaired by Barbara for the first part of the year, made significant progress in strengthening volunteer support structures and engagement. Barbara's leadership was marked by a collaborative and practical approach that contributed to a positive foundation for future development in this area. Barbara stood down in September, and I would like to thank her for the work she did during her time in the role.

I would also like to recognise our dedicated Staff Team for their hard work and ongoing support to

our volunteers. Their professionalism and commitment are vital to the success of Scouts NI, providing essential operational, administrative and developmental assistance that enables our volunteers to focus on delivering quality Scouting experiences. A key focus this year has been inclusive growth within Scouting in NI. We have made significant strides in increasing access and opportunities, successfully attracting more Young People into Scouting and broadening participation to better reflect the diversity of our communities.



As we move forward, our focus will be on embedding the new digital systems fully, continuing to build and support our volunteer workforce, and delivering inspiring programmes that engage Young People across NI. We remain committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all involved and to strengthening the Organisation's foundations for long term success. I look forward to working alongside our volunteers, staff, Trustees and partners in the year ahead as we continue to grow and develop Scouting in NI.

Stephen Bell

Stephen Bell
Chief Volunteer



Programme

Aim: to provide a fun, enjoyable, high-quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.

2024-2025 was a year of consolidation and development for the Programme Sub-Group. At the beginning of the year, every national Section Lead role had been filled with a good variety of events planned for the year. The national Outdoors in 24 campaign was a good motivation for all Sections to get out and camp and explore. The Sub-Group's main purpose is to provide a fun, enjoyable, high-quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools. The Programme Lead and Northern Ireland Sectional Leads continue to focus on providing better Scouting for more young people and preparing young people with skills for life.

The year began with a successful Explorer Survival Weekend with sixty Explorers in attendance at Crawfordsburn Activity Centre. The Explorers learned about fire-starting techniques, finding water sources, navigating tricky terrain, filleting and cooking fish as well as sleeping in shelters. Peter Wilson and his team of Explorer Leaders organised the event very well in partnership with the British Army.

The summer term saw Jack Denvir organise two Trash the Trash Day events in Bangor and Newtownards. NI Beaver Lead, Rachel Gilliland, organised Olympics themed Dam Jam events at Crawfordsburn Activity Centre and at the Lakeland Forum in County Fermanagh where over 400 Beavers enjoyed activities such as crate climbing, grass sledging and Olympic-themed crafts in glorious weather. Twenty-three teams took part in the Scout Monopoly Run in Londonderry which was very well received by participating Troops. The interim NI Cub Team, led by Jean Major, organised the popular football tournament in Cookstown where the shield winners were 1st Hillsborough; next league was won by 1st Castlerock; United league won by 5th Portadown; and the most goals scored cup won by 74th Belfast.

The Programme Sub-Group Chair along with Leaders Des Grant, Stephen Mallett and Katie Thompson launched the Malawi 2025 trip for Scout Network members and other adults in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Ireland. The Explorer Belt teams took part in their challenging ten-day expedition through Belgium and Luxembourg under the leadership of Strategy & Delivery Committee Chair, Stephen Bell, and Callum McCloskey. Successful Young Leader Training took place at 1st Ards Scout Hall under the leadership of the NI Youth Lead, Kayleigh Finlay, and Leaders from Strangford, Lagan and South East Antrim Districts. The inspiring global environmental Earth Tribe Award was launched which challenges Scouts to be aware of the great challenges that face us and the action that we can all take to help.



In the autumn, the Scout Tomahawk Throwing Competition took place at Lisburn Woods with an incredible fifty-two teams taking part. 1st Whitehouse Troop won the event. NI Scout Lead, Trevor Hendren, and his Core Team were complimented by attendees for their organisation and efforts. The Scout Mechanic Activity Badge course returned by popular demand at Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn. The Scout Team continued their impressive programme with the Resonate Space Challenge launched in partnership with Scouting Ireland and Resonate Testing Limited. New NI Cub Lead Georgie Huston and her Core

Team ran the popular Unihoc Competition at the Antrim Forum which was won by 1st Killymurris Pack. The Youth Team ran another successful Young Leader Training Weekend, with twenty-seven participants, in December.



The spring term began with the annual Northern Ireland Awards Ceremony at Belfast City Hall which was a highlight of the Scouting year. The Scouts of the World Award Discovery saw fifteen Scout Network members participate which was a record number for a Northern Ireland SOWA Discovery event. NI SOWA Lead, Emma Webster, organised the event very well while UK SOWA Lead Chris Worthington also travelled from England to assist with the training. The Scout Patrol Leader Training Weekend saw forty participants enjoy a weekend of excellent training and fun activities. Thanks to NI Activities Lead, Andrew Stacey, and his Team, a Hillwalking Permit Assessment Day took place in the Mourne. The Scout Resonate Challenge was completed with six teams selected to build and test their satellite designs at Resonate Testing Limited.

The Programme Sub-Group welcomed the launch of the new Northern Ireland Challenge Badges for each Section to use in their programmes as well as the availability of

national badges on the Scouts NI website such as the much sought after Harry Scott Award for Cubs.

Thanks go to the NI Team Leads who have been willing to meet regularly throughout the year and more importantly have been working so hard to build their Core Teams to plan and deliver such excellent events at national level to support our Districts and Groups. The Programme Sub Group's primary focusses are to quality assure national events and to provide support to NI Team Leads and their Core Teams.



Thanks go to Rachel Gilliland who stood down as NI Beaver Lead at the beginning of the autumn term – her efforts were appreciated. My thanks also go to Jean Major and her interim team for delivering the Cub programme so well before the appointment of the new NI Cub Lead Georgie Huston. Best wishes go to new NI Squirrel Lead Tracey Ogg, Georgie Huston and our first NI 14-24 Lead Peter Wilson who are working very hard to bring together strong and representative Core Teams together as well as youth-shaped and attractive programme events to support Districts and Groups. Thanks to Growth & Engagement Officer Pamela Emerson who has carried out the role of Secretary so well this year too.

People

Aim: more well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers and young people from diverse background.

The People Sub-Group plays a vital role in ensuring that our Volunteers are supported, trained and recognised for the incredible work they do across NI. Over the past year, the Sub-Group has worked tirelessly to strengthen the structures that sit behind Scouting, with the aim of making every Volunteer's journey more rewarding and sustainable. The Sub-Group has had to navigate significant change while continuing to deliver the core support that enables safe, high-quality Scouting for young people.

Barbara Chaired the Sub-Group for the first part of the year until standing down in September 2024, and we would like to record my thanks to her for all of her hard work and dedication throughout her time in the role. Her collaborative and supportive approach ensured a strong foundation for the work of the Sub-Group and contributed significantly to the progress made over the past year.

One of the most substantial pieces of work within the People Sub-Group has been supporting The Scout Association's Transformation Journey. A major phase of this was the digital transformation which saw the migration of adult member data from Compass to the new Scouting system. This, alongside changes such as the refreshed Volunteer welcome process and the introduction of new training requirements, represented a significant step forward. I would particularly like to thank our Transformation Lead, Scott Robinson, whose passion and drive ensured that this work was delivered successfully. The benefits of these changes and his work are already being felt by Volunteers across NI and will continue to enhance their experience in the years ahead.

There has also been excellent progress across the wider NI Team. Janine Bowen has led vital work in ensuring that First Response training is accessible across NI, supporting Volunteers to meet their obligations and build confidence in their roles. Through her leadership and by

building a capable team around her, we have seen real strides forward in strengthening this essential area of training.

Andrew Stacey has been invaluable in providing advice and oversight around activities and permits throughout NI. His tireless commitment has ensured that Volunteers are supported in obtaining permits and that internal standards are consistently raised. The impact of his work is clear in the quality and safety of adventurous activities delivered for young people.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Caroline Brown, our International Lead Volunteer, in February. Caroline was a dedicated and passionate Scouter whose commitment to providing international opportunities for young people was an inspiration to all who worked with her. Her vision and energy opened doors for countless young people and Volunteers to experience the global Scouting family, and her contribution will be remembered with deep gratitude. Following Caroline's passing, I am grateful to Stuart Osborne for stepping into the role of Interim International Lead Volunteer. Stuart has continued to ensure that international trips are facilitated for young people and Volunteers, while also providing valuable advice and guidance to Leaders. His willingness to step up at a difficult time has been a great service to Scouts NI.

As we look ahead, the People Sub-Group will continue to focus on embedding the changes brought by the Transformation Journey, strengthening training compliance, and ensuring that every Volunteer feels supported in their role. We are also committed to increasing inclusivity and access within Scouting, making sure that more young people can benefit from the skills, opportunities and experiences that our Movement provides. Volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do and by supporting them well, we can unlock the full potential of Scouting for young people across NI.

Crawfordsburn Activity Centre

20a Bridge Road South, Helen's Bay, Bangor, BT19 1JT

Crawfordsburn Scout Centre was founded in 1948 and is the flagship Activity Centre for Scouting in Northern Ireland. The Centre has welcomed Scouts from all over the world during this time and it has also provided services and facilities for many organisations and individuals outside of Scouting. Whilst it started as a camp site, Crawfordsburn now provides a full range of outdoor activities, with indoor and outdoor accommodation. Over the years there has been significant investment of time and finance in the site and facilities and as a result it is now an excellent asset. There is a strong customer base and a loyalty which has been built on the iconic status of Crawfordsburn for both Scouting and outside users in Northern Ireland.

During the year the site has been rebranded as **Crawfordsburn Activity Centre** with a new logo, new signage and new uniforms for staff and volunteer wardens.



The objectives of the Crawfordsburn Activity Centre Strategy for 2030 have continued to be the focus of the developments at the site and the vision is that Crawfordsburn Activity Centre will be a centre of choice for young people and adults seeking outdoor activity, residential and learning experiences in Ireland. The Centre aims to promote the personal development of young people and adults by providing them with **Skills for Life** and giving them character building experiences.

The Strategy for 2030 has five priority focus areas – Activities and Programme, Staff and Volunteers, Site and Facilities, Marketing and Customers, and Management and Administration and detailed plans are being developed within each focus area with an appropriate timeline and budget.

What can Crawfordsburn Activity Centre offer?

Activities

3G Swing
Abseil Tower
Airsoft Target Shooting
Archery
Beaver Trail
Bouldering Wall
Bushcraft
Caving
Challenge Course
Climbing Wall
Crate Climbing
Grass Sledge
Orienteering
Pedal Karts
Pioneering

Pond Dipping

Slackline

Team Games

Tomahawk Throwing

Zipline

Residential

Camping

Cedar Lodge (24 beds)

Chalet (46 beds)

Facilities

Site use

All Weather Centre

Room Hire

Ken Gillespie Centre – Main Complex

Cedar Lodge

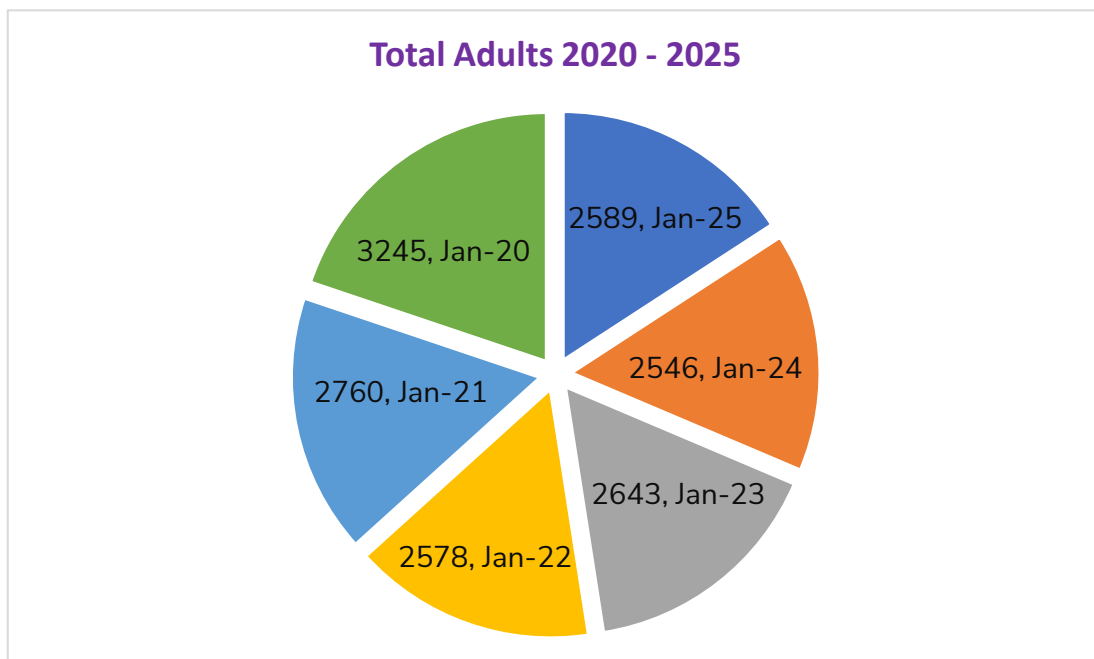
Chalet

Crawfordsburn has a small Staff Team which is supported by Teams of volunteer Wardens. These Teams are especially important at the weekends as the site would not be able to run if they were not available to support the running of the site, welcoming users and delivering activities. Thanks are recorded to both the staff and the volunteer Wardens for their work during the year.

Membership

A summary as at 31 January 2025 is as follows:

Squirrels	955	Squirrel Dreys	80
Beavers	1853	Beaver Colonies	132
Cubs	2413	Cub Packs	135
Scouts	1976	Scout Troops	128
Explorers	822	Explorer Units	72
Network	214	Scout Network	17
Total Youth Membership	8233	Young Leader Units	16
Leaders, Commissioners and other adults	2589		
Total Membership	10822	Total number of Groups	153
		Total number of Sections	564
		Regions	4
		Districts	14



Awards Presentation

Belfast City Hall, Friday 3rd January 2025

Presentation of Chief Scout's Gold Award, Explorer Belt, Scouts of the World Award and King's Scout Award Certificates held on Friday 3rd January 2025 in Belfast City Hall.

Awards presented by the Chief Volunteer of Northern Ireland, Stephen Bell and The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Councillor Micky Murray

Chief Scout's Gold Award

East Belfast District

4th East Belfast

Anna Douglas
Megan Duddy
Aimee Gray
Alice Hamilton
Sara Mounstephen
Lucy Reid
Rebecca Stewart

North Down District

12th Bangor

Samuel Fisher
Eddy Howard
Lewis McDowell
Francesca O'Neill
Patrick Roche
Jack Watson
George Wilgar

2nd Hollywood

Lucas Kwant
Samuel Snoddy
Noah Thompson

9th Bangor

Eva Anderson
Noah Drumgoole
John Kinney
Brooklyn McBride
Mia Patterson
Sam Patterson
Cobi Smyth

Strangford District

1st Newtownards

Emily Holland
Cole Mattox



1st Saintfield

Olivia Campbell
Colbey Gogarty
Oscar Kearney
Luca McCloskey
Joseph McDonnell
Holly Norton
Jack Seaney

3rd Newtownards

James Adair
Dylan Bailie
Alfie Drysdale
James McGrath
Lucas McWilliams
Cole Patterson
Harry Stewart
Samuel Watterson

North Belfast District

78th Belfast

Eamonn Black
Daniel Carlin Smith
Cillian Mezza
Harry Quinn

Slemish District

1st Killymurris

Jake Dunlop

1st Templepatrick

Noah Best
Gareth Sempey
Ben Whitehead

5th Ballymena

Robin Andrews
Isaac Getty
Mia McCarthy
Jude McClelland
Sam Speers
Sara Thompson

7th Ballymena

Lauren Davies
Isaac Davy
Oscar Green
Emma Loughran
Saoirse McNeill

South East Antrim District

1st Ballygally Sea Scouts

Erin Reid
Rebecca Reid

1st Carrickfergus

Zach Arbuthnot
Samantha Clifford-Mayne
Callum Wallace

1st Monkstown

Josh Craig
Ethan Crothers
Zach Holmes
Oliver Hutchinson
Jaxon Frizzell Madden
Timothy McCusker
Jack Moffatt
Macauley Sweeney
Charlie Watson-Downey

1st Whitehouse

Adam Cates
Jack Frizzell
Luke Hannaway

Michael McCullough
Emma Shaw

South Region

Lagan District

109th Belfast

Kara Cavlan
Lily Hill
Emilia Irvine
Isobel Rodgers
Charlotte Wilson

74th Belfast (RBAI)

Max Boyd
Daniel Carson
James Patterson
Adam Price
Jack Robinson

81st Belfast

Ben Griffiths
Joe Kelly
Patrick Kelly

Lisburn District

1st Ballymacash

Dylan Bell
Catherine Davis
Ellie Farmer
Kyden Floyd
Louis Graham
Holly Houston
Lucy Houston
Daniel McGucken
Lydia McKeever
Niamh McNarry
Mia Millen-Vignon

Adam Moriarty
Ethan Parks
Ruby Yuille

1st Hillsborough

Ben Gamble
Olly Templeton
Jamie Wray

West Region

Londonderry District

Derryloran

Dylan Hughes
Luke Johnston

Explorer Belt Certificates

Euan Anderson
Jake Anderson
Thomas Campbell
Charlie Chambers
Caleb Dobson



Carl Lewis
Caleb Mills
Ethan Sims
Lee Walker
Emma Weir

Scouts of the World Award Certificates



Sasha Barrett-Ferris
Jonathan Donald

King's Scout Award Certificates

East Region
East Belfast District
Matthew Wilson

North Region
Slemish District
Emma Weir

South Region
Armagh District
Rhianon Calvert
Matthew Doyle



Lagan District
Ethan McKee

West Region
Fermanagh District

Ethan Clarke
Max Hannigan
Tegan Hannigan
Skye McCabe
Ethan McCann Rusk
Astro Sanchez Barahona
Cameron Smith

Adult Awards for Good Service

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

East Region
Carlos Barr
Mary Cavan
Stephen Chambers
Geoffrey Davidson
Alison Moss



Ann Scott
Stephen Whyte

North Region
Zoe Sinfield

Award for Merit

East Region
Heather Boyd
Oriol Brown
Evan Fleming
Caroline Fox
Hilary Hamilton



Sandra Black
Pamela Duddy
Tommy Hurrell
Adam Meikle
Andrew Wilson
Wendy Wilson

West Region
Karen Anderson

Northern Ireland
Stephen Leckey

Bar to the Award for Merit

East Region
John Steen



West Region
Nigel Collins
Karen Hunter
Carol Mooney

Silver Acorn

North Region
David Branagh
Alexander Chestnutt



East Region
Ian McLachlan
Suzanne McLachlan

Bar to the Silver Acorn

North Region
Leslie Carswell

Des Grant
Gareth McAuley

East Region
Alison Donaldson



South Region
Rodney Watson

West Region
Denise Barrett

Northern Ireland
Chris Thompson

Silver Wolf

Northern Ireland
Len Hall

North Region
Stephen Hoskins
William McCullough



East Region
Stephanie Potter

West Region
Janet Thompson

Fundamentals of Scouting

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.

Key Policies

The Key Policies of The Scout Association are:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Privacy and Data Protection Policy
- Religious Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safety Policy
- Vetting Policy
- Youth Member Anti Bullying Policy

Further information on the Fundamentals of Scouting and Key Policies is available at
The Scout Association website – www.scouts.org.uk

Structure Governance and Management

The Scout Association was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1912. Its powers include the appointment of local bodies for the management of its affairs in any particular part of the United Kingdom; under these powers its affairs in Northern Ireland are delegated to the Northern Ireland Scout Council with a Trustee Board for the management of its business. The Northern Ireland Scout Council is an autonomous Charity affiliated to The Scout Association and is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity.

The Trustee Board of the Council are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Trustee Board of the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee Board of the Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustee Board of the Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The Trustee Board of the Council are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The management of the business of the Council is vested in the Trustee Board of the Council. The Trustee Board is responsible for policy making, but delegates certain operational decisions to its Executive and Sub-Committees (Finance and General Purposes and Strategy and Delivery). The Trustee Board keeps under review a business risk management analysis that identifies potential risks to the key functions of the Association. The Trustee Board delegates the day-to-day operation of the business to the Senior Management Team of the following: Chief Executive Jonathan Gracey, Strategy and Engagement Manager Vicky Flanagan, Administration Manager Pamela Hale, Crawfordsburn Scout Centre Manager Peter Harrison.

Financial Review

The charity is non-profit making Organisation. The results are set out in the Financial Statements. The charity had net income for the year of £52,484 (2024 – net income £57,780). The Trustee Board of Council have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the funding of the Organisation. Unrestricted free reserves are £996,708 as detailed in Note 22 and this level of reserves would be sufficient to fund the Organisation's running costs for a period of six months at current levels of spending and cover redundancy payments for the current staff. The Trustee Board of Council consider this level of reserves to be adequate to meet the needs of the Charity.

Chair of the Trustee Board

The year 2024-25 has been characterised by significant change to Scouts NI. Our restructuring of support structures went live with the previous 7 Counties replaced by 4 Regions – North, South, East & West – with the new role of Regional Lead Volunteer introduced to provide better support to Districts and District Lead Volunteers. Stephen Donaldson stood down from the Chief Commissioner role after 9 years of excellent service to be replaced by Stephen Bell as Chief Volunteer. The national Transformation project continues to be rolled out and I am grateful to all those who have helped with its implementation in Northern Ireland and the resolution of many of the teething problems. This will be my last report as Chair as I will step down at our AGM after 9 years in the role. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve Scouts NI and I hope that I have been able to make a positive contribution over this time. With such change it was vital that the recently developed strategy for Scouts NI included “Stability” as one of its key themes – the other two being “Quality” and “Safety”.

Crawfordsburn Activity Centre continues to occupy a considerable amount of the time of our senior staff and the Board and its committees. Much has been achieved in the past year but there remains a considerable amount of work to be done to realise the full potential of Scouts NI’s superb asset. We are optimistic that a new staffing structure and associated appointments will be beneficial in accelerating the needed changes. I remain grateful to the Crawfordsburn Programme Board for their oversight of this work on behalf of the Board of Scouts NI.

The work of the Scouts NI Board continued to include the regular review of safety and safeguarding reports from TSA, monitoring reports on compliance with mandatory training, reports from sub-committees and review of our risk register. We are still implementing changes required by the Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) notice to The Scout Association following the Coroner’s Inquest into the death of a young Explorer Scout on the Great Orme. Whilst this

has generated additional work for many volunteers and staff it will ultimately result in better and safer Scouting for our young people. The Board remain satisfied that Scouts NI is moving forward to a better position.



The Board would like to see Scouting expand further into areas and communities where Scouts NI has not previously operated and also to support traditional areas that are experiencing difficulties maintaining their Scouting base. Despite significant challenges throughout the year our Development team has outperformed its counterparts throughout the UK in establishing of new Groups and Sections. The challenge will be to sustain this growth and create stronger Groups with deep roots. The Census figures displayed elsewhere in this report show that there remain significant challenges in this area and it is important we all work together to get Scouts NI back to the position of strength (and more) it occupied before the COVID19 pandemic.

The Board greatly values the work and expertise of our Chief Executive and Honorary Treasurer, along with the Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee, in ensuring that Scouts NI remains in good financial health and that we make good use of our assets. Once again this is evident in the accompanying accounts and financial statements. The Board continues to

work to improve the governance arrangements within Scouts NI and is keen to promote good practice within Groups, and Districts.



The Chief Commissioner, The Chief Executive and the Chair greatly appreciate the support and wise counsel of the Board throughout the past year as we deal with a number of very challenging issues.

I would like to thank members of the Board, Executive, F& GP and S&D committees for all their hard work and support. I would also like to thank all those leaders who bring Scouting to young people and those who support them in Districts, Regions, at NI level and previously in the Counties. Finally, I would like to say a big "Thank you" to our professional staff, both in the Ardnally Office and at Crawfordsburn, for all their hard work in what has been yet another tough year.

I would like to commend the Annual Report of Scouts NI 2024-25



Henry Brown
Chair



Northern Ireland Scout Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Ireland Scout Council

Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Ireland Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out below, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In auditing these financial statements we have applied the "Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities", issued by the Financial Reporting Council, in the circumstances set out in note 25 to the financial statements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the members with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Ireland Scout Council

(continued)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The members are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the members' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the members' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of members

As explained more fully in the members' responsibilities statement, the members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the members are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Ireland Scout Council

(continued)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

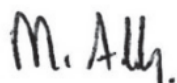
We discussed laws and regulations and fraud risks during our audit planning procedures. The charity must comply with relevant legislation and prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view. Fraud is most likely to involve the misappropriation of charity assets, for example fraudulent payments which might include the creation of fictitious suppliers or employees or the changing of bank details.

Our engagement team collectively had appropriate experience of applicable laws and regulations and competence to recognise non-compliance. We used checklists in evaluating the presentation, structure and content of the financial statements. We consider that our audit has a reasonable chance of detecting material non-compliance with laws and regulations. We remain mindful that fraud, by its very nature, may be difficult to detect, and that misappropriation may occur before transactions enter the accounting records of the charity. Audit procedures were planned and performed to test controls in place for authorisation and payment of supplier invoices and salaries. We also undertook analytical procedures to identify trends that might indicate fraudulent payments and we reviewed general ledger payments processed differently to regular supplier payments. We consider that our audit has a reasonable chance of detecting a material fraud in this area.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Muir & Addy
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
Muir Building
427 Hollywood Road
Belfast
BT4 2LT

8th September 2025

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Statement of Financial Activities

31 March 2025

			2025		2024
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	104,326	227,199	331,525	213,023
Charitable activities	6	467,551	31,503	499,054	550,188
Investment income	7	14,777	–	14,777	12,195
Total income		<u>586,654</u>	<u>258,702</u>	<u>845,356</u>	<u>775,406</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	459,256	333,511	792,767	723,574
Total expenditure		<u>459,256</u>	<u>333,511</u>	<u>792,767</u>	<u>723,574</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	10	(105)	–	(105)	5,948
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>127,293</u>	<u>(74,809)</u>	<u>52,484</u>	<u>57,780</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		886,322	2,988,195	3,874,517	3,816,737
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,013,615</u>	<u>2,913,386</u>	<u>3,927,001</u>	<u>3,874,517</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of these financial statements

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Statement of Financial Activities

31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	2,759,739	2,782,553
Investments	16	90,120	90,225
		<u>2,849,859</u>	<u>2,872,778</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	352	427
Cash at bank and in hand		1,300,873	1,327,233
		<u>1,301,225</u>	<u>1,327,660</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	224,083	325,921
Net current assets		<u>1,077,142</u>	<u>1,001,739</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>3,927,001</u>	<u>3,874,517</u>
Net assets		<u>3,927,001</u>	<u>3,874,517</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		2,913,386	2,988,195
Unrestricted funds		1,013,615	886,322
Total charity funds	21	<u>3,927,001</u>	<u>3,874,517</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 8th September 2025 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr Henry Brown
Chair



Gary Proctor
Treasurer

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of these financial statements

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income		52,484	57,780
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		78,709	78,838
Net losses/(gains) on investments		105	(5,948)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		(14,777)	(12,195)
Accrued expenses		32,233	9,817
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Trade and other debtors		75	87
Cash generated from operations		148,829	128,379
Net cash from operating activities		148,829	128,379
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		14,777	12,195
Purchase of tangible assets		(55,895)	–
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities		(41,118)	12,195
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		107,711	140,574
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,193,162	1,052,588
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	18	1,300,873	1,193,162

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of these financial statements

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in Northern Ireland and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is 109 Old Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7SP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

The charity is responsible for various types of funds that require separate disclosure as follows:

(i) Restricted funds

Funds earmarked by the donor for a specific purpose

(ii) Designated funds

Funds set aside for a specific purpose

(iii) Unrestricted funds

Funds that are expendable at the discretion of the committee in the furtherance of the objects of the charity

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	-	2% straight line
Fixtures & fittings	-	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance
Computer & video equipment	-	25% reducing balance
Buildings	-	2% straight line

Investments

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	4,326	3,822	8,148
Legacies	100,000	–	100,000

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

4. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Grants			
Grants received	–	223,377	223,377
	<u>104,326</u>	<u>227,199</u>	<u>331,525</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	3,910	3,843	7,753
Legacies	–	–	–
Grants			
Grants received	–	205,270	205,270
	<u>3,910</u>	<u>209,113</u>	<u>213,023</u>

5. Grants received

	2025 £	2024 £
Restricted		
Education Authority Infrastructure	150,000	150,000
Education Authority Volunteering	20,000	29,868
Education Authority MIS	1,000	–
Education Authority Celebration	2,000	–
Ulster Scots Agency	–	418
TSA Growth	50,377	24,984
	<u>223,377</u>	<u>205,270</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Membership fees	175,611	–	175,611
Programme	28,177	31,503	59,680
Crawfordsburn	261,386	–	261,386
Mini-bus	2,377	–	2,377
World Scout Jamboree	–	–	–
	<u>467,551</u>	<u>31,503</u>	<u>499,054</u>

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Membership fees	166,171	–	166,171
Programme	18,561	41,854	60,415
Crawfordsburn	295,291	–	295,291
Mini-bus	2,196	–	2,196
World Scout Jamboree	–	26,115	26,115
	<u>482,219</u>	<u>67,969</u>	<u>550,188</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	<u>14,777</u>	<u>14,777</u>	<u>12,195</u>	<u>12,195</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Salaries	155,019	182,746	337,765
Depreciation	577	78,132	78,709
Other costs	302,560	70,133	372,693
Support costs	1,100	2,500	3,600
	<u>459,256</u>	<u>333,511</u>	<u>792,767</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Salaries	140,697	178,663	319,360
Depreciation	577	78,261	78,838
Other costs	217,933	103,843	321,776
Support costs	1,100	2,500	3,600
	<u>360,307</u>	<u>363,267</u>	<u>723,574</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Salaries	337,765	–	337,765	319,360
Depreciation	78,709	–	78,709	78,838
Other costs	372,693	–	372,693	321,776
Governance costs	–	3,600	3,600	3,600
	<u>789,167</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>792,767</u>	<u>723,574</u>

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

10. Net (losses)/gains on investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) on other investment assets	(105)	(105)	5,948	5,948

11. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	78,709	78,838

12. Auditors remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	3,600	3,600

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	243,603	225,601
Social security costs	60,768	64,079
Employer contributions to pension plans	33,394	29,680
	337,765	319,360

The average head count of employees during the year was 13 (2024: 12). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Number of staff	13	12

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £140,409 (2024:£144,083).

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year -

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees;
- no trustee expenses have been incurred.

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Equipment £	Buildings £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 Apr 2024	3,886,947	44,266	20,520	28,171	92,550	4,072,454
Additions	—	55,895	—	—	—	55,895
At 31 Mar 2025	<u>3,886,947</u>	<u>100,161</u>	<u>20,520</u>	<u>28,171</u>	<u>92,550</u>	<u>4,128,349</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 Apr 2024	1,123,437	42,707	20,520	28,171	75,066	1,289,901
Charge for the year	77,740	392	—	—	577	78,709
At 31 Mar 2025	<u>1,201,177</u>	<u>43,099</u>	<u>20,520</u>	<u>28,171</u>	<u>75,643</u>	<u>1,368,610</u>
Carrying amount						
At 31 Mar 2025	<u>2,685,770</u>	<u>57,062</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>16,907</u>	<u>2,759,739</u>
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>2,763,510</u>	<u>1,559</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>17,484</u>	<u>2,782,553</u>

16. Investments

	Listed investments £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2024	88,825	1,400	90,225
Additions	—	—	—
Fair value movements	(105)	—	(105)
At 31 March 2025	<u>88,720</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>90,120</u>
Impairment			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025		—	—
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	<u>88,720</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>90,120</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>88,825</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>90,225</u>

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Financial assets held at fair value

Listed investments are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date.

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

16. Investments *(continued)*

Listed Investments

Listed investments includes shares costing £10,063 held in respect of the Tyack Memorial and International Friendship Funds.

Ground Rents

Ground rents have been valued on the basis of six years purchase of the profit rental.

17. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>352</u>	<u>427</u>

18. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,300,873	1,327,233
Bank overdrafts	–	(134,071)
	<u>1,300,873</u>	<u>1,193,162</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	–	134,071
Accruals and deferred income	224,083	191,850
	<u>224,083</u>	<u>325,921</u>

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £33,394 (2024: £29,680).

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Development Fund	187,285	104,326	(100,000)	—	191,611
Glenn Bequest	18,039	—	—	—	18,039
Jamboree Fund	6,536	—	—	—	6,536
Tyack Memorial	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Capital expenditure	3,376	—	—	—	3,376
Property maintenance	17,068	—	—	—	17,068
General funds	649,018	482,328	(359,256)	(105)	771,985
	<u>886,322</u>	<u>586,654</u>	<u>(459,256)</u>	<u>(105)</u>	<u>1,013,615</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Development Fund	183,376	3,909	—	—	187,285
Glenn Bequest	18,039	—	—	—	18,039
Jamboree Fund	6,757	—	(221)	—	6,536
Tyack Memorial	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Capital expenditure	3,376	—	—	—	3,376
Property maintenance	17,068	—	—	—	17,068
General funds	508,741	494,415	(360,086)	5,948	649,018
	<u>742,357</u>	<u>498,324</u>	<u>(360,307)</u>	<u>5,948</u>	<u>886,322</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Crawfordsburn Development Fund	2,894,147	1,000	(78,132)	2,817,015
International Friendship Fund	4,812	—	—	4,812
Cubs	1,230	332	(336)	1,226
Scouts	1,037	2,178	(1,874)	1,341
Explorer Scouts	4,714	1,210	(2,205)	3,719
Beaver Scouts	5,002	4,415	(2,644)	6,773
Arrowhead	4,220	2,823	(2,674)	4,369
Funded projects	15,218	—	—	15,218
NI Jam	23,745	—	(15)	23,730
Scoutlink	3,077	—	—	3,077
Education Authority Infrastructure	—	150,000	(150,000)	—
World Scout Jamboree	852	—	(16)	836
Squirrels	6,940	2,946	(4,684)	5,202
Nepal	4,621	—	(3,000)	1,621
Belfast Islamic Centre	600	300	(650)	250
Ulster Scots Society	—	—	—	—
National Lottery	—	—	—	—
Roverway	1,739	2,815	(4,554)	—

Northern Ireland Scout Council

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2025

21. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

Explorer Belt	3,398	6,538	(9,192)	744
Inclusive Growth	11,293	50,377	(41,273)	20,397
Celebrating Belfast	1,550	4,320	(5,870)	–
Education Authority Volunteering	–	20,000	(20,000)	–
Overture	–	–	–	–
NIEX	–	1,440	(29)	1,411
SOWA	–	723	(191)	532
Habitat for Humanity	–	4,285	(3,172)	1,113
Education Authority MIS	–	1,000	(1,000)	–
Education Authority Celebration	–	2,000	(2,000)	–
	<u>2,988,195</u>	<u>258,702</u>	<u>(333,511)</u>	<u>2,913,386</u>

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Crawfordsburn Development Fund	2,972,807	1,000	(79,660)	2,894,147
International Friendship Fund	4,812	–	–	4,812
Cubs	1,214	225	(209)	1,230
Scouts	273	2,586	(1,822)	1,037
Explorer Scouts	796	6,055	(2,137)	4,714
Beaver Scouts	4,784	4,956	(4,738)	5,002
Arrowhead	3,721	2,843	(2,344)	4,220
Funded projects	15,218	–	–	15,218
NI Jam	23,761	–	(16)	23,745
Scoutlink	3,077	–	–	3,077
Education Authority Infrastructure	–	150,000	(150,000)	–
World Scout Jamboree	9,031	26,115	(34,294)	852
Squirrels	10,386	54	(3,500)	6,940
Nepal	5,109	532	(1,020)	4,621
Belfast Islamic Centre	–	660	(60)	600
Ulster Scots Society	10,000	418	(10,418)	–
National Lottery	9,391	–	(9,391)	–
Roverway	–	14,579	(12,840)	1,739
Explorer Belt	–	6,950	(3,552)	3,398
Inclusive Growth	–	24,984	(13,691)	11,293
Celebrating Belfast	–	1,550	–	1,550
Education Authority Volunteering	–	29,868	(29,868)	–
Overture	–	3,707	(3,707)	–
NIEX	–	–	–	–
SOWA	–	–	–	–
Habitat for Humanity	–	–	–	–
Education Authority MIS	–	–	–	–
Education Authority Celebration	–	–	–	–
	<u>3,074,380</u>	<u>277,082</u>	<u>(363,267)</u>	<u>2,988,195</u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	16,907	2,742,832	2,759,739
Investments	85,308	4,812	90,120
Current assets	911,400	165,742	1,077,142
Net assets	1,013,615	2,913,386	3,927,001

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	17,484	2,765,069	2,782,553
Investments	82,567	7,658	90,225
Current assets	786,271	215,468	1,001,739
Net assets	886,322	2,988,195	3,874,517

23. Financial instruments

The carrying amount for each category of financial instrument is as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure		
Listed investments	90,120	90,225

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Mar 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,327,233	(26,360)	1,300,873
Bank overdrafts	(134,071)	134,071	–
	1,193,162	107,711	1,300,873

25. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature our auditors assist the charity to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

Will you make a promise to invest in their future?

Scouting provides opportunities for the young people of Northern Ireland, that is due in no small measure to the generosity of our predecessors – both during their lifetimes and through forward planning, after their deaths.

By leaving a legacy to Scouting, you can help to ensure that our successors will be able to continue to service future generations of young people.

The following specimen wording is suitable for incorporating in
a new will or in a codicil to an existing will.

I DEVISE AND BEQUEATH

[the sum of to the Northern Ireland Scout Council of The Scout Association of 109 Old Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7SP, for the general purposes being in law charitable of the said Northern Ireland Scout Council AND I DIRECT that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other officer approved of by my Trustees of the aforesaid Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.]

OR

[all the residue of my estate both real and personal and wheresoever situate after payment thereof of my debt funeral and testamentary expenses Northern Ireland Scout Council of The Scout Association of 109 Old Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7SP, for the general purposes being in law charitable of the said Northern Ireland Scout Council AND I DIRECT that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other officer approved of by my Trustees of the aforesaid Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.]

OR

[..... share of my estate to the Northern Ireland Scout Council of The Scout Association of 109 Old Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7SP, for the general purposes being in law charitable of the said Northern Ireland Scout Council AND I DIRECT that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other officer approved of by my Trustees of the aforesaid Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.]

**Your bequest, whatever its size, will help us give future generations
of young people in Northern Ireland from all walks
of life a better start.**



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