



# District Team meeting

## Wednesday 7th March 2018

Attendees: Moz (District Commissioner); Colleen (Assistant District Commissioner, Beavers); Sue (Assistant District Commissioner, Cubs); Aaron (Assistant District Commissioner, Scouts); James (Youth Team); Neil (District Leader); Debbie (District Leader); Claire (District Leader); Kelvin (DofE Advisor)

Apologies: Sue (Deputy District Commissioner); Ian (Assistant District Commissioner, Activities); Adrian (District Explorer Scout Commissioner); Micha (Youth Team); Dylan (Youth Team); Tom (Youth Team)

### 1. Census

#### **Briefing**

It's good news - we're up by 3.3% overall. A 3.5% rise in youth numbers (24 more kids) and a 2.1% rise in adults (3 more).

This is following a drop last year however and we've not quite made up that ground so we need to keep growing!

#### *Sections:*

Beavers are down 6.7% (13 Beavers) and Beaver Leaders down 7.9% (3 Leaders)

Cubs are up 21% (39 Cubs) but Cub Leaders down 12.8% (6 Leaders)

Scouts are up 3.0% (6 Scouts) and Scout Leaders up 3.2% (1 Leader)

Explorers are up 4.6% (4 Explorers) and Explorer Leaders up 100% (10 Explorer Leaders)

#### *Groups:*

Bo +18.0%	Gr 0.0%	Mo 0.0%	41 +4.3%
Bw -1.8%	Gw +2.1%	Ov -20.0%	6 +25.0%
Co +25.0%	Ho +7.8%	Rh -1.9%	
Es -13.0%	Ma +63.6%	Ro +10.8%	

We have big drops in 7 year olds, 10 year olds and 14 year olds which points to moving on between Sections being a potential issue.

#### **Discussion at meeting**

- There were sufficient linking activities provided by District: Beavers/Cubs - Crocky Trail, Cubs/Scouts - Frost Camp, Scouts/Explorers - Wrexham 24
- It was also felt that opening up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to Scout Troops would encourage them to stay into Explorers
- We questioned what Groups were doing for links between Sections - some were very good at this eg getting Cubs to visit Scouts for a few weeks
- Family Camps were also a good way of making young people aware of older Sections
- Peer leadership (Lodge Leaders, Sixers, Patrol Leaders) was a good way of providing extra challenge & responsibility for older kids

#### **Actions**

- Continue with District linking activities - Colleen, Sue, Aaron & Adrian

- Roll out DofE to more Scout Troops - Kelvin
- Check what Groups are doing for link and whether Family Camps were being used - Moz
- Run Sixers training day to support peer leadership - Youth Team with support
- Arrange visit from UK/Wales Youth Commissioners to talk to Beaver Scout Leaders about Lodge Leaders - Moz & Colleen

## **2. District Operation**

### **Briefing**

OK so I've been DC for two years now but that doesn't mean I'm totally satisfied with the way we do things. I've been asking other Districts about what they do. My questions are: Who makes up the District Team; How often the Team meets; What it discusses; How to communicate with other Leaders; Do we have Section/ADCs meetings; Do we have GSLs meetings:

Some Districts don't have District Team meetings. They have termly all Leaders' meetings with a plenary session followed by/preceded by Sectional meetings.  
Some Districts include GSLs in the District Team meetings.

This year we didn't fix any District meetings into the calendar as I was unsure on the above. Last year we were a bit all over the place. I do want to get this right so it's fixed in the calendar and we all know what we're doing.

### **Discussion at meeting**

- It was thought that the ability to communicate via Group chats etc on Whatsapp/Facebook had reduced and in some cases removed the need for meetings
- However it's still important to have face-to-face contact, and this can be achieved through District Team Join-ins and occasional meetings
- It was suggested that an annual All Leaders Meeting could be used to consult with everyone about various matters, possibly followed by break-outs for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers
- It was suggested that an annual Group Scout Leaders' meeting could be used to agree what support Groups needed from District
- Termly District Team meetings would be held to plan the support that GSLs ask for together with implementing plans which come from Area, Wales & Gilwell
- District Team membership would be District Commissioner, Deputy District Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioners, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Leaders, DofE Advisor, District Youth Team members, Local Training Manager

### **Actions**

- Arrange appropriate meetings as listed above and ensure this is continued in future District Calendars - Moz

## **3. Youth Team**

### **Briefing**

As you will have heard Sam Wilde has stood down as District Youth Commissioner. This is a big blow as this is a vital role - Youth Shaped Scouting being one of four key strategies of the Scout Association. We are looking for a replacement - if anyone knows of anyone aged 18-25 who'd be suitable (<https://wrexhamscouts.org.uk/new-district-youth-commissioner>) please let me know.

The ADYCs have also stood down - Katie as she's turned 18, Max as he's moved away and Tom as he's concentrating on exams.

Tom is however staying on as a member of a wider District Youth Team and is joined by Micha Dodman, Dylan Collins and James Pitt. These four young people are still on the start of their journey and are looking at ways they can work together with the wider District Team.

### **Discussion at meeting**

- James introduced himself and the Youth Team and said they'd made a good start. He said that while each member of the team specialised in a certain Section (Micha, Beavers; Dylan, Cubs; James & Tom, Scouts) they were operating as a Team with all of them supporting each other and they thought this worked better than having specific ADYC Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- It was agreed that Youth Team members needed a lot of mentoring to ensure they were able to fulfil their role
- Moz said that we still desperately needed a District Youth Commissioner to lead the project
- It was felt that the more the Youth Team members got to know District Team members the better so an Ice Breaker day was suggested
- James said the Youth Team would be happy working on this and the Sixers' Day
- It was thought that the vast majority of Sections were doing Youth Shaped Scouting, it wasn't always highlighted as this and more work was needed highlighting when the ideas of the Scouts were actually acted on

### **Actions**

- Work out good ways to highlight Youth Shaped Scouting where it happens - Youth Team
- Recruit a DYC and mentor Youth Team members - Moz
- Plan Ice Breaker day/session - Youth Team
- Plan & run Sixers' Day - Youth Team with support

## **4. Events**

### **Briefing**

Great District events continue to be put on thanks mainly to our fantastic ADCs Section and Explorer Team. I am concerned however how much these seem to be one-man efforts. We need to find a way to share the burden more.

One idea (you will have others) is something we've tried before with some success: involving people who aren't regular Leaders but who'd be willing to commit to running a base or more just on a one off basis. An example of this was Liz & Ian Sumpter who ran a fantastic series of bases at our Area Camp last summer. My idea is to try and recruit more of these people and set up an District Events SAS Unit and appoint them to this. We could then easily send an email to everyone who was a member of this SAS with a either a project they can take on or event just a list of things to do such as "help with transporting kit to a camp" etc etc.

### **Discussion at meeting**

- Agreed that setting up an Events Scout Active Support Unit and recruiting members for it was a good idea
- It was thought that Leaders do help ADCs running events when asked
- Still concern about booking for events, last minute booking etc
- Use of Eventbrite for District events had worked before and could make things a lot easier\*
- Or we could look at using OSM as a District or even create an app

\*Moz has looked into Eventbrite again and it looks like it could really help if everyone agrees it's easy enough to use. It's possible to create an event and 'sell' tickets - can even put the max available, can put different ticket types (eg Leader and child), and the organiser is notified via email every time someone 'buys' tickets. Worth a try.

### **Actions**

- Set up an Events SAS & recruit - Moz
- Look into Eventbrite - Moz
- Look into OSM for District use - Moz
- Look at app - Aaron

## **5. Email addresses**

### **Briefing**

We have @wrexhamscouts.org.uk email addresses for dc, beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers, training etc. The idea behind these are that a) they are separate from your personal email addresses giving you more control over personal details, and b) should we have a change of role - or even if anyone is away/ill for a period of time - someone else can take over the emails.

### **Actions**

- Use encouraged - please come and see Moz at HQ on a Wednesday night and bring your laptop and he'll set you up.

## **6. Join-ins**

### **Briefing**

Rather than having District visits to Sections to check up and speak to Leaders about things - which sometimes cause suspicion and never catch Leaders at the best time - we have Join-ins where we go along, get involved, help out and just show our faces. The idea is that the more familiar the leaders are with us the more likely they are to come to things we put on, and approach is with issues.

### **Discussion at meeting**

- Went through which Sections had been visited recently for Join-in session and which hadn't

### **Actions**

- Put a table of Sections up on the GoogleDrive and suggest Sections for Team members to visit for Join-in - Moz

## **7. New logo**

### **Briefing**

A new Scout Association logo replacing both the corporate Scouts\* be prepared... swoosh logo and the current flyer-de-lys is to be released in May.

### **Actions**

- Please be aware of this and don't produce any costly materials with the existing branding if it can wait.