



Creating a place to belong

Annual Report & Accounts
2025-2026



Scouts
West Lancashire

“Being part of Scout Network in West Lancs opened up incredible opportunities I never expected, offering a brilliant mix of adventure, lasting friendship, and a real place where I belong.”

James Houghton
Scout Network Member, Chorley



A Remarkable Year of Adventure and Belonging

Celebrating the achievements, growth, and community impact of West Lancashire Scouts in our Annual Report

It is a great privilege to serve as President of West Lancashire Scouts, and I am immensely proud to introduce this Annual Report celebrating another remarkable year of Scouting across our County.

Within these pages are just some of the stories that demonstrate the extraordinary contribution Scouting makes to the lives of young people. From local adventures and community projects to international experiences and outstanding personal achievements, including Alice Burney becoming the youngest person in the UK to achieve all four of Scouting's top awards, there is so much of which we can be proud.

We have also continued to invest in the future. The exciting development of Waddecar Scout Activity Centre, supported by the tremendous generosity of the Bill Ainscough Foundation, is a wonderful example of our determination to ensure that future generations of young people have places in which to experience adventure, friendship and challenge.

As we look ahead, I am particularly excited by our new strategy, Place to Belong 2026–2035. Those words capture something very special about Scouting. At its best, Scouting provides a place where every young person can feel welcomed and valued; where they can make friends, discover their talents, grow in confidence and know that they belong.

That sense of belonging is perhaps more important today than it has ever been. In a world which can sometimes feel uncertain and divided, organisations such as Scouts bring people together, strengthen communities and give young people positive experiences, trusted adults and the confidence and skills to play their part in society.

None of this happens without our volunteers. Across West Lancashire, hundreds of people freely give their time, energy, enthusiasm and expertise to create opportunities for young people week after week. Whether leading a Section, supporting an activity, maintaining our facilities, serving as a Trustee or helping quietly behind the scenes, every contribution matters. On behalf of our young people, their families and the wider communities we serve, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

I would also like to congratulate Cath Lee on her first year as our County Lead Volunteer and thank her, our County leadership team, our Trustees, staff and all those who continue to lead and support Scouting across West Lancashire.

There is much to celebrate in this report and even more to look forward to. I remain enormously proud to be President of this wonderful organisation and, above all, proud of the difference West Lancashire Scouts continues to make to the lives of young people.

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE JP DL
County President



Enabling more young people to experience the adventure, friendship, and personal growth of Scouting.

A transformational year for West Lancashire Scouts as we secure the future of Waddecar, invest in our volunteers, and welcome new leadership.

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Report of West Lancashire Scouts.

As Trustees, our role is often one that takes place quietly in the background. We are not the volunteers leading meetings each week, taking young people on camps or climbing mountains. Instead, our responsibility is to ensure that West Lancashire Scouts remains a well-governed, financially sustainable and ambitious charity, providing the strong foundations that allow exceptional Scouting to flourish. Everything we do as Trustees is driven by one simple purpose: enabling more young people to experience the adventure, friendship, challenge and personal growth that Scouting offers. This year has been one of our most significant in recent years.

Waddecar Accommodation Project: After many months of planning and partnership working, we were delighted to secure the funding needed to bring our ambitious Waddecar Accommodation Project to life. This transformational investment will provide modern accommodation that will benefit generations of young people, opening the door to even more nights away, outdoor learning and unforgettable adventures. It is much more than a building; it is an investment in the future of Scouting across West Lancashire and a statement of our confidence in the generations of young people and volunteers who will follow us.

Investing in Adventure: Our investment has not stopped with buildings. Throughout the year we have continued to prioritise adventurous activity, recognising that challenge and adventure remain at the heart of what makes Scouting such a powerful force for good. The Trustee Board has continued to invest significantly in supporting adult volunteers to gain permits, qualifications and new skills. Every new permit holder, assessor or activity leader expands what is possible for our young people. By investing in our volunteers, we invest directly in richer experiences, greater opportunities and life-changing adventures for thousands of young people across our County.

Leadership Transition: This year has also marked an important period of leadership transition. On behalf of the Trustee Board, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Andrew Hobson, who willingly stepped into the role of Interim County Lead Volunteer. Andrew provided thoughtful, dependable leadership during an important period for the County, ensuring continuity while continuing to support volunteers and young people with his characteristic commitment and humility. We are extremely grateful for everything he has contributed.

I am equally delighted to welcome Cath Lee as our County Lead Volunteer. Cath has made an exceptional start, bringing enthusiasm, warmth and a clear vision for the future. She has quickly built strong relationships across the County, and her passion for supporting volunteers and enabling young people to thrive is already evident. I know she will make an outstanding contribution as she leads West Lancashire Scouts into its next chapter, and the Trustee Board looks forward to working alongside her.

A Place to Belong: Looking to the future, we are excited by the launch of Scouts' new vision – A Place to Belong. It is a vision that perfectly captures the very best of Scouting: creating communities where everyone feels welcome, valued, respected and able to achieve their potential. Here in West Lancashire, this vision will help shape our own ambitions as we continue to grow and develop as a charity. We want every young person to discover adventure, develop skills for life and find friendships that last a lifetime. Equally, we want every adult volunteer to feel supported, valued and empowered to make a difference. Together, we will continue building a County where everyone truly has a place to belong.

Thanks: I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to every member of our Trustee Board. Trustees rarely seek recognition, yet they quietly give their time, professional expertise and experience to ensure that our charity remains safe, compliant, financially secure and well managed. Their work may often be unseen, but it is fundamental to everything that happens across West Lancashire Scouts. I am continually inspired by the commitment, wisdom and generosity they bring, always placing the needs of our volunteers and young people at the centre of every decision.

Finally, I would like to thank every volunteer, Trustee, supporter, employee, partner and donor who has contributed to another remarkable year. Whether you give your time each week, support an event, serve on a committee, maintain our buildings, share your expertise or simply encourage others, you are helping to change lives. Scouting continues to make an extraordinary difference because of ordinary people who choose to give their time to others.

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of Trustees alongside so many dedicated people, and I look forward with great confidence to everything we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Richard Charnock
Chair – Trustee Board



“Cubs is my happy place. I love to learn new skills about surviving in the wild. I look forward to every week and what new things I will learn. I enjoy cooking and lighting fires from scratch. I’m a huge fan of collecting anything and I’m excited about collecting badges and neckers and seeing how many I can get.”

Aaron
Cub Scout, 1st Kirkham & Wesham Scouts



Giving young people opportunities, experiences, and skills that help them throughout their lives.

A year of new beginnings and progress as we strengthen our volunteer support, celebrate young people's achievements, and look ahead to our new strategy.

It is a real privilege to present my first Annual Report as County Lead Volunteer for West Lancashire Scouts.

When I started the role in January 2026, I knew I was going to lead an organisation with an incredibly strong heritage, a committed team of volunteers and a huge ambition for the future. I would like to begin by thanking every volunteer, young person, parent, supporter and member of staff who contributes to making West Lancashire Scouts what it is. Our purpose remains simple: to give young people opportunities, experiences and skills that help them throughout their lives. Everything we do is ultimately about making that happen.

A Year of Opportunity: 2026 has been a year of new beginnings and continued progress across West Lancashire. We have welcomed new volunteers into our County leadership teams, while continuing to strengthen the support available to volunteers across our Districts and Groups. In January, we were delighted to appoint Andrew Hobson as Volunteer Development Lead following his period as Interim County Lead Volunteer, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew for both stepping into the interim role and for his valuable support and guidance he's given as I started the role. Our strengthened leadership teams gives us an excellent foundation from which to develop our volunteer experience, support growth and ensure that our volunteers have the tools, skills and encouragement they need.

Young People at the Heart of Everything We Do: The reason we volunteer is, of course, our young people. Across West Lancashire, young people continue to take part in an extraordinary range of activities and adventures. We have seen young people take part in adventurous activities, international opportunities, community projects and events that challenge them to step outside their comfort zones. One particularly inspiring achievement this year was that West Lancashire Scout Network member Alice Burney became the youngest person in the UK to achieve all four of Scouting's top awards, completing the final award at just 18 years. Her achievement is a wonderful example of what young people can accomplish when they are given encouragement, opportunity and the confidence to have a go. We should also remember that achievement is not always measured by an award. It could simply be a young person discovering that they can do something they previously thought was impossible. Those moments are at the heart of Scouting.

Our Volunteers: Our volunteers remain our greatest strength. I have been privileged during my time as County Lead Volunteer to meet volunteers from across West Lancashire and hear about their experiences, their successes and the challenges they face. We are continuing to develop our approach to supporting our volunteers and our aim is to make volunteering with Scouts as positive and rewarding as possible. We know that people's lives are busy and that volunteering needs to work alongside family, work and other commitments. We therefore need to remain flexible and open to different ways of volunteering. I also want to thank those volunteers who have received Good Service Awards during the year. These awards provide an opportunity to recognise the dedication and commitment of people who quietly make an enormous difference to young people's lives.

Growth and Inclusion: Our ambition is for every young person who wants to experience Scouts to have the opportunity to do so, and our County Development Officers are working hard with Districts and Groups to fulfil this. Growth is therefore not simply about numbers. It is about reaching communities, families and young people who may not currently see Scouting as something that is for them. We want West Lancashire Scouts to be welcoming, inclusive and accessible. That means continuing to listen to our young people and communities, removing barriers to participation, and supporting volunteers to deliver great Scouting in every part of the County. There is still much to do, but we have a strong platform on which to build.



Adventures and International Opportunities: Adventure remains one of the defining characteristics of West Lancashire Scouts. We continue to provide amazing opportunities for young people to experience activities and adventures that they may never otherwise encounter. Our international programme is an important part of this. These experiences develop much more than practical skills. They build independence, resilience, teamwork, confidence and an understanding of the wider world.

Waddecar: Waddecar Scout Activity Centre continues to be an important part of the life of West Lancashire Scouts. It provides a place where young people can experience adventure, where volunteers can meet and learn, and where memories are created that last a lifetime. The continued development of Waddecar will be important to our future and we were delighted to receive funding from the Bill Ainscough Foundation in support of the new accommodation building.

Looking Ahead & Our Priorities: As we look towards the future, our challenge is to build on what has already been achieved, and as I write this report, we are developing our County Strategy, Place to Belong 2026 – 2035, with the focus on the next 3 years. We need to continue growing Scouting, supporting our volunteers, strengthening our teams and making sure that our programme remains exciting, relevant and accessible. We also need to ensure that we remain a safe organisation where young people can thrive. The foundations are strong. The opportunity ahead of us is enormous.

My priorities are clear:

- Put young people at the heart of every decision.
- Support and value our volunteers.
- Grow Scouting in communities across West Lancashire.
- Make our organisation more inclusive and accessible.
- Provide outstanding opportunities, adventures and experiences.
- Develop strong leadership at every level.
- Continue to invest in the future of Waddecar.
- Build a confident, positive and forward-looking County.

Thank You: Finally, I want to say a very personal thank you to everyone who has supported, encouraged, and advised me since I became County Lead Volunteer in January. Scouting is a team effort, none of can do this alone, and I am so grateful for the support I've been given.

I am incredibly proud to be your County Lead Volunteer, and I am excited about what we are going to achieve together.

Most importantly, there are thousands of young people who are waiting to discover what they can achieve - Let's make sure they get that chance.

Cath Lee

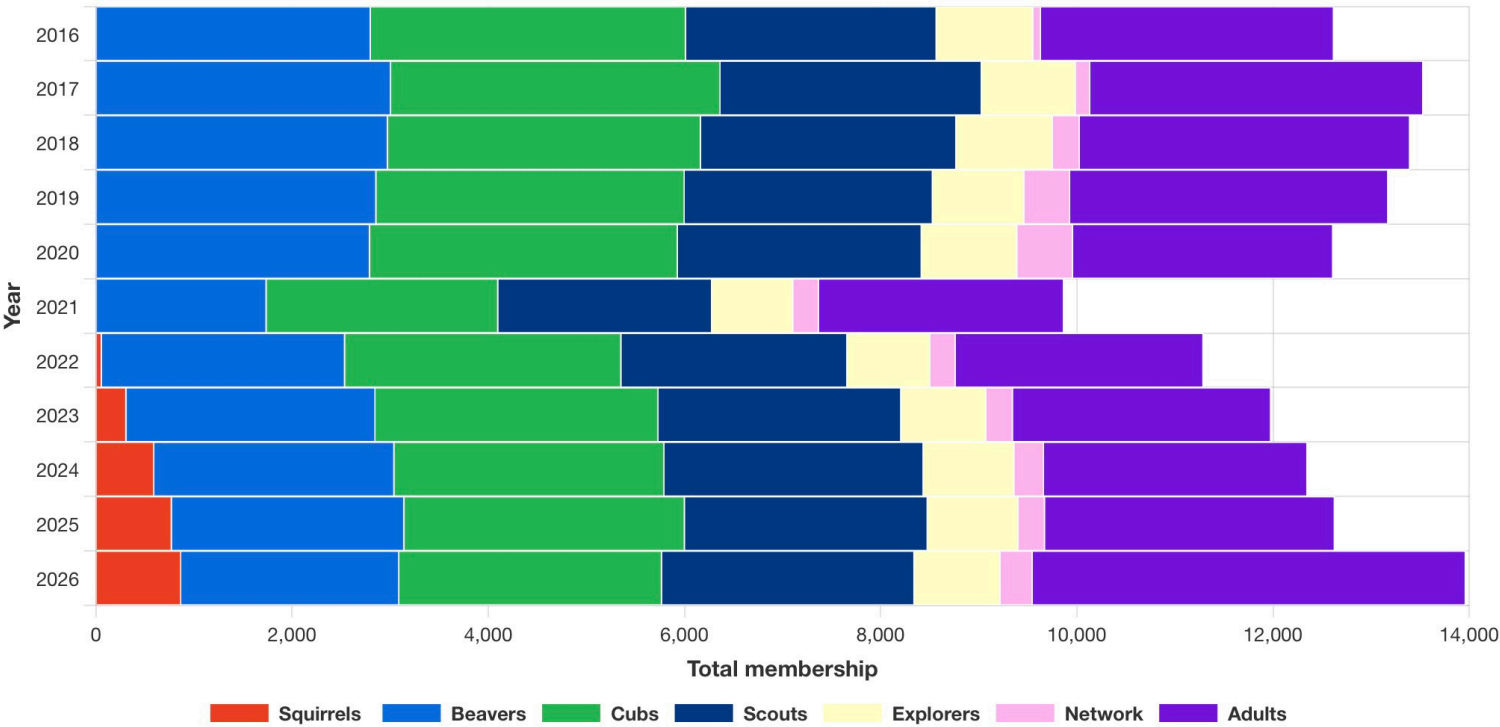
County Lead Volunteer



County Growth

 **10.2% Growth**

Our county has grown by 10.2% this year! With more adult volunteers and Young Leaders stepping up, we're able to give even more young people the adventure, skills, and fun they deserve as we continue to grow together—#PlaceToBelong!



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Squirrels	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	308	593	771	868
Beavers	2800	3006	2974	2856	2791	1737	2479	2540	2447	2371	2222
Cubs	3213	3360	3191	3144	3139	2362	2817	2885	2754	2859	2678
Scouts	2555	2662	2604	2529	2486	2180	2304	2474	2641	2476	2574
Explorers	986	958	985	934	974	827	848	866	925	926	877
Network	77	147	273	467	567	261	255	272	303	269	328

Total YP	9631	10133	10027	9930	9957	7367	8761	9345	9663	9672	9547
Adult	2987	3396	3367	3242	2653	2499	2527	2632	2685	2955	4415

*Adult membership is taken from HQ Census information. This years figure has been calculated using the number of adult roles in the County whereas previously we have reported the number of Adult Members

Total	12618	13529	13394	13172	12610	9866	11288	11977	12348	12627	13962
% Change	6.4%	7.2%	-1.0%	-1.7%	-4.3%	-21.8%	14.4%	6.1%	3.1%	2.3%	10.6%



“ Giving young people the chance to lead changes everything. Our Young Leaders bring so much energy to our weekly sessions today, and they are already showing us what the future of scouting is going to look like. ”

Lucy Hargreaves-Lee
County 14-24 Team - Young Leaders



A year of achievement.

Celebrating our Young People's achievements

Across West Lancashire we create stronger communities and inspire positive futures with teeth-gritting, keep-on-going, summit-reaching, belly-laughing nights-every night of the week.



333 Chief Scout Acorn

This is the highest award a Squirrel Scout can earn. It shows that you've had adventures, helped your friends, and learned new things – it's a big achievement, and you should be proud!



657 Chief Scout Bronze

This is the highest award a Beaver can earn, and it's something you work on gradually throughout your whole time in the section.



636 Chief Scout Silver

This is the highest award a Cub can earn. To complete it, you need to earn six Activity or Staged Activity Badges of your choice, as well as all seven of the Challenge Awards.



282 Chief Scout Gold

This is the highest award a Scout can earn. To complete it, you need to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards, plus six Activity badges.



45 Chief Scout Platinum

The Chief Scout's Platinum Award is a chance to celebrate your progress, and take stock of how far you've come.



8 Chief Scout Diamond

The Chief Scout's Diamond Award is the highest of the Chief Scout's Awards and the final step before the King's Scout Award.



19 King Scout Award

The King's Scout Award is the highest award for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members. Earning it is a huge achievement!



55 Young Leader Belt Awards

The Young Leader award that gives Explorers the chance to volunteer alongside leaders in younger sections, bringing fresh ideas and acting as positive role models while completing essential training modules and practical missions.



48 Explorer Belt Awards

The Explorer Belt is the challenge of a lifetime. Explore untrodden ground over a ten-day period, test your limits and get to grips with a new culture.



14 Scout Of The World Award

A Scout Network award that gives members the chance to undertake a project of their choice within the themes of Peace, Environment and Sustainability and take action on their chosen issue.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Is not just a prestigious Award much desired by colleges, universities, and employers. It's recognition of the huge effort you've put in to doing it, the people you've helped and the skills you've learnt along the way.

Be proud. You're an Achiever!



48 Bronze



28 Silver



17 Gold



A year of achievement.

Celebrating our adult volunteers achievements

Across West Lancashire we create stronger communities and inspire positive futures with teeth-gritting, keep-on-going, summit-reaching, belly-laughing nights-every night of the week.

26 Woodbadges

This is the highest training award for adult volunteers in Scouting, celebrating your dedication, leadership, and commitment to adventure—be proud!

44 Chief Scout Commendations

This award recognises exceptional service that goes above and beyond, celebrating your remarkable contribution and dedication to Scouting.

15 Award for Merit

This award recognises outstanding service to Scouting, celebrating your dedication, hard work, and the lasting positive impact you've made—be proud!

13 Bar to the Award for Merit

This award recognises your continued outstanding service to Scouting since receiving your Award for Merit, celebrating your ongoing dedication and the positive impact you continue to make—be proud!

4 Silver Acorn

This prestigious award recognises specially distinguished service to Scouting over a sustained period, celebrating your exceptional contribution and ongoing leadership—be proud!

2 Bar to the Silver Acorn

This prestigious award recognises your continued specially distinguished service since receiving your Silver Acorn, celebrating your extraordinary ongoing impact and leadership—be proud!

1 Silver Wolf

This is the highest award in Scouting, recognises services of a most exceptional nature, celebrating a lifetime of extraordinary contribution and dedication—be proud!

Long Service Awards

This award celebrates your milestone years of dedicated service, honouring your enduring commitment to shaping the Scouting journey—be proud!



5 Years - 74



10 Years - 98



15 Years - 46



20 Years - 40



25 Years - 18



30 Years - 17



40 Years - 23



50 Years - 5



60 Years - 2



Finances

The summarised statement of financial activities can be viewed below.

A full version of the accounts has been approved by the Trustee Board and are available for viewing by contacting County Office

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March;		
	2026	2025
	£	£
INCOME		
Activity centres income	309,721	292,808
County and international events	382,655	743,716
Scouting activities, training and sections	103,601	116,950
Rents, dividends and interest received	107,713	107,733
All other income	72,191	60,465
Total income	975,881	1,321,672
OUTGOINGS		
Staff costs	162,492	152,065
Activity centres operating costs	105,463	97,119
Depreciation and sale of assets	45,661	45,947
County and international events	380,999	652,259
Scouting activities, training & sections	114,583	150,116
Management, administration and other costs	91,579	88,976
Total costs	900,777	1,186,482
Operating surplus for the year	75,104	135,190
Gains on property revaluations	49,750	-
Gains on listed investments	163,332	38,460
Total surplus for the year	288,186	173,650

Statement of the Trustees

These unaudited summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of the Trustee Board on 9 July 2026.

The statutory Trustees Report and Audited Financial Statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity, will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting on 10 September 2026.

These statutory financial statements will be available to download as a PDF either from the Charity Commission website or the West Lancashire County Scout Council website after the AGM.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees 3 September 2026.


CA Joyce PCCA
County Treasurer

Summarised Balance Sheet at 31 March;		
	2026	2025
	£	£
ASSETS		
Buildings and equipment used for Scouting	690,898	728,627
Rental properties	1,075,000	1,020,000
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,943,243	1,766,121
Short term investments	185,819	177,300
Bank and cash balances	1,071,426	883,819
Debtors and other assets	161,722	76,246
Total Assets	5,128,108	4,652,113
LIABILITIES		
Deposits held for future events	476,967	305,741
District subscriptions held in advance	200,557	186,848
Creditors and all other liabilities	110,250	107,376
Total liabilities	787,774	599,965
Total charity funds/reserves	4,340,334	4,052,148


CP Bithell ACA
Chair Finance Committee



County Officials

Our County Officials (as of 31st March 2026)

COUNTY PRESIDENT

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS

Mrs Jean Frew & Mr Bernard Pendlebury

COUNTY LIFE MEMBERS

Dr Tony Andrews, Mr Dick Griffiths, Mrs Judith Jamieson,
Mr George Lowe, Mrs Joan Swan & Mr David Thornton

COUNTY TRUSTEES

Mr Andrew Hobson	County Lead Volunteer (Until 01.01.26)
Ms Cathrine Lee JP	County Lead Volunteer (From 01.01.26)
Mr Richard Charnock	County Chair
Mrs Cathie Hall	County Vice Chair
Mrs Catherine Joyce	County Treasurer
Miss Emma Aggrey	County Youth Lead
Mr Charles Bithell	Trustee
Mr Jeremy Boardman	Trustee
Mr Saber L'Bekkari	Trustee
Mr Max Lowe	Trustee
Mr Jamie Scudamore	Trustee
Miss Alexi Walsh	Trustee
Mr Oliver Wood	Trustee

COUNTY STAFF

Mrs Helen Gaskarth	County Finance Officer
Mr Damian King	Waddecar Centre Manager
Mr Mick Brooks	Activities & Facilities Supervisor
Mrs Ewa Hibbert	Bookings Officer
Ms Jan Townley	County Development Officer

Auditors:	McMillan & Co LLP, 28 Eaton Avenue, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, PR7 7NA
Solicitors:	Napthens LLP, 7 Winckley Square, Preston, PR1 3JD
Principal Bankers:	The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, 97 Fishergate, Preston, PR1 2DP
Investment Managers:	Brooks MacDonald, No 1, Marsden Street, Manchester, M2 1HW
Property Advisor:	Charles Bennett, Alderfield, 230 Woodplumpton Road, Preston PR4 0TA

Charity Number: 521712

Tax Exemption Number: X89058



County Leadership Team

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Cath Lee

VACANT

Chris Lomas

Kerry Harrison

Dean Hogarth

VACANT

Ian Lonsdale

Andrew Hobson

Matt Hornby

Mark Finnigan

Ross Kelly

Darren Phillips

Liam McCafferty

Clare Kennedy

Stuart Robinson

Jan Townley

County Lead Volunteer

County Youth Lead

Programme Team Lead - International & Adventure

Programme Team Lead - Sections

Support Team Lead - Internal

Support Team Lead - External

Support Team Lead - Waddecar

Volunteer Development Team Lead

District Lead Volunteer (Blackpool)

District Lead Volunteer (Chorley)

District Lead Volunteer (Fylde)

District Lead Volunteer (Lonsdale)

District Lead Volunteer (Ormskirk)

District Lead Volunteer (Preston)

District Lead Volunteer (South Ribble)

District Lead Volunteer (Wyre)

PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP TEAM

VACANT

Julie Neville

Paul Harris

Jill Dean

Victoria Da Silva

Alison Walmsley

Carla Addison

Joe Hargreaves-Lee

Steve Williams

Rebecca Worthington

Water Activities Team Lead

Land & Air Activities Team Lead

Skills Activity Development Team Lead

Adventurous Activities Development Team Lead

Squirrels & Beavers Team Lead

Cubs & Scouts Team Lead

Deputy Cubs & Scouts Team Lead

14-24 Team Lead

Section Event Support Team Lead

Top Awards Team Lead

SUPPORT LEADERSHIP TEAM

VACANT

Andrew Hobson

Fiona Jackson

Kelly Roberts

Andrew Hobson

Joe Hargreaves-Lee

David King

VACANT

Judith Jamieson

Ian Lonsdale

Richard Honnor

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

Ross MacDonald

Mick Brookes

David Thornton

Adult Recruitment & Welcome Team Lead

Learning Team Lead

Awards & Recognition Team Lead

Inclusion Team Lead

Development Project Team Lead

Digital Team Lead

Assets Team Lead

Admin Team Lead

Presentations Team Lead

Event Support Team Lead

Safety Team Lead

Mar Comms Team Lead

External Relations Team Lead

Grants & Fundraising Team Lead

Waddecar Crew Team Lead

Waddecar Support Team Lead

Museum Team Lead



“Volunteers are the absolute heartbeat of Scouting. When we give young people the skills, the confidence, and the belief that they can achieve anything, we aren’t just changing lives - we’re changing whole communities.”

Dwayne Fields
Chief Scout



West Lancashire Scouts

Charity number

521712 (England & Wales)

Registered address

Waddecar Scout Activity Centre
Snape Rake Lane, Goosnargh
Preston, PR3 2EU

Contact us

county.office@westlancsscouts.org.uk



Scouts

West Lancashire

#PlaceToBelong