



**Use your skills to
help young people
gain theirs.**

**District Youth
Commissioner**



Scouts

About us	3
Our strategic plan	4
Our values	4
Our key policies	5
Our structure	6
The role	7
How to apply	8

About us

We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give almost half a million people aged 6-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

At a time when communities are becoming more divided, we bring people together. When many young people are struggling to find purpose and belonging, Scouts helps them develop skills, confidence and a sense of hope. We inspire positive futures and help young people find their place in the world by developing the character, employability and practical skills they need to succeed.

'Scouts made me a do-er and a give it a go-er. Made me question and listen and have a wide-open mind. Scouts made me take a deep breath and speak up. Made me think on my feet, made me see the big picture, made me ignore the butterflies and go for it. Scouts made me get back up and try again. Made me think about what's next, and plan for it. Made me jump in, get muddy, give back and get set.'



What do Scouts do?

Scouts take part in a wide range of activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. As a Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming or even how to fly a plane. There's something for everyone. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

What do volunteers do?

Helping young people develop skills for life is only possible thanks to our team of adult volunteers, who support Scouts in a wide range of roles from working directly with young people, to helping manage a local community based Group, to being a charity Trustee. We help volunteers get the most out of their experiences at Scouts by providing opportunities for adventure, training, fun and friendship.

Our award winning training scheme for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people. Our approach focuses on what you want to get out of volunteering with Scouts, while respecting how much time you can offer. Over 90% of Scout volunteers say that their skills and experiences have been useful in their work or personal life.

Our strategic plan

By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders who deliver an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Society is changing. In often fragmented communities, the pressures and expectations on young people are increasing. The future is uncertain. Scouts has never been so important in helping young people prepare for the future, developing the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. Each week almost half a million young people enjoy fun, friendship and outdoor adventure. They develop a sense of optimism and strong values as well as the leadership and team working skills that are more valuable today than ever.

Our movement achieves remarkable things. Our previous plan, Scouting for All, inspired new Groups and sections to start in an additional 834 areas of deprivation since 2013. We now help over 460,000 young people aged 6-18 (including the highest number of girls in our history) get the best possible start in life.

Now we want to go further. Skills for Life is a strategy that supports and empowers our volunteers who are the people that make Scouts a reality. It's a strategy to bring communities together and contribute towards a better society. But most of all, it's a strategy for young people. They deserve the best skills, the best support, and the best possible futures.

Skills for Life

Our plan to prepare better futures 2018-2023

Our vision

By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders who deliver an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our values

We act with care, respect, integrity, cooperation, exploring our own and others' beliefs.

Our goals

We will achieve the following goals against our four objectives:

Growth

- 50k more young people
- 10k more Section Leaders
- 5k more Young Leaders

Inclusivity

- The demographic of adult volunteers reflects society
- In 500 more areas of deprivation

Youth Shaped

- 250k young people shape their Scouting each year
- 50% young people achieve top awards

Community Impact

- 250k young people making a positive impact in their local communities each year
- 50% young people achieve top awards

Our three pillars of work

To meet these objectives, we will focus on three pillars of work:

Programme

A fun, enjoyable, high quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.

People

More, well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers, and more young people from diverse backgrounds.

Perception

Scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today.

'I believe that Scouts empowers young people. It gives them skills to achieve the remarkable, and opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the rapidly changing world.'

Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner

Our values

Integrity

We say what we mean and when we make a promise, we keep it.

Respect

We listen to others, explore our differences and work to find common ground.

Care

Scouts are friends to all and think of others before themselves.

Belief

We believe passionately in improving the lives and life chances of young people and helping them explore and develop their beliefs and attitudes.

Cooperation

Scouting is about teamwork. We believe that when we work together we achieve more than we can on our own.

Our key policies

All members follow our key policies. The policies cover:

Child Protection

Equal Opportunities

Religion

Safety

These policies are fully explained on our website at <http://scouts.org.uk/about-us/key-policies/>

Did you know?

- 9 out of 10 parents think their children would benefit from learning skills for life
- 83% of parents think Scouts helps young people develop skills for life
- 9 out of 10 UK adults think Scouts develop empathy
- 9 out of 10 UK adults think Scouts develop active listening skills 11 of the 12 people to walk on the moon were Scouts.
- Scouts have stood on the summit of Everest and at the South Pole.
- Scouts are public spirited – all our leaders are volunteers and nearly half (47%) volunteer outside of Scouts too.
- Over 160,000 adult volunteers in Scouting learn new skills, make new friends and make a positive impact in their communities.
- We offer over 200 activities from abseiling and coding to drama and water-zorbing.
- Over a quarter of UK Scouting's membership is female.



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At a time when communities are becoming more divided, we bring people together. When many young people are struggling to find purpose and belonging, Scouts helps them develop skills, confidence and a sense of hope. We inspire positive futures and help young people find their place in the world by developing the character, employability and practical skills they need to succeed.

The role

Role description

Purpose: As a member of the District Leadership Team the District Youth Commissioner works in partnership with the District Commissioner and Chairperson of the District Executive Committee. The role is to ensure that young people from 6 – 25 years are involved and engaged in every decision that shapes their Scouting experience locally and to empower young people to share their ideas and have a meaningful voice in planning, implementing and reviewing their programme and opportunities

Appointed by: District Commissioner

Responsible to: District Commissioner and Chair of the District Executive

Responsible for: District Youth Forum (or similar) Lead, Deputy District Youth Commissioner(s) (if appointed)

Internal contacts: Young people within their District, District Commissioner, District Youth Forum Lead, Deputy District Youth Commissioners, Deputy District Commissioners, Group Scout Leaders, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Scout Network Commissioners, Scout Network Programme Coordinators, Assistant District Commissioners, District Chairperson, members of the District Executive Committee and its sub-committees, County Youth Commissioner and other District Youth Commissioners

Key tasks: The following are the 'General' duties of the role which will be made more specific in accordance with the needs of the District on appointment to the role.

One of the first tasks of the role will be for the post-holder to search for and recruit a Deputy in order to spread the overall workload, but also to mentor a younger person (ideally under 30 years of age) who may be considering taking on such a role in the future.

Supporting youth-shaped Scouting in the Programme

- Visit Section Meetings to talk and inspire young people and young adults about youth-shaped Scouting and what is happening within their District.
- Support Groups and Sections to provide local youth engagement opportunities including forums
- Together with the District Scout Network Commissioner, and Programme Coordinators, encourage Scout Network members to shape and lead projects and activities for the District Scout Network.
- Encourage youth leadership at all levels within Groups and Sections (Young Leaders, Sixers & Seconders, Patrol Leaders & Assistant Patrol Leaders etc.)
- Work with ADCs (Sections) to support Leaders and other adult volunteers to embed youth shaped Scouting.

Developing Young People

- Work with other adults to identify, encourage and develop talented young people and young adults who wish to become more involved in shaping Scouting.
- Provide support to 18-25 year old members on Executive Committees.
- Increase the role and participation of young people in the leadership and management of the District.

Embedding Young People in Local Decision Making

- Work with all members of the District to ensure that the views of young people are represented in decision making.
- Encourage the creation and greater participation in meaningful Youth Forums
- Appoint, support and manage a Youth Forum Lead.
- Ensure that recommendations from the Youth Forum to the District Executive Committee and District Team are considered and appropriately implemented and that an effective method to provide feedback on outcomes to the Youth Forum is in place.

Wider Engagement

- Establish a robust method of communicating with the District Commissioner and young people within the District.
- Work as a key part of the District Leadership Team contributing and taking an active part in the delivery of the District Development Plan.
- Work with the County Youth Commissioner to develop youth-shaped Scouting within the County, providing feedback to adults and young people.
- Work with other local Youth Commissioners to feed into the UK Youth Commissioner Team including taking part in national training and conference opportunities (often virtual).

Time commitment:

Up to an average of six to eight hours per week

Terms of appointment:

Must successfully complete the appointment process (including acceptable personal enquiries and acceptance of The Scout Association's policies). Must complete Getting Started within 5 months of appointment and other relevant training (a wood badge) within three years of taking up the role

Expenses:

Reasonable expenditure, subject to **prior approval** by the District Executive Finance Sub-Committee, are paid in reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying out the role(s)

Person specification

Skills and abilities:

- Ideally be no older than the 30th birthday due to the active 'engagement' and need to closely relate to the Young People.
- Good communications skills at multiple levels from the youngest Beaver Scout through to all Adult Volunteers
- Ability to empathise with and understand others' problems and issues and develop workable solutions using available resources and perhaps creative approaches.

Knowledge and experience:

- Chair and run Youth Forum meetings to discuss, plan and arrange what needs to be implemented to develop Youth Shaped Scouting across and within North Manchester Scout District in a collaborative manner.
- Familiarity with using email and Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Preferably, experience of working with and having been a Young Person in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts etc and their leaders or other adult volunteers (but not essential as this can be developed in the role and taking the training that is required for the position)

Personal qualities:

- Experience as an Explorer Scout Young leader will be beneficial.
- Enthusiasm, confidence and a high level of personal credibility.
- Good time-management skills.
- Friendly, personable and ability to work with and understand other people representing their views across the District to individual Group and District Executive committees.
- Willing to learn and be part of the larger District Team contributing to the development of Youth provision and representation within North Manchester District.
- Understand the limits of the role as agreed with the District Commissioner and Chair of the District Executive and when to consult when something falls outside of these – in other words “know what you **don't** know” and seek help.

How to apply

Process

Please contact the District Commissioner for an informal discussion in the first instance:

Neil Gorton

District Commissioner North Manchester
Deputy County Commissioner (Special Projects)

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