

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period:

From	1 April 2025	To	31 March 2026
	(period start date)		(period end date)

Charity Name	7th Swindon Scout Group
Charity Registration Number (if registered - leave blank if excepted charity)	N/A
HQ Registration Number	306101

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and objects of the charity as set out in its governing document	The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association. The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. 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 the purpose and objects	7th Swindon Scout Group provides Scouting for young people across North Swindon through a range of age-appropriate sections and activities. The Group enables young people to develop skills for life through weekly section meetings, outdoor activities, camps, visits, community involvement, teamwork, leadership opportunities and personal challenge. During the year the Group continued to provide a broad programme for members, supported by volunteer leaders, young leaders, trustees, parents and other adult helpers. Activities were designed to be inclusive, safe, enjoyable and educational, reflecting the Scout values of integrity, respect, care, belief and co-operation. The Trustee Board supports the Leadership Teams by providing governance oversight, financial stewardship, risk management, policy oversight, support for premises and equipment, and the administrative framework needed to deliver safe and sustainable Scouting.
Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the	The Trustees confirm that the charity meets the Charity Commission's Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Charity Commission on public benefit	
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: • <i>Policy on grant making</i>	The charity is not primarily a grant-making charity. Where appropriate, the Trustee Board may consider support to help remove financial barriers to participation, including use of hardship support or funded places where resources allow and where this is consistent with the Group's charitable purposes. Any such support is considered carefully, confidentially and in line with available funds, with the aim of enabling young people to benefit from Scouting regardless of family circumstances.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability	The year has been one of consolidation, transition and continued delivery following the regulatory and governance changes embedded during the previous year. The Group continued to provide a wide and varied Scouting programme to young people across North Swindon. This included regular section meetings, outdoor activities, camps, practical skills, personal development opportunities and community-based experiences. The distinction between the role of the Trustee Board and the role of Group Leaders and section teams has continued to mature. Trustees have focused on governance, financial oversight, risk, sustainability, compliance and support, while leaders have continued to concentrate on delivering high-quality programmes for young people. Financial controls, forecasting and reporting have continued to be strengthened. The zero-based budgeting approach has helped sections plan what they want to deliver and identify the support or funding required, improving transparency and enabling more informed decisions by Trustees. The Group has continued to operate in a challenging financial environment, with rising costs for venues, equipment, insurance, activities and general running costs. Despite this, the Group has sought to maintain the breadth of its offer while keeping affordability for families under careful review. Fundraising and grant opportunities have continued to be pursued to support activities, equipment and sustainability. The Group remains grateful for the support of parents, volunteers, local organisations and the wider community. Volunteer contribution remains central to the Group's success. Leaders, trustees, young leaders, parents and helpers have collectively enabled the Group to continue delivering safe, inclusive and enjoyable Scouting. The Group remains actively focused on recruiting additional trustees and volunteers, particularly in areas such as finance, fundraising, communications, risk management, health and safety, events, buildings and practical support. The year also saw changes within the Trustee Board and leadership support arrangements. The Trustees are grateful to those who have continued to provide stability during transition and to those who have taken on new responsibilities to support the future of the Group. The impact of the Group's work is seen in the number of young people able to access opportunities, build confidence, develop independence, make friends, take on new challenges and contribute positively to their community.
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about: • <i>Achievements against objectives</i> • <i>Fundraising activities</i> • <i>Contribution made by volunteers</i>	Achievements against objectives The Group continued to deliver Scouting in line with the purpose, values and method of The Scout Association, providing a safe and structured environment where young people can develop skills for life. Fundraising activities Fundraising and grant-seeking activity continued during the year. These activities support affordability, equipment, camps, events and the long-term sustainability of the Group. Further details should be aligned to the final accounts before submission.

	The fundraising event such as Fireworks and Christmas Raffle and Fayre helped to raise £815 and the Group benefitted from the St Andrews Parish Council Grant of £1,000. Contribution made by volunteers The Group is entirely dependent on the time, commitment and goodwill of volunteers. Their contribution includes planning and delivering section programmes, supporting camps and events, maintaining equipment, managing administration, supporting finances, ensuring safe practice and providing trustee oversight.
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Financial review

Review of the financial position	The financial statements for the year show total income of £30,336, total expenditure of £27,922 and net income for the year of £2,414. The year-end cash and bank balance was £9,942. The Group's Camp account recorded an income of £31,791 and total expenditure of £32,393 and net expenditure of £602. The year-end cash and bank balance was £15,606. The Trustee Board has continued to focus on financial sustainability, transparency and careful cost control. Rising costs across rented venues, insurance, equipment, activities and general operating expenses remain a key pressure. The Group has sought to balance affordability for members with the need to maintain a broad and safe programme. A zero-based budgeting approach has continued to support better planning by sections, helping Trustees understand programme requirements, forecast funding needs and make informed decisions on subscriptions, fundraising and grant applications. The Group ended the year with reserves of £9,942, of which all is unrestricted.
Policy on Reserves, why they are held, and the amount of reserves	The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity should income and fundraising activities fall short, or should unexpected costs arise. The Trustee Board considers that the charity should hold a sum equivalent to 2 months of normal running costs, circa £6,000. This level is considered appropriate given the Group's reliance on rented venues, the need to maintain equipment, and the importance of ensuring continuity of Scouting for young people. At the year end the charity held reserves of approximately £6,000 against this target. This is in line with the required level for operating expenses. The charity also holds funds designated for camp deposits in the Group's Camp account where the cash reverses at the year-end were £15,606.
Policy on Investments and investment performance	The charity's reserves are held on a low-risk basis. The Group does not hold sufficient surplus funds to justify longer-term investments such as stocks and shares and has therefore adopted a cautious approach to the investment of funds. Funds are held in cash using mainstream banks or building societies. The Trustee Board monitors bank balances and banking arrangements periodically to ensure funds remain secure, accessible and appropriate for the needs of the Group.
A description of the principal risks	The Trustee Board considers the principal risks to the charity to be: Volunteer capacity and succession planning: the Group relies on volunteer leaders, trustees, helpers and administrative support. Recruitment and retention of volunteers remains a key priority. Financial sustainability: rising costs for venues, equipment, insurance and activities may place pressure on subscriptions and affordability for families. This is mitigated through budgeting, forecasting, reserves, fundraising and grant-seeking.

	Venue reliance and operating costs: the Group relies on rented venues and suitable spaces to deliver Scouting. Availability, cost increases or venue disruption could affect programmes. Safety and safeguarding: the Group must continue to comply with Scout Association rules, safeguarding expectations, safety processes and incident reporting requirements. This is mitigated through mandatory learning, risk assessments, leader support and adherence to POR. Governance and compliance: changes in charity regulation and Scout Association requirements must be understood and embedded. This is mitigated through trustee training, regular meetings, policy review and clearer separation between governance and operational delivery. Equipment and asset management: the Group needs to maintain equipment used for activities and camps. This is mitigated through inspection, maintenance planning and budgeting for replacement where required. Data protection and information management: the Group holds personal information about young people, parents, carers and volunteers. This is mitigated through appropriate systems, access controls and awareness of data protection obligations. Reputation and community confidence: incidents, poor communication or unmanaged concerns could affect confidence in the Group. This is mitigated through transparent communication, clear escalation routes and prompt handling of issues.
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Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The charity'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 (POR) of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as an educational charity.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees	All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.
Additional governance arrangements	The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes registration where required, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The Trustee Board consists of appointed trustees, including the Chair, Treasurer and other trustees approved through the Group Scout Council process, together with the ex officio Group Lead Volunteer. Any co-opted trustees are appointed by the Trustee Board during the year in accordance with Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules. The Trustee Board is supported by Cerys Howard as Board Administrator. The Trustee Board meets regularly during the year, Bi-Monthly, Sept to July which includes 6 meetings. The Board may also communicate between meetings to manage urgent matters, approvals and administrative requirements. The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintains appropriate governance policies and oversight. The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

	The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules. This includes responsibility for: promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community; maintaining and reviewing a risk register; ensuring finances and reserves are properly managed; maintaining appropriate internal controls; ensuring property and equipment are appropriately managed; maintaining insurance; assisting with recruitment of leaders and adult support; having an open and transparent trustee recruitment process; appointing advisers as required; ensuring effective administration; ensuring compliance with governance, safety and safeguarding requirements; reporting incidents appropriately; reviewing policies and regulations; ensuring transparent operations, including accounts and the AGM; complying with data protection legislation; and acting as a responsible employer if applicable.
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Plans for future periods

Plans for future Periods	The Trustee Board's priorities for the next period are to continue strengthening governance, financial sustainability and volunteer support while ensuring the Group remains focused on providing safe, inclusive and exciting Scouting for young people. Key plans include: • Strengthening the Trustee Board through recruitment of additional trustees and supporters, particularly with skills in finance, fundraising, communications, social media, buildings, events, risk management and health and safety. • Completing the Treasurer transition and ensuring finance processes remain resilient, transparent and well documented. • Continuing to improve forecasting, budgeting and reporting so that sections can plan effectively and Trustees can make informed decisions. • Reviewing the Group's reserves position and sustainability in light of rising venue, insurance, equipment and activity costs. • Continuing to pursue grants, sponsorship, fundraising and employer-matched giving opportunities to reduce pressure on subscriptions and support the Group's programme. • Supporting leaders and section teams to deliver a broad programme of activities, camps and events while maintaining clear governance boundaries. • Further developing the Group's risk register, health and safety oversight, incident reporting and policy review cycle. • Improving communication with parents, carers, volunteers and the wider community, including clearer routes for feedback and offers of support. • Supporting inclusion and affordability, including further consideration of hardship support where resources allow. • Reviewing facilities, venue arrangements and equipment needs to ensure the Group can continue to operate safely and sustainably.
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Reference and administration details

Principal Address	
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	Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Rob Wheeler - Appointed	Chair	From 1 st April 2026
2	Steve Jelling - Appointed	Chair	Until 31 st March 2026
3	Kelly Crawford – Ex-Officio	Group Lead Volunteer	
4	Agnieszka Begg - Appointed	Treasurer	

5	Thomas Jackson - Appointed	Trustee	
6	Matt Saxon - Appointed	Trustee	
7	James Howse - Appointed	Trustee	Until 17/02/2026
8	Jon Hackney- Appointed	Trustee	
9	Leanne Stevenson – Co-opted	Trustee	

Name and address of advisors

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Examiner / Auditor	Markham Dyer	
<i>Detail others</i>	None noted	

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

Signature		
Full name	Rob Wheeler	
Position held	Chair of Trustees	
Date	01/07/2026	