

South West Cheshire All Volunteers Day

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2026



Scouts

South West Cheshire



Welcome!

Housekeeping



Dan Baldwin

District Lead Volunteer
South West Cheshire Scouts

DLV@swcscouts.org.uk



Welcome!

Housekeeping

Get involved



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With us today, we have...

18

Representatives
from 18 SWC
Scout Groups



21

GLVs and
District Leadership
Team members.



8

District
Trustees.



10

Group
Trustees.



9

people from
the wider
District Team.

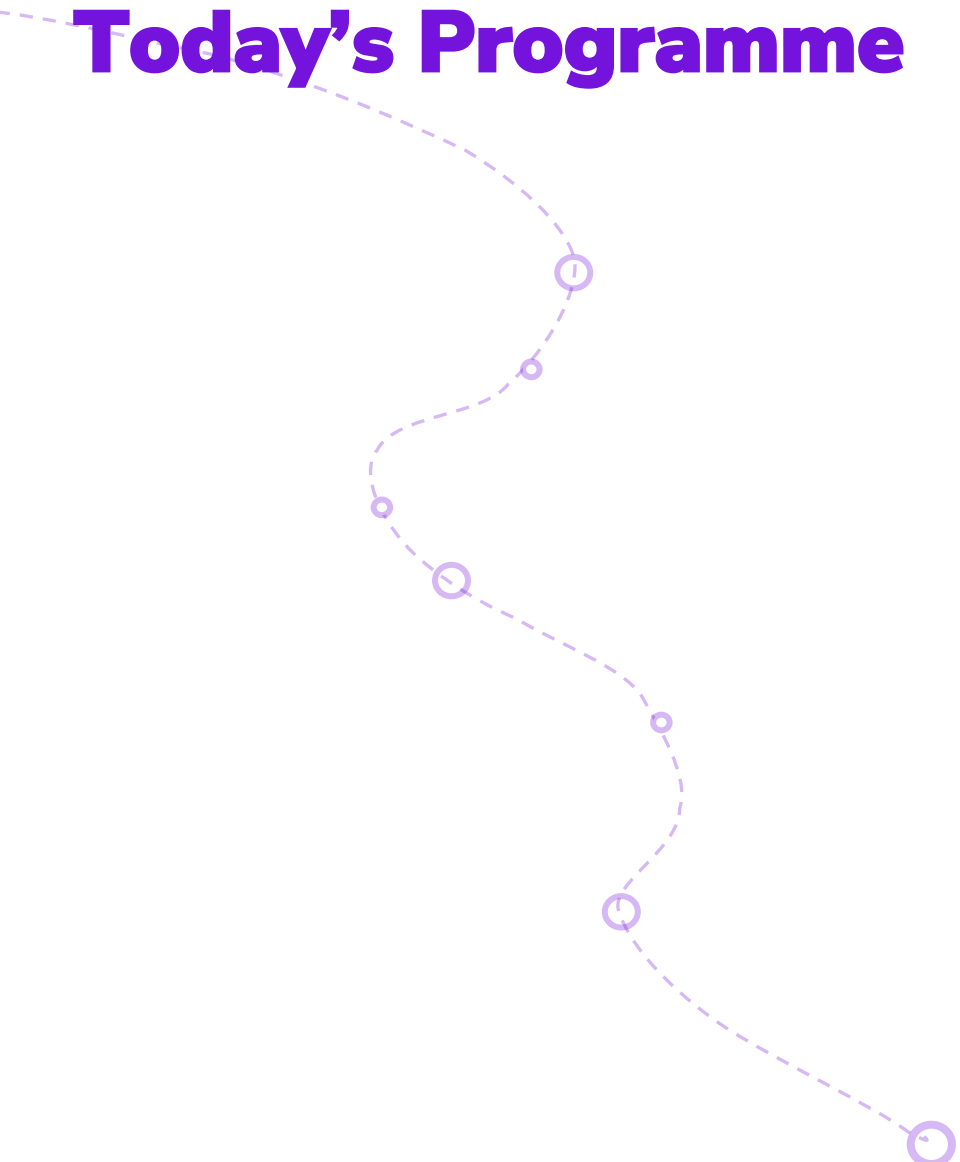


29

people from
Squirrel, Beaver,
Cub, Scout and
Explorer sections.



Today's Programme



- 10:00 • Welcome
- 10:00 • Introduction to “Place to Belong”
- 10:45 • What does this mean for us in SWC?
- 11:15 • **BREAK** – Refreshments & networking
- 11:30 • Making it real – turning strategy into local action
- 12:15 • Morning round-up: priorities and actions
- 13:00 • **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:30 • Afternoon session 1
- 14:45 • Afternoon session 2
- 15:45 • Final reflections
- 16:00 • **CLOSE**. Optional ‘drop-in’ sessions till 16:15



Place to belong

Our Strategy to 2035

Scouts





Why we looked ahead





We listened to 28,000 people





How young people shaped our strategy





- Over 500 Scouts aged 10–24 years attended the 4 UK Youth Forum events plus 1,000 aged 4–24 took part in self-led activities.
- Priorities were safety, outdoor activities, life skills, youth leadership, mental well-being, community impact, and attracting new members.
- Looking ahead to 2035, their goals were:
 - developing awards and life skills
 - promoting inclusivity and accessibility
 - expanding youth-led initiatives
 - encouraging growth
 - fostering stronger connections.
- Our young people wanted safe, judgement free-spaces supported by trusted, well trained volunteers.





The core insight





Focus on getting three things right

1. Deliver a high-quality programme
2. Make volunteering sustainable and fulfilling
3. Simplify support around both and everything else improves





Why now?

There is a crisis, not just of mental health and loneliness among young people, but of anxiety about the future too. That's why young people need a place to belong more than ever.



Nearly half (44%) of young people surveyed aged 11-18 regularly feel lonely.*



53% of young people say they're worried about their mental wellbeing.*

45% worry about their physical wellbeing.*

63% are worried about finding a job.*

“ Though the digital world offers endless connections, sometimes I feel a strange, quiet loneliness. What really stings is the lack of places to just be. Outside of school, there isn't much for my mates and I to do in person. We need spaces to just hang out, make friends, and frankly, just have some fun... that in-person community factor is lost. ”

– Young person from Hastings*



“ When young people feel like they've got a place they belong, they act like they belong. ”

– Young person from Newcastle*



*The Children's Society's Good Childhood Report (from a survey, including 2,000 UK children and young people aged 10 to 17).

*DCMS Youth Matters: State of the Nation report 2025, from a survey of 25,000 young people.





How Scouts changes lives

Why



Young people join...

From all backgrounds seeking a place to belong, friendship and connection. They're welcomed into:

- Squirrels
- Beavers
- Cubs
- Scouts
- Explorers
- Network

How



Experience...

Our Programme for 4-24 year olds

- Fun
- Friendship
- Adventure
- Teamwork
- Helping others
- A global community
- Volunteering
- Belonging

Supported by...

Brilliant volunteers

Our Values of Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation

Our impact

Gain...

A place to belong

Skills for life

Become...

Happier, kinder, more connected, empathetic, resilient, more employable

Active citizens

Inspiring volunteers

Contribute to...

Closer Communities

A kinder, more cohesive society



Want to know more?

- Scan the QR code to find more information from the 2025 UK Youth Forum sessions





Place to belong **Shaping the next nine years**



Scouts 



Place to belong: **Our Strategy to 2035**

Our Vision

To empower more young people through adventure, teamwork and shared values, to take the lead on making a positive difference in the world.

Our Purpose

To actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Pillars

Programme

Delivering an adventurous and inclusive Programme.

Volunteering

Supporting our volunteers

Our Outcomes

By 2035 we will have:

1. A growing and inclusive movement
2. More young people gaining skills and leading change
3. Volunteers who feel confident, supported and valued
4. Stronger and better connected communities
5. A safe, inclusive and sustainable movement

Our Values Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief, Cooperation





Our Vision

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Our Pillars

Pillar 1

Delivering an adventurous and inclusive Programme

When young people experience belonging, they're more likely to grow, participate and stay engaged. An inclusive Programme rooted in the outdoors, filled with adventure and grounded in community, connects young people locally and globally, offering them experiences that enable them to thrive.

Pillar 2

Supporting our volunteers

Our volunteers are brilliant, and we need more of them - well trained, confident and supported - to bring our Vision to life. When our leaders feel prepared and motivated, they're better able to empower young people to take the lead.





By 2035 we'll have...

Our Outcomes

1. A growing and inclusive movement

Scouts is welcoming more young people and adults, especially from communities underrepresented in our movement. We offer a safe, inclusive space where everyone feels they belong. Growth is meaningful and sustained, reaching new communities, retaining members and reflecting the diversity of society.





By 2035 we'll have...

Our Outcomes

2. More young people gaining skills for life and leading change

Every young person in Scouts is building the skills, character and confidence they need to thrive. Through adventurous experiences, global awareness and meaningful opportunities to lead, they develop a strong sense of identity and purpose. Young people are not just shaped by Scouts; they are shaping it.





By 2035 we'll have...

Our Outcomes

3. Volunteers who feel confident, supported and valued

We attract and retain more volunteers by making the experience inclusive and rewarding. They feel equipped and confident to contribute in flexible, fulfilling ways. Volunteering in Scouts strengthens their own personal growth, builds community and supports long-term affinity with the movement.





By 2035 we'll have...

Our Outcomes

4. Stronger and better connected communities

Scouts plays a visible and positive role in communities across the UK. Locally, Scouts builds bridges between people of different backgrounds, promotes civic engagement and creates spaces where everyone can belong and make a difference. Through local action, Scouts contributes to a more compassionate and cohesive society.





By 2035 we'll have...

Our Outcomes

5. A safe, inclusive and sustainable movement

Scouts is built on strong, stable foundations. It is safe for every member, actively inclusive and resilient by design. With careful planning, good governance and sound resource management, we adapt to change and deliver consistently well.





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Our Values Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief, Cooperation





Strategic shifts



From



To

National direction



Movement focused

Many priorities



Two pillars

One plan for 5-7 years



9-year vision and 3 plans

Pandemic recovery



Outdoor and adventure





The path ahead: Shaping the next nine years



To turn strategy into delivery we have three plans. These will take us on a journey through the nine-year life of the strategy.

Our focus 2026-2029

Programme

To safely deliver a fun, relevant and inclusive programme for all.

Volunteering

To improve volunteering, making sure our people feel valued, supported and motivated.

Support

To be a growing, sustainable and effective movement.





**Our focus for the
next three years**

- **Programme**
- **Volunteering**
- **Support**



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Programme
The experience
young people have



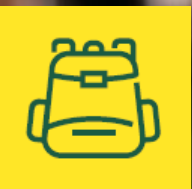
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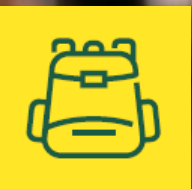
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Volunteering
that fits around
people's lives



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Volunteering
that fits around
people's lives



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Support **Removing** **friction**





Support **Removing** **friction**





Strategy lives locally
One direction;
many decisions



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Big leaps
and small steps





Shared responsibility **UK steers direction – local** **Scouts take it forward**





What success feels like in three years

- Clearer priorities
- Higher-quality programme
- Less friction for volunteers
- Volunteers feel better supported





What success looks like in nine years

- Scouts thriving in communities across UK
- More young people enjoying a high-quality programme
- Volunteering that fits modern life
- Support systems that enable not constrain





Preparing for launch

- April marked the start of the transition
- More support and resources coming
- Now in familiarising and planning phase
- Sharing learning





One movement
Shared direction,
local action

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Local action

**What does it look
like for us?**

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What does this mean for South West Cheshire?

1. What are we already doing that gives young people and volunteers a genuine place to belong?
2. Where could we do better?
3. What would we most like to be different in South West Cheshire in three years' time?



South West Cheshire All Volunteers Day

NETWORKING BREAK
Resume 11:30am



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Making this real
Turning strategy
into local action



One strategy, different at each level

- Groups – simple, practical and proportionate actions that improve experience.
- District – practical support, co-ordination, shared problem solving and collaboration.



“If we’re serious about this, what should we start, stop or keep doing locally to deliver Place to Belong”

Split as follows

- 1.** Anyone whose main role involves working with a Section Team (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers/Network)
- 2.** Any Group Lead Volunteers or Group Trustees
- 3.** Any District Team Members or District Trustees

Those with multiple roles can choose which to join!

“If we’re serious about this, what should we start, stop or keep doing locally to deliver Place to Belong”



At Group or District level:

- Which one or two outcomes or priorities matter most for you?
- What would those look like in practice?
- What are two realistic practical actions to prioritise in the next 12–18 months?
- What is one thing to stop, simplify or do differently in order to create space for these actions?

Our Outcomes

By 2035 we will have:

1. A growing and inclusive movement
2. More young people gaining skills and leading change
3. Volunteers who feel confident, supported and valued
4. Stronger and better connected communities
5. A safe, inclusive and sustainable movement

Please return to Room 1 & 2 at **12:15pm**

1. Anyone whose main role involves working with a Section Team (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers/Network)
[Divide yourselves into 3 groups in R1 & 2]
2. Any Group Lead Volunteers or Group Trustees *[R5]*
[Divide into 2 groups in R5]
3. Any District Team Members or District Trustees *[R4 & R6]*
[Divide into 2 groups in R4 & 6]

Try to keep Groups sizes reasonably even.

Please return to Room 1 & 2 at 12:15pm



How did you get on?

- What ideas did you like?
- Where can we work together, or share ideas?
- What are our favourite quick wins?
- Where have we set our sights for 2035?
- What's one thing you'll do after today?





**This is a strategy for young people,
shaped by young people.**



South West Cheshire All Volunteers Day

LUNCH BREAK
Resume 13:30



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FINAL THOUGHTS



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What's coming up?

HELP WANTED!

But just a little...



WHATSAPP COMMUNITY



2027 NEW INITIATIVES

- DLV's weekly 'office hours'
- Ready for Adventure event
- Monthly support webinar series

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sou'wester 2027
SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT CAMP

NEARLY AT THE END...



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South West Cheshire

THANK YOU



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