



District Team meeting

Date: 14 October 2020

Venue: Zoom

Attendees

- **Moz Morris** (District Commissioner), **Sue Lister** (Deputy District Commissioner), **Ali Dwight** (District Chair), **Colleen Graham** (Assistant District Commissioner, Beavers), Scott Bayley (District Leader), **Sue Mort** (Assistant District Commissioner, Cubs), **Debbie Collins** (District Leader & Young Leaders), **Aaron Wright** (District Explorer Scout Commissioner), Claire Fanson (District Leader), Andy Bunning (Development Lead), **Ian McLean** (Assistant District Commissioner, Activities), Jill Lewis (District Training Manager), **Neil Curtis** (District Trainer), **Anne-Marie Roberts** (Resources)
(Attended, Apologies, Not heard)

Minutes

Minutes from last meeting

We didn't discuss these during the Zoom call as Moz forgot, but here is what happened last time and some updates...

- **Coronavirus** - we acknowledged that this was an issue but at the time were just carrying on, planned to keep an eye on the situation!
- **Feedback from All Leaders Meetings: Communications** - agreed to continue to use Slack for general chat but to start using Facebook group just for important announcements.
- **Feedback from All Leaders Meetings: Training** - agreed to:
 - Continue to do District Validation, had set up appointments system
 - Had idea of arranging joint meetings for young people (for Sections that meet on same night) and at the same time doing training for leaders who need it, leaving other leaders to run the activities
 - Warning that appointments would be cancelled/downgraded if adults had not completed required training
 - Discussed fixed training calendar
- **Feedback from All Leaders Meetings: District 12 month plan** - based on feedback from All Leaders Meeting and GSLs meeting:
 - Run District events (Promise Day at Erddig with Outdoors & Adventure theme, Christmas 2021 in St Giles)
 - Plan Calendar 2021 (input from Young People, input from Leaders, online survey, ask for ideas at District events, Scouts Expedition Challenge not on foot)
 - Start District Youth Forum

- Recruit ADC Scouts
- Recruit Media Manager
- OSM training sessions
- Work with Group Scout Leaders to ensure every Group has at least a Chair & Treasurer and a functioning Exec
- Run Exec training
- Leaders' Away Day - Sue Lister and Sue Mort to look into for 2021

Actions

- Use District Leaders Facebook Group to post info about training (**Jill/Neil**)
- Offer more training and validation via Zoom? (**Jill/Neil**)
- Keep Joint Meetings/Training on the agenda for when we can meet in larger numbers (**Moz**)
- Plan Calendar 2021 - on hold until we know what's happening (**Moz**)
- Look again at recruiting a DYC - Moz has spoken to Wales Youth Commissioner and has some ideas, will look at with Aaron (**Moz/Aaron**)
- Recruit ADC Scouts and Media Manager (**Moz**)
- Go to Exec and GSLs meeting and agree whether we take OSM to a District provision (**Moz**)
- Ask for Scouts Cymru assistance on recruiting Execs for Groups (**Moz**)
- Plan Leaders' Away Day in 2021 if possible (**Sue/Sue**)

***if anyone from the District Team would like to take on an action - maybe one from Moz! - or even just help with one, please ask. We are a team after all!

Coronavirus: what's going well, badly and what we can do better

Going well

- Risk Assessments have been very good and leaders should be thanked for their hard work
- Lots of Sections that have started back have seen most young people return
- Some Sections have weekend meetings planned instead of weeknight due to the dark nights
- Scouts Cymru have provided excellent support particularly with their negotiations with Welsh Government
- Groups have been creating all sorts of outdoor shelters so they can continue to meet outdoors - particularly impressive are the shelters built by Bishop's Own and Esclusham. Rossett have put a marquee roof up in their grounds and Cox Wood have done the same.

Going badly

- Some Sections have seen large drops in numbers of young people
- We have some massive issues with loss of leaders, GSLs and Exec Committee members
- Some Leaders are finding it very hard to deal with the crisis and Scouting together, have enough challenges at home
- Large numbers of young people are not engaging with digital programme delivery
- While meeting in Amber has been fine for most, some larger Sections will have challenges with the limited numbers allowed indoors in Yellow

What we can do better

- We need to provide more support for an extended period in yellow - be it help with programme suggestions or advice regarding building shelters etc

Actions

- Thank Leaders for excellent Risk Assessments (**Moz**)
- Offer use of outdoor shelters to other Sections if not using? (**Dave Drew, Pete Jones**)
- Make a list of Leaders who have left and approach them to see if they could become Group Exec members (**GSLs supported by Moz**)
- Programme support for Sections meeting outdoors (**Area Team** are looking at this)

Group health checks

Moz updated the Team on how he say how each Group was dealing with the crisis - Team members provided any information they had...

Bishop's Own: All Sections meeting? Have built shelter off canoe store. Seem to be doing well.

Bwlchgwyn: All Sections meeting? Have seen a few cancelled due to weather but that's to be expected

Coedpoeth: Scouts are meeting and doing OK. Chris is considering starting Cubs but hasn't yet (Moz spoke to him night before Team meeting for a full update). Bethan doesn't want to start Beavers until they can meet indoors. Josh looking at possibility of building a shelter off side of hut.

Esclusham: Don't think they have met yet - had paddle boarding booked but had to cancel as across border in England. Have built shelter in grounds of hut.

Gresford: GSL struggling to communicate with Leaders. No Sections have started back yet. Major issues here.

Gwersyllt: Despite losing GSL, entire Exec and all Scout Leaders but one, they are coping under the excellent leadership of Kelly, Teresa, Paul & Olwen. Had meeting with all Leaders at start of September. They have a plan and OK for short term but long term challenges.

Hope: Don't think they've met yet. Speaking with Paul soon for an update but have lost a lot of Leaders.

Marchwiel: Doing fine. Have met outdoors and numbers are good. Jill doing well.

Moss: All Sections have met and doing OK according to Sue but have lost Leaders and young people.

Overton: All Sections meeting? This is a big Group and David is under a lot of pressure. Not enough Leaders and more Exec support needed.

Rhosnesni: Big issues here. No GSL and lost one of their Cub Leaders before COVID. No Sections restarted yet. Beavers may be soon but will probably need to combine two Colonies. Cubs have decided not to meet until New Year. Scouts are down to just Andy the Scout Leader and haven't started back yet. Had meeting with Andy and parents to try and provide more support for him.

Rossett: Beaver and Cubs meeting alternate weeks due to shared leadership. Scouts not started back yet? Doing OK though.

41st: Not sure what's happening here, have received RAs but don't think any Sections have started back yet. Need to catch up with Tracy.

6th: All Sections started back and doing OK. Scouts had lost Steven due to living across border but this shouldn't be an issue anymore. Well done to Colleen, Peter and Murray for all they've done.

Explorers: All Sections started back and have been running an active programme virtually and face to face since crisis started. Massive well done to all the Leaders across all Units. Atlas need more Leaders.

Actions

- Contact Leaders who are struggling and offer a friendly voice with advice and support (**All**)
- Contact GSLs of Groups where we're not across where they are (**Moz**)

Bite-sized roles

Moz went through this idea to recruit more adults into Scouts - full details at wrexhamscouts.org.uk/bite-sized-volunteering

Events

Remembrance: Decided that Sections should be encouraged to do their own activities either at home or outdoors but should avoid cenotaphs and war memorials at 11am on Remembrance Day as if everyone thinks "there are only 30 of us" and rocks up there will be more than 30! Plenty of ideas online.

Christmas: Decided to do some sort of Christmas Challenge that Sections could take part in - needs to be Christmas themed with a Scouting twist, perhaps cook a Christmas meal outdoors.

Actions

- Share info about these with Groups (Moz)

Shop/badges/Resource Centre/Appointments

It was agreed that the Scout Shop could open as soon as the 'staff' were happy to do so, a plan of how to safely deal with customers was put in place and a risk assessment completed and approved. Various suggestions were made, with the most popular being only one customer allowed up the stairs into the shop at a time with any waiting queuing in the main hall, entry via the hall fire door and exit via the main front door, masks to be worn at all times.

Badges are back on sale again but only online with them being posted out to Leaders. Thanks were given to Caroline for taking over as Badge Secretary.

It was agreed that the Resource Centre should be appointment only for now and anyone needing anything should contact Anne-Marie who would open up and get it for them.

Sandra has been handling DBS checks via Zoom well and it was thought that Appointments Committee interviews could be done on Zoom too.

Actions

- Contact shop staff (Moz)
- Write risk assessment (Any volunteers?)
- Announce opening of shop, badges online and Resource Centre arrangements (Moz)
- Speak to AAC about arrangements (Moz)

Online Scout Manager

Outlined intention to look at getting every Section in Wrexham to use OSM. Big benefits to District - knowing where numbers are - useful for development and also membership enquiries, moving up from Scouts to Explorers, etc.

Actions

- Take to District Exec and GSLs (Moz)

Why don't we recognise achievement & join in

Moz said that he felt a little embarrassed to be the only person nominated for an award in the recent Scouts Cymru AGM, which had left him wondering why others haven't been nominating. Do we value the good stuff which is going on enough? Seemed to be a case of everyone thinking someone else was doing it!

Actions

- Coordinate nominations next time as a Team (Everyone)