

Trustees Annual Report
2nd Chelmsford (Springfield) Scout Group
Registered Charity 268683

For the Period	01 April 2024	To	31 March 2025
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Section A Reference and administration details

Principal Address	Scout Centre		
	Lawn Lane		
	Chelmsford		
	Essex		CM1 7PP

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

	Name	Trustee Role	Type	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Christopher Dear	Chair	Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
2	Christopher Chapman	Group Lead Volunteer	Ex-Officio	
3	Karen Cooper		Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
4	Richard Spencer	Treasurer	Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
5	Kris Reynolds		Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
6	Paul Wickers		Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
7	Rebecca Puvanendran		Elected	10/09/24 – 3 year term
8	Bruce Knight	Explorer Scout Leader	Ex-Officio	Resigned 10/09/24

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the Charity's trusts

Type of governing document	The Group's 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.
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How the Charity is constituted	The Group is a registered charity and is established under The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) which are common to all Scouts.
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Trustee Selection methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Trustees have set the board size at 10• Group Lead Volunteer is an ex-officio role (Karen Cooper is a joint Lead Volunteer but only 1 role holder is ex-officio – Karen is an elected Trustee)• All other Trustees are recommended by the Group Trustee Board following an open recruitment process.• Appointment is confirmed by the Group Council at the AGM.• With effect from 1st April 2024 a Trustee can only serve for a maximum of 9 years (including any co-option period served). Apart from the Group Lead Volunteer• Co-opted Trustees are appointed by the Group Trustee Board.
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Additional governance issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board. The charity trustees are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with legislation applicable to charities as well as compliance with POR . This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.• This Group Trustee Board exists to provide Governance of the charity and is responsible for:-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ensuring Group property is properly maintained and meets relevant Health & Safety requirements;○ The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;○ The insurance of persons, property and equipment;○ Group public occasions○ Appointing any sub committees that may be required;○ Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.• All Trustees are subject to vetting processes and undertake training as proscribed by The Scout Association which includes Safety & Safeguarding.	

Section B Structure, governance and management (continued)

Risk and Internal Control

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment.

- The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Termination of Lease.

- The land on which the Scout Centre is built is subject to a 15 year lease from Essex County Council. The Group has maintained dialogue with ECC and there is no intention to break this. If the lease were terminated then an alternative base would be sought, as above.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

- All activities are subject to relevant Risk Assessments as prescribed by POR
- The Group through the annual membership fees contributes to the Scout Associations national Public Liability, accident insurance policy, and has its own personal injury policy with Unity Insurance for non-member adults.

Reduced income from fund raising.

- The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of adult volunteers.

- The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of adult volunteers to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Risk and Internal Control

- The Group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting

- Scouting exists to provide young people and young adults with Skills for Life by actively engaging and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

- As Scouts we are guided by these values:
 - Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
 - Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
 - Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
 - Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
 - Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

- Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:
 - enjoy what they are doing and have fun
 - take part in activities indoors and outdoors
 - learn by doing
 - share in spiritual reflection
 - take responsibility and make choices
 - undertake new and challenging activities
 - make and live by their Promise.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

- Each youth section meets weekly during term time with a programme of activities organised by the section team in advance. Each youth section is encouraged to arrange at least one camp or sleepover per year. Other activities include handicraft, badge work, hikes, visits to museums and public services, and outdoor activities at our Riffhams woodland site. The Group participates in District and County scouting events.

Public Benefit Statement

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

Section D Summary of the main Objectives and Activities

- Our youth membership remains strong which reflects the quality of the programmes being delivered at our weekly section meetings (plus the weekend activities and camping/sleepovers).
 - We have a good level of reserves available to us which will enable the Group to fund further improvements (the main roof was replaced in 2022).
 - During the year we
 - replaced the flat roof
 - replaced external doors
 - external rendering was replaced
 - improved the toilet facilities.
- Our fundraising team do an excellent job and in the past year raised nearly £9,000 through a schedule of 5 events during the year. This is a super contribution to allow us to keep membership fees as reasonable as possible as well as contributing to programme and the premises.
- As always Scouting does not happen without the dedication of our adult volunteers and the Trustees express their thanks for the work involved in planning and delivering exciting programmes.

Section E Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £20K.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	There are no funds in deficit
Investment policy and objectives	The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash deposits.

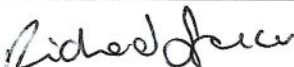
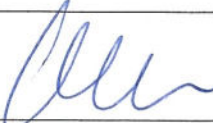
Section F Other Information

Plans for future periods	<p>Transformation is a national programme to change the ways in which we work together as volunteers. It does not change the delivery of our section programme. There are implications for Trustee Boards which were adopted for and at our 2024 AGM</p> <p>As outlined above we intend to continue to improve and maintain our building in the next financial year.</p> <p>We intend to bolster our Trustee Board by recruiting a more diverse range of skills up to the maximum number of Trustees (10)</p>
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Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures		
Names	Richard Spencer	Chris Dear
Role	Treasurer	Chair
Date	1/7/25 ps	1/7/25