

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2025 To 31st March 2026

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: 1st Clifton (York) Sea Scouts

HQ registration number: 10011171

Charity's principal address: Green Lane, York YO30 5QX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not full year
T.B.C	Chair	
Antony Hale	Group Lead Volunteer	
Claire Hutchinson	Treasurer	
Peter Swann	Trustee	
Thomas Moore	Trustee	Stepped down at AGM 18-10-2026
Susan Sharman	Trustee	
Joy Turner	Trustee	
Lily Yesayan	Trustee	
Non Trustee Member		
Beena Box	Administrator	

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Property & Content Insurance Brokers	Unity Insurance Services	Suite 8, The Quadrant, 60 Marlborough Road, Lancing Business Park, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8UW
Marine Insurance Brokers	Everywhen	Outgang Lane Osbaldwick York North Yorkshire YO19 5UP
Vehicle Insurance Brokers	Everywhen	Outgang Lane Osbaldwick York North Yorkshire YO19 5UP

Structure, governance and management

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.

How the charity is constituted

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

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

Management

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board comprises the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with the Group Lead Volunteer and individuals nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustee Board exists to make sure that the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and internal controls

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 principal 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.

- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.

The Group through the capitation fees contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities.

- Reduced income from subscriptions and fundraising.

The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising but holds a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could increase income on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently, through an increase in subscription rates or by way of additional fundraising activities and seeking external financial support from philanthropic individuals or organisations.

- Reduction or loss of leaders.

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 leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole there would be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

- Reduction or loss of members.

The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership 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.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 those purposes

The Group has continued to run with a reduced number of sections since returning to in-person meetings after the Covid pandemic. The Group has one Beaver Colony, one Cub Pack, one Sea Scout Troop and one Explorer Scout Unit. Each section meets weekly during school term-time and the Scout Troop continues throughout the summer holidays to maximise time available for water-based activities. The Group also holds or participates in several camps, at section or Group level, and other off-site activities annually.

The Group offers inclusive activities, collaborates with, and supports other Groups across the District and County in events and activities. The Group invests in additional water-based activity and safety training for leaders to support its own activities and those in this wider network.

The Group is run and supported entirely by voluntary efforts.

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.

Achievements and Performance

GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER (GLV)

The 2025–2026 year was marked by encouraging progress, rewarding moments and a strong sense of teamwork. Every section moved forward positively while meeting the essential ongoing training requirements that help keep our young people safe. I am immensely grateful to our Leadership Team Members, several of whom generously take on multiple roles, for the time, energy and care they devote to giving all our young members the outstanding Scouting experience they deserve.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our leadership teams, every section achieved notable successes over the past year. It is wonderful to see these accomplishments described more fully in the individual section reports.

I am delighted that every section has maintained the leaders and team members needed to operate safely and effectively. Welcoming more section volunteers would give our friendly, committed teams even greater flexibility and help us build on this strong foundation. We are actively seeking additional Leadership Team Members, so if you may be able to help, or would simply like to learn more—please contact me for an informal conversation.

As in previous years, we would also be pleased to hear from anyone interested in supporting the Group beyond our leadership teams. We warmly welcome additional Operations Team members, whose valued work keeps the Group running smoothly and enables our leaders to focus on young people. Current opportunities include coordinator roles for Group publicity, non-leader volunteers and statutory obligations.

There are also vacancies on the Trustee Board, including the role of Chair. The Board plays an essential part in ensuring that the Group meets its governance responsibilities.

If you could contribute in any of these roles or would simply like to learn more before making a commitment, please contact me for an informal conversation.

As GLV, one of my key behind-the-scenes responsibilities is ensuring that every role is filled or has suitable temporary cover while recruitment continues. Over the past year, Trustee Board members have responded with tremendous willingness whenever support has been needed, and I am deeply grateful for their contribution to management matters. I continue to serve as Trustee Chair, and welcoming someone into this important and rewarding role is a key priority for the year ahead.

The Group is excited to continue working towards replacing our ageing headquarters with a purpose-built facility offering ample space for our activities and storage needs. Now registered as a charity in its own right, the Group is progressing its pursuit of a long-term land lease from City of York Council. Further details of this ambitious proposed building will be presented at the Group Get Together on 18th October.

As a Sea Scout Group, we are proud to offer experiences supported by our equipment, vehicles and extensive fleet of boats. Keeping these valuable resources well maintained, together with insuring our headquarters, contents, boats and vehicles, is an expensive undertaking but represents an important investment in the opportunities we provide. Fundraising through grants and activities plays a vital role in helping us sustain and develop everything we offer. If you would like to contribute to this important work, please contact me; I would be pleased to introduce you to our current fundraiser.

In closing, I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to the life and success of our Group in any capacity. Your time, support, commitment and generosity make a genuine difference and are warmly appreciated by us all.

Tony Hale

Group Lead Volunteer

(Email: groupscoutleader@yorkseascouts.org.uk)

1ST CLIFTON BEAVER COLONY

What a fantastic year it has been for our Beaver Colony! Full of fun, laughter, new experiences and plenty of opportunities to gain experience through adventure, our Beavers have continued to show just how much can be achieved when you give young people the chance to explore, discover and have a go.

We currently have **15 Beavers in the Colony**, although we had a particularly large group move up to Cubs at the same time along with a decrease in numbers joining which reduced our numbers. It is always wonderful to see our young people progress through Scouting, even if it does mean saying goodbye to some familiar faces as they take their next steps on their Scouting journey.

A Year Full of Adventure

Our Beavers have enjoyed a brilliant range of activities this year, with a programme designed to keep them active, curious and engaged. From **glow-stick dancing** and games to learning about **water safety**, there has been something for everyone. We welcomed health students from the University, who helped our Beavers learn more about health and wellbeing, and enjoyed library visits alongside our Explorers, bringing different sections of the group together.

We also joined in celebrating the **40th birthday of Beavers**, marking this fantastic milestone for the youngest section of Scouting. Of course, no Beaver year would be complete without our legendary district end-of-year water fight! It is safe to say that everyone knows when the water fight is happening, and dry clothes are very much an optimistic ambition rather than a guarantee.

Alongside all the fun, our Beavers have continued to work hard on their badges, developing practical skills, building confidence and learning about the world around them. Some of our Beavers even had the opportunity to experience county camp, travelling to Murton Park to take part in **Damboree**. For those who attended, this was a fantastic chance to experience camping, adventure and the excitement of being part of something bigger than their usual weekly meetings.

Badges and Achievements

This year, we have awarded **113 badges, including five Bronze Awards**.

Although this is a lower total than last year, it is still a fantastic achievement. We had a number of Beavers who had already completed nearly all their activity badges before moving up to Cubs, so the number certainly does not tell the whole story.

Every badge represents effort, learning and a willingness to try something new. We are incredibly proud of all our Beavers and the progress they have made, whether they have mastered a new skill, conquered a fear or simply grown in confidence.

Our Leadership Team

This year has seen some exciting developments within our leadership team. Oliver earned his **Wood Beads**, a significant milestone in his Scouting journey, and has excelled in stepping forward into the Section Leader role. Supported by Tracie and Alex, Oliver has continued to develop his leadership skills and help drive the Colony forward. We are delighted to see him growing in confidence and taking on this responsibility. This was especially important due to leader shortages at the beginning of the year, and we are grateful to Oliver for keeping the section.

We also said goodbye to Isaac, Amos and Callum as they headed off to university. We would like to thank them for the time, enthusiasm and commitment they gave to our Beavers. They have been a valued part of the team, and we wish them every success in this next exciting chapter of their lives.

Our Colony is also brilliantly supported by our team of four Young Leaders: **Bella, Harry, Beatrix and Georgia**. These four are vital members of the team, and we are hugely grateful for everything they contribute. From supporting activities and helping our Beavers to keeping things running smoothly on busy evenings, their enthusiasm and commitment make a real difference. They are also working towards their Young Leader Belts, developing valuable skills in communication, teamwork, leadership and responsibility. It is fantastic to see them learning and growing while helping our youngest Scouts enjoy their own Scouting adventures.

Looking Ahead

We have plenty to look forward to over the coming year, and our aim is to keep building a programme that gives every Beaver the opportunity to try something new and make brilliant memories.

Plans include:

- **An outdoor camp**, giving our Beavers more opportunities to experience the excitement of camping and outdoor adventure.
- **Another district sleepover**, bringing Beavers together with other groups across the district for fun, friendship and shared experiences.
- **More trips out**, helping our Beavers explore their local community and discover new interests.

- **Water-based activities**, building on our water safety work and giving the children further opportunities to experience adventure.
- **More skills and achievements**, continuing to support our Beavers in working towards badges and developing confidence.

We also want to invest in the future of our leadership team. Our aim is to develop our leaders' skills through further training, including working towards Nights Away and activity permits, so we can offer an even wider range of exciting experiences.

Alongside this, we will be looking to recruit more adult volunteers and welcome additional young people into the Colony. Growing our team will help us sustain the programme, share responsibilities and make sure we can continue to offer the best possible experience for our Beavers.

Thank You

A huge thank you goes to Oliver, Tracie and Alex, our Young Leaders, and everyone who has supported the Colony throughout the year. Whether helping at meetings, sharing specialist skills, organising activities or supporting events, every contribution helps make Scouting possible.

Most importantly, thank you to our Beavers. Their energy, curiosity, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved are what make our Tuesday evenings so enjoyable.

With 15 Beavers, 113 badges awarded, five Bronze Awards, new leadership achievements and exciting plans for the year ahead, there is plenty to celebrate.

Our aim remains simple: to give every Beaver the chance to try new things, make friends, grow in confidence and have adventures they will remember for years to come.

Here's to another fantastic year at 1st Clifton Beavers — with plenty of adventure, lots of laughter and hopefully some of you joining our end of term water fight too.

1ST CLIFTON CUB PACK

We currently have 20 cubs, with a couple more about to join us from the waiting list. In the last year we have awarded 193 badges. Two Cubs have achieved their Chief Scout's Silver, and by the time of the AGM another two will have earned theirs.

Teams represented the pack at the Hergarth Challenge and District Football Tournament, demonstrating great teamwork.

Highlights of the last year include making bird feeders for their environmental conservation badge, working on navigation with a walk around the lake, and tackling some pioneering challenges, building a bridge for a train and getting an egg as high off the ground as possible.

We challenged them to pick a badge they could earn outside of our regular meetings, and lots of them rose to the occasion, with a wide range of badges including artist, book reader, cyclist, and home help. It has been great seeing what they have got up to, and hearing about the different interests and hobbies they have.

We have just returned from camp, a back-to-basics themed weekend at Snowball. I have to give a massive thanks to Jon for offering to be camp lead, and to Joy for being ever dependable in the kitchen. Dafydd planned and ran the Saturday activities as part of his work towards the King's Scout award. The Cubs explored the site doing orienteering, learned how to lay trails with tracking symbols, made their own lunches on the campfire, and in the afternoon were so keen on den building we gave them rope to keep working on their creations instead of the planned pioneering activity!

Two of our young leaders turned 18 in the last year, Alex is staying with us as an adult leader, while George has now gone off to university.

Dafydd and Matthew are continuing to develop as brilliant young leaders, with Dafydd earning his Young Leader belt, and Michaela and Emily have just joined us and are already proving to be fantastic.

1ST CLIFTON SCOUT TROOP

What a fantastic year it has been for 1st Clifton Scouts! It has been a year filled with adventure, achievement, new skills and plenty of opportunities for our young people to challenge themselves, try something new and, most importantly, have fun.

We currently have **21 young people in the Scout Troop**, and it has been wonderful to see them developing in confidence, learning new skills and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Achievements and Awards

Our Scouts have worked incredibly hard this year, earning **over 178 badges, including five Gold Awards**. We have also celebrated several eight-year service and membership awards, recognising the commitment and dedication of young people who have been part of Scouting for many years. These achievements represent so much more than badges on a uniform. They reflect the effort, resilience, teamwork and determination our Scouts demonstrate as they work towards their goals.

Our Scouts have also embraced opportunities beyond their regular meetings, attending events, district activities, youth forums, engineering challenges and wider group events. These experiences give our young people the chance to meet others, share ideas, develop new interests and discover what they are capable of achieving.

They proudly represented the group at the St George's Day Parade and supported county bell boating and district water activities, helping other young people experience the fun and challenges of being on the water.

Adventure on the Water

Boating continues to be a huge part of what makes our Scout Troop special, and we have enjoyed another successful boating season. We have regularly had approximately **25 or more young people out on the water at a time**, learning and developing their skills in paddleboarding, canoeing, sailing, kayaking and pulling. These sessions provide fantastic opportunities for young people to build confidence, work as a team, develop practical skills and challenge themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

We are particularly proud of one of our Scouts who achieved **RYA Sailing Level 4** and is progressing towards becoming a County Junior Instructor, alongside an Explorer who is also taking this exciting step. It is wonderful to see our young people progressing from learning skills themselves to helping inspire and support the next generation. This progress reflects the strength of our boating programme and the opportunities it creates for young people to develop their abilities and take on greater responsibility.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this success, including our preparations for the RN inspections and the opportunities these will bring.

Our Volunteer Team

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers.

We currently have a core team of four leaders supporting the Scout Troop, assisted by our Beaver and Explorer teams, additional support from leaders across the district and an incredible network of **19 skills instructors** who help make our programme possible.

Behind every meeting, badge, camp and boating session is a considerable amount of planning, training, preparation and commitment. We are extremely grateful to everyone who gives their time and expertise to make Scouting such a positive experience for our young people.

This year has also seen some fantastic progress in developing our adult team. Several permits have been renewed, while others have been newly achieved, helping us expand the activities we can offer. Our adults have also completed a two-day outdoor first aid course, strengthening their skills and confidence in delivering adventurous experiences.

We have also welcomed four former Young Leaders into adult leadership roles. Seeing young people progress through Scouting and then choose to give something back as adult volunteers is a real achievement and something we should be immensely proud of.

Leadership Changes

This year has also brought a change in leadership for the Scout Troop.

Pete has stepped back from his role as Troop Lead, handing over the reins to Jonathon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pete for his amazing leadership and the time, energy and commitment he has given to the Troop. His contribution has helped shape the experiences and opportunities our Scouts have enjoyed, and we are incredibly grateful that he will continue to lead during the boating season. His knowledge, experience and enthusiasm remain a valuable part of our team.

We also welcome Jonathon into the Troop Lead role and look forward to working together to build on the fantastic foundations already in place.

Looking Ahead

While we have achieved a great deal this year, we are not standing still. Our focus for the coming year is on building a strong, sustainable Scout Troop that continues to offer exciting opportunities to every young person.

Our priorities include:

- **Developing our leadership team:** Building on the skills and experience of our current volunteers, supporting further training and encouraging more adults to get involved.
- **Recruiting additional adult volunteers:** Growing our team will help us deliver an even broader programme and ensure the Troop can continue to thrive.
- **Supporting progression:** Helping our Scouts develop their skills and confidence so they are ready to progress into Explorers, equipped with the experience to make the most of the next stage of their Scouting journey.
- **Expanding our adventures:** Continuing to participate in Larkin and district activities, exploring other camp opportunities, planning a winter camp and looking at opportunities for RN camp.
- **Building on our boating success:** Continuing to develop water activities, support our young instructors and prepare for RN inspections.
- **Creating more opportunities:** Giving our Scouts the chance to try new things, take on responsibility, achieve awards and make memories that will stay with them long after they leave the Troop.

Ultimately, we want every Scout to feel that they belong, that their achievements matter and that there is always another challenge waiting for them.

Thank You

I would like to finish by thanking our leaders, skills instructors, Young Leaders, supporting volunteers and everyone across the group and district who has helped make this year such a success.

Most importantly, thank you to our Scouts. Their enthusiasm, determination, willingness to get involved and readiness to have a go are what make the Troop what it is.

With 21 young people, over 178 badges awarded, five Gold Awards, a successful boating season and a growing team of skilled volunteers, we have plenty to celebrate.

There is still work to do, particularly in growing our adult team and creating even more opportunities for our young people, but we have a fantastic foundation on which to build.

Here's to another year of adventure, achievement, friendship and making memories at 1st Clifton Sea Scouts.

APOLLO EXPLORERS

2025/26 was the first full year with Apollo explorers as a section in 1st Clifton.

The year was full of activity and Barry Byatt and Jon Chiplin continued to lead the section. The section has also been greatly supported by Tracie Steeley throughout the year with Eko Brown, a former Explorer and Thomas Gabittas supporting out of hut events.

We started the year with 14 explorers and ended the year with 6. This was due to a lack of young people joining scouting through covid 19 pandemic and we only had two explorers join over a two-year period. Numbers have now increased and are due to continue increasing for several years.

Apollo attended a very wet Ignite scout camp and showed amazing tent putting up skill and resilience. With many groups retreating to emergency accommodation our scouts and explorers had a good night's sleep in their own tents!

Jon led a weekend away hill walking at the scout activity centre in Eryri (Snowdonia)

At the weekly meetings hockey was always a popular activity and has left its mark. There were a number of out of hut evenings climbing, bouldering, treasure hunt and Jon's popular taskmaster evenings.

Two explorers achieved the chief scout's platinum award and one achieved their chief scouts Diamond awards in 25/26. There were also a number of activity badges awarded, not easy with explorer level awards.

We are proud that two of our recent leavers Callum Thirlwell and James Byatt completed their Kings Scout Awards in 25/26 and are due to visit Windsor for St George's Day 2027

At this time, we know that Jon Chiplin has stepped back from his Explorer Leader role but is still supporting 1st Clifton and District Young Leaders and I would like to thank him for his support.

Numbers joining Apollo have increased but there is currently a lack of leaders but recently Stuart Box has been supporting and has agreed to undergo the training.

EXPLORER SCOUT YOUNG LEADERS (ESYL)

Barry Byatt has continued in the role of Explorer Scout Young leader coordinator in 25/26.

We are lucky in first Clifton that we have a high proportion of our scouts that move on to be Explorer Scout Young Leaders.

The young leader programme exists to help explorers develop their leadership skills via theory training modules and also putting that into practice within sections. This is in the hope they will take on adult leadership roles once they reach 18. Five of our YL have taken up adult leadership roles in 25/26 but several have moved on to university. In 25/ 26 there were 4 ESYLs supporting beavers, 4 with cubs and 1 with scouts. All reports suggest the ESYLs are great assets within their sections.

There was one young leader training weekends at Snowball for them to undertake theory modules, but there were also monthly opportunities to attend training at Dringhouses that Barry, Jon and Tracie support.

Barry, Jon and Tracie have YL development roles in the new city of York district team.

ESYL have attended several camps with their sections. None of our explorers or ESYL attended the RN scouts camps at Gosport in 2026.

There have been great reports about the Young Leaders from their sections and 1st Clifton Beavers ESYLs helped with the beaver district sleepover and received a glowing mention at the District AGM.

As well as being a beaver section YL and supporting our scouts on the water Harry Byatt joined the NYS county water activities team as a YL/instructor supporting activities at Ellerton over the summer.

We have managed to award 3 young leader belts over the period. We also managed to sign up one young leader to do a BTEC level 2 with the cadet vocational college. Barry has become a contact for the college and we have 3 signed up for 26/27 academic year.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

Full details of the year's receipts, payments and balances can be found in the statement attached to this report. Cash funds held at the year-end amounted to £98,302 but it should be noted that the vast majority of this is held as specific reserves, the details of which are given below.

Gift aid claimed was £3,811 compared to £3,238 for the previous year.

Fundraising income of £4,057 was lower than the previous year of £6,282. The Waste Paper skip income in 2024/25 was the final year of that source of income. HQ hire remains steady (£3,521 compared to £3,525). There is one regular user and ad hoc bookings. The majority of the Other fundraising activities in the previous year of £1,623 was two scouts doing sponsored activities in the run up to Larkin.

The Group was successful in securing several donations and grants over the year. These included:

- Clifton Without Parish Council £1,270 – boating safety equipment
- Rotary Club of York £498 – replace out of date boating safety equipment
- Charles Brotherton Trust £375 – nonspecific grant

Activities during the year included the Beavers Damboree, Scout and Explorer Ignite camp, Ice skating, Canoe Race, Explorers clip'n'climb, Christmas meal and Wales camp.

Reserves policy

The Group's policy is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income fall short. The Group aims to keep surplus funds to a minimum and endeavour to hold a level of general reserves equivalent to a minimum of 6 months normal general operating expenditure.

Amount of reserves held

The Group has made a consistent contribution to a 'building fund' for over 10 years with the intention that this will be used as initial funds towards the process of replacing the existing building and raising significant further capital for that project. A detailed proposal for a long-term lease on the land was submitted to City of York Council in November 2023 and is awaiting progress from them to be submitted for approval to the Council Executive. It has been indicated that the report will recommend approving the application. The Building/Development reserve was £60,723 at the financial year end.

The Group currently owns and runs two vehicles which are used for transporting equipment and young people to the river for boating activities and to other camps and activities. To facilitate a rolling programme of maintenance and replacement of these vehicles, the Group has a Vehicle Replacement reserve of £30,900.

The Group maintains a reserve to support members to attend special events and activities such as jamborees or national/international camps. This reserve fund was £5,520 at the end of the financial year

Investment policy and objectives

The Group's balances are modest and as a consequence it does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in UK banks with Government guarantees

Plans for the future

The Group has six key priorities which it seeks to achieve over the next and coming years. Achieving these relies on volunteers stepping up to assist the existing teams.

1. Increase income from subscriptions and fundraising

At the current level of membership numbers and subscription rates, the Group cannot sustain its general operating expenditure and keep appropriate levels of reserves. The Trustee Board has again chosen to minimise increased subscription rates in the year in light of the pressures of general cost of living increases on families and in keeping with the Scouting ethos to remain open and accessible to all. The Group must therefore aim to increase membership levels and continue fundraising in order to be sustainable over the next few years.

The Group still aims to reinstate the second Beaver Colony and a second Cub Pack as the first target. We will consider the practical options to increase capacity at Scouts level to accommodate the increased numbers of young people as they move up through the sections.

2. Increase income from grants and fundraising

The Group will aim to recruit a volunteer team to seek out fundraising opportunities and coordinate fundraising activities.

3. Community Engagement and support

As a Group, we want to raise our profile and improve how we are viewed and supported in our community. Some success has been achieved in this area but we need to continue to connect more with local people and businesses, other voluntary organisations and social enterprises. HQ bookings are increasing through this engagement.

4. Headquarters Lease

We continue to focus on securing a long-term lease so that we can ensure we have stability in order to provide a functional permanent headquarters that allows us to deliver and focus on activities and events for all age groups. The process of gaining a new lease with City of York Council is continuing slowly.

5. New Headquarters Building

We are now embarking on an ambitious plan to replace the existing aged headquarters building with a new individually designed permanent headquarters that will allow us to deliver and focus on activities and events for all age groups. This is in its initial stages but is progressing steadily and gaining momentum. The specific design requirements, planning, building regulation and fund raising will all be on the development team agenda for the coming year.

6. Recruitment and Retention of Adult Volunteers

The Group needs to increase the number of Adult Volunteers as Leaders and in support roles in order to achieve the objectives set out above. The Group needs to ensure that all volunteers feel welcomed, supported and valued, and understand the responsibilities of their role.

The Group has a need for someone suitable to function as the Trust Board Chair – a role that will lead the Group Governance and Trustees through the coming years of ongoing development.

The Group continues in its process of developing a volunteer recruitment and engagement strategy and timeline, which includes recruiting a volunteer coordinator to provide appropriate support for all our volunteers.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature		
Full Name	T.B.C	Antony Hale
Position	Group Trust Board Chair	Group Lead Volunteer
Date		