

Skills for Life

Our plan to prepare better futures
2023-2025



Scouts

Blackpool



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As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life.

We bring communities together and contribute to society. Above all, we aim to build better futures.

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, in Blackpool, over 750 young people enjoy fun, friendship and outdoor adventure, supported by over 300 adult volunteers. They develop a sense of optimism, strong values as well as the leadership and teamwork skills that are more valuable today than ever.

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.

Our values

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Care

We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Respect

We have self-respect and respect for others.

Integrity

We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Cooperation

We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

Belief

We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.



Building better futures

'I truly believe, in our post pandemic world that Scouting is needed more in our communities in Blackpool now than it ever has been.'

- Matt, Lead Volunteer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read our strategy document taking us up to 2025.

The work behind the scenes in the creation of this document included a large-scale consultation with our adult volunteers & supporters. Ensuring we captured their views and incorporating them.

I truly believe, in our post pandemic world that Scouting is needed more in our communities in Blackpool now than it ever has been. Scouts really are a force for good and have such a positive impact. The #SkillsForLife that we teach our young people prepares them for a better future.

We give them the skills to become active citizens who are resilient and confident to forget the butterflies and go for it. This strategy sets out a clear plan and objective for us as an organisation on how we will work with partners in Blackpool to bring Scouting to more areas of the town and bridge those gaps to bring communities together.

We are determined to make a difference, grow our membership, increase our visibility, and become a key part of our town.

Matt Hornby

Lead Volunteer for Blackpool Scouts

Why is Scouting needed today?

We are equipped to meet the needs of young people and society...

...across divided communities

Scouts brings people together. We offer shared experiences and a place to meet those of different backgrounds, promoting mutual understanding and building friendships.

Greater social cohesion

...in a time of uncertainty

Scouts helps young people develop the values, self-belief and belief in others that will help them become confident, active citizens. We offer a place to belong, skills to succeed and are optimistic about the future.

Happy, resilient citizens

...when there is a lack of community engagement

Scouts gives young people opportunities to improve the lives of those around them, taking positive social action in their local, national and international communities.

More civic participation

...in an age of increased competition

Scouts develops skills for life; the character, practical and employability skills that young people will carry with them into adulthood, helping them to succeed.

Improved social mobility





Our mission

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

Our vision

By **2025** we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our objectives

We want to...

...grow

We believe Scouts changes lives so we want to give every young person in the UK the opportunity to join.

...become more inclusive

Everyone, regardless of their background, should be able to participate in Scouts.

...be more youth shaped

Every young person should be shaping their experience and developing their leadership potential.

...impact our communities

Through social action, Scouts makes a difference not just to the individual but to whole communities.

Our goals

We will achieve the following goals against our four objectives:

Growth

- Grow to 900 young people
- Increase adult volunteers to 400
- More young leaders, 2 per section
- Fewer sections with less than 12 members
- All Groups with at least 3 sections

Inclusivity

- Our members reflect the demographics of our local area
- Stronger groups within areas of deprivation within the town
- Increase our members from underrepresented communities

Youth Shaped

- 100% of young people shaping their Scouting experience
- 50% of young people achieving their top awards

Community Impact

- Young people making a positive difference in their local community
- Develop a community impact week

Our pillars of work

To meet these objectives, we will focus on four 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.

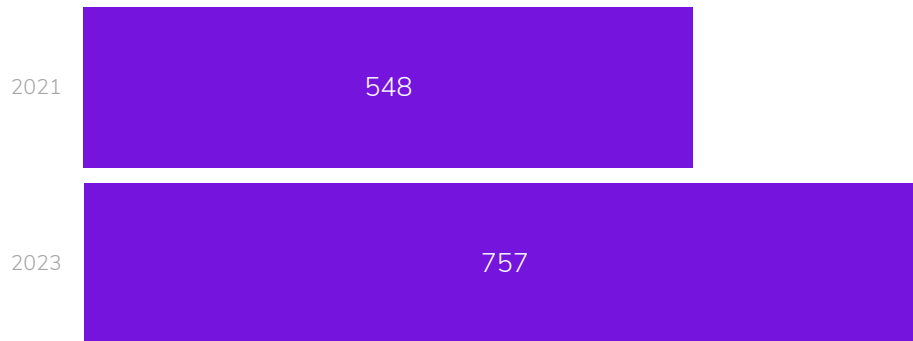
Places

Good quality, practical locations are available to support our scouting programme across Blackpool.



As a movement, we have grown for the last 3 years. We want to continue that positive trend, bringing skills for life to more young people across Blackpool.

Number of young people (4-24) in Blackpool Scouts



Data source: Scouts Annual Census Survey

Our Growth goals

By 2025 we will have:

- Over 900 young people aged 4-24 in Scouts
- More than 400 adult volunteers (both working directly with young people and behind the scenes)
- At least 2 Explorer Scout Young Leaders per section
- Fewer sections with less than 12 youth members
- All of our Groups will have at least 3 sections

Scouts is open to all. We believe it's a priority to reflect the diversity of the communities we are in.

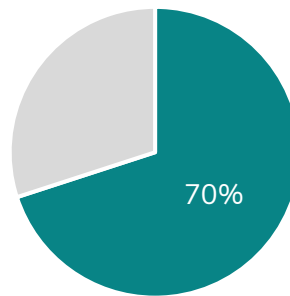
Our Inclusivity goals

By 2025 we will have:

- Our members reflecting the demographics of our local area
- Stronger groups within areas of deprivation within the town
- Increased members from underrepresented communities

Over the last four years, there has been a growing momentum to ensure young people are shaping their experiences and taking on leadership roles at Scouts. We want to continue to build on this.

Percentage of sections running regular youth forums enabling young people to shape their programme in 2022



Data source: In person observations from our Youth Commissioner

Our Youth Shaped goals

By 2025 we will have:

- 100% of young people shaping their Scouting experience
- 50% of young people achieving their top awards

Through social action, Scouts makes a difference not just to the individual but to whole communities. We're looking for partners and funders who can help us take action in even more communities.

Our Community Impact goals

By 2025 we will have:

- Young people making a positive difference in their local community
- Developed a community impact week taking place each year



Join us in growing Scouts so that more young people, from a wider range of backgrounds, gain the skills they need to succeed in life. The skills they need to be happy, resilient and active citizens and leaders, making a positive impact in their communities and wider society.

Are you a charity leader, politician, funder, researcher, or someone who works in education or business? We want to work with you to bring skills for life to even more young people.

Email us info@blackpoolscouts.org.uk

Follow us on social media [@blackpoolscouts](https://www.instagram.com/blackpoolscouts)

[blackpoolscouts.org.uk](https://www.blackpoolscouts.org.uk)

#SkillsForLife

Outcomes for our young people

Adventure

Physically active, healthier lifestyles, with courage to try new things

Skills for life

Skills to succeed regardless of academic background

Wellbeing

Happy, resilient citizens

Leadership

Responsible leaders and team players

Citizenship

Active citizens in society – locally, nationally and internationally

Connectedness

Strong friendships, with care, trust and respect for other from all backgrounds

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