

ENCOURAGE DEVELOP GROW

Essex Scouts Annual Review 2010/11



ESSEX

essexscouts.org.uk



HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

2010/ 11 was another great year for Essex Scouts with thousands of young people enjoying Scouting activities every week of the year. The number of camps and activities being run is phenomenal and nights away – whether a sleep over at a Scout HQ, a camp at Skreens Park Activity Centre or an expedition in the Lake District – are as popular as ever.

These activities are only possible through the dedication of our 3,600 leaders, supporters and administrators who give up so much of their time to ensure that the 15,000 young people we work with have the greatest experiences possible.

I have been privileged to present hundreds of awards over the year to youth members who have achieved their Chief Scout's Award. These awards represent the highest level of achievement in an individual section and the sheer number being gained across the County demonstrate the quality of the programme being delivered.

Despite these successes membership as recorded in the January census fell slightly. We have identified the main areas of concern and are putting in place action plans to reverse any decline. We are passionate about growing Scouting and ensuring that as many young people as possible get to join the adventure.

The continued hard work and dedication of all of our Scouting volunteers will see Essex Scouts continuing to grow and develop and overcome any challenges we may face.

Thank you all



Jan Dear
County Commissioner, Essex Scouts



DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONTEXT AND AIMS

The County Development plan sets out the six key aims of the Scout Association's vision to 2012 and helps us direct how support is best provided to Groups and Districts across Essex. The six key themes state that by 2012 we will be:

GROWING
DIVERSE
SOUND AND FOCUSED
YOUTH-LED
RELEVANT



The review of 2010/11 highlights some significant successes across Essex and despite our small decline in members this year we still remain one of the UK's largest Scout Counties. The Development Plan continues to evolve and is responsive to the needs of the County ensuring support is directed to meet current and future challenges. The following pages describe some of our achievements against development objectives and sets out our plans for continued growth and development.

THE ESSEX WEEKEND



Leaders work extremely hard providing activities for young people every week but to have an opportunity to enjoy some Scouting activities without the young people present was a great energiser for many.

In May 2010 over 200 adult volunteers supporting Scouting in Essex descended on Skreens Park Activity Centre to enjoy a weekend of fun and adventure. This weekend was an opportunity for adults in Scouting to get together, share best practice, learn new skills and enjoy themselves with other adults in the County.

Ian from Colchester said **“To have a chance to come away without the kids and to take part in some of the activities we usually organise for them has been fantastic but the best bit for me has been the opportunity to chat to other leaders from around the County and get ideas from them to take back to my Scout Group.”**

GROWING

Some of our achievements...

More development planning

We have supported a number of Districts create development plans to set out their vision for growth in the future.

The Essex Weekend

We ran a weekend in May 2010 to provide a fun and informal environment for adults in Scouting to get together, share best practice and enjoy themselves!

Local Development Projects

More and more projects are being supported by our Local Development Officer who works directly with Groups and Districts to support the recruitment and retention of adult volunteers, thereby increasing opportunities for young people. About 114 adults to help support Scouting in a variety of ways were recruited over the year.

Supporting new adult volunteers through the "Want To Join" system

Our Local Development Officer now manages adult want to join enquiries received through the internet. Early personal contact and frequent follow up is improving our retention rate. Over 35 adults were placed with Groups in 2010/11 via this method.



Looking ahead

- We will continue to look at ways and provide support to reduce joining lists throughout Essex.
- We will identify actions to take to improve the Moving In – Moving On processes from Cubs to Scouts and from Scouts to Explorers. young people transferring from Scouts to Explorer Scouts.

HOSPITAL SCOUTING

After several months of planning and preparation youngsters staying at the children's unit in Colchester General Hospital have the unusual opportunity to experience the fun and adventure of Scouting and Guiding after a dedicated team of 26 local volunteers created a weekly programme of activities in the Children's Ward playroom.

The first weekly programme of activities took place in March with a fun pack programme. Led by local volunteers the youngsters aged five and over who are recovering after planned and emergency procedures or who are having ongoing treatment for long term illness have access to the same type of activities currently experienced by over a million Scouts and Guides all over the UK.



Local Development Officer Penny Meadows who helped set up the project said: **“The hard work in setting up this group has certainly paid off. We had a great response to our appeal for volunteers and loads of kids are really benefitting from the activities we’re providing.”**

DIVERSE

Some of our achievements...

Hospital Scouting

We opened up a Scout and Guide Group based at Colchester General Hospital.

Girls and young women

We improved the number of girls and young women in Scouting by 6% with 80% of our Districts increasing the number of females in Scouting.

Reaching new audiences

We continue to attend a variety of events around the County to promote Scouting and had representation at Essex Pride in 2010, with a repeat attendance planned in 2011.

Looking ahead

- We will provide targeted support to Groups with low female membership numbers.
- We will attend Essex Pride 2011 and identify further events where we can promote Scouting to diverse audiences.







BEAVER LEADERS SKILLS TRAINING DAY

Beaver Scout Leaders from around the County attended a skills day in September where they were able to try their hand at lots of new skills and refresh many of the more traditional Scouting skills in “back to basics” sessions.

For many adults new to Scouting this was the chance to experience much of what has made Scouting a great adventure for young people, giving them a fun packed day of learning with more experienced Leaders.



Frances and Daniele, Leaders from North Springfield said **“Everyone was friendly and treated us as equals. We’ve learnt a lot throughout the day that will help us in the future. Activities including knotting, fire lighting, backwoods cooking, map reading and pyrography.”**

ESSEX CHALLENGE

The Essex Challenge was launched in January 2010 and set out a year long programme for all Sections to participate in and gain a special Essex Challenge Award. Many Groups took the challenge to heart, not least Cubs and Beavers from 21st Harlow who really went to town with the recycling challenge in February. The Beaver Scouts created a robot made from recycled rubbish and the Cubs learnt about recycling and created posters to promote why we should recycle.

Beryl from Chelmsford said **“The Essex Challenge is such a great idea. It helps Leaders like me with programme ideas and we can reward the kids at the end of the year for taking part with the Essex Challenge badge”**

SOUND AND FOCUSED

Some of our achievements...

Supporting delivery of a Balanced Programme

Many events were held in the year and support given to all youth sections. For example, Beaver Leaders had an opportunity to learn new and different skills at a Skills Day in September and a year-long activity programme was launched in January to support Leaders in their programme planning.

Understanding County assets

We have begun the process of fully cataloguing all of the County's assets to ensure event organisers are able to make the best use of the equipment and resources available to them.

Adult training

Following changes to the way we fund adult training last year 4,738 training modules were validated in the year (25% more than the previous year) and 182 woodbadges were awarded (compared with 164 in 2009/10).

A development plan for Skreens Park Activity Centre

A plan has been created for Skreens Park Activity Centre identifying opportunities for growth and development over the next five years.



Looking ahead

- We will identify ways to support Appointments Secretaries through targeted training.
- We will improve opportunities for adventurous activity training
- We will identify ways to further improve the consistency in delivery of adult training modules.
- We will run "Scout School" for adults in Scouting to undertake a variety of training courses at a "one stop shop".

YOUNG LEADERS TAKING THE LEAD

A group of Young Leaders in Steeple Bumpstead had their hard work and dedication rewarded with the presentation of a special “Essex Award” when they took over the running of a Beaver Scout Colony to save it from closure.

Local Explorer Scouts Callum, Sam, Hannah, Connie, Jack and Alex found themselves in a tricky situation around Christmas 2009 when the Beaver Scout Leader stepped down and other Assistant Leaders moved out of the area. This left the Colony short of adult help and with no one available to take over immediately the group of teenagers stepped in to run the programme and ensure that Beaver Scouts kept going. With adult supervision provided on a rota basis from parents and other Leaders in the Group the Colony continued to run and the eight months of support gave enough time to recruit a new Leadership team.

Without the Young Leaders’ dedication and commitment to keep things going the Colony may have had to close. The group of six were presented with the Essex Award for their achievements in early 2011.



YOUTH-LED

Some of our achievements...

Scout Active Support

We fully launched Scout Active Support in the County with teams delivering focused and valued support all across Essex.

Youth involvement working group

We set up a youth involvement working group who will be setting their own agenda and work plan over the coming months.

Youth representation on Executive Committees

We undertook a survey investigating the experiences young people have on District Executive Committees. Outcomes from this survey will be considered by the youth involvement group.

Young leaders

The number of Young Leaders working in Sections increased in the year with many going on to take adult Leadership roles.

Looking ahead

- We will identify and provide more metrics related to young leaders to help local volunteers understand trends.
- We will support the youth involvement group to undertake actions they see fit to enhance and further embed youth involvement in every aspect of Scouting.



POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE

With so many fantastic things happening in Essex Scouts on a daily basis it is a shame that we cannot get everything in the local press, but here's a small selection from 2010/11:

A selection of events we ran include:

**“Mum’s the word for Scouting youngsters”
Cub Scouts from 1st Stanford-le-Hope gave a special Mother’s Day treat to mums serving up a meal to say thank you for all they do.**

[Thurrock Enquirer]

**“Scouting for fun in Children’s unit”
Youngsters staying in Colchester General Hospital have been given an opportunity to take part in the fun of Scouting and Guiding.**

[Colchester Gazette]

**“Adventurer Bear has breakfast with the Scouts”
Chief Scout Bear Grylls met scouts from Hockley and Southend at their annual hiking event.**

[Echo]



RELEVANT

Some of our achievements...

Positive press coverage

We continue to exploit opportunities to generate positive press coverage both on the back of national press launches as well as supporting local Groups make a positive impression via local media outlets.

Media Development plan

A Media Development Plan has been established to focus the way we generate positive media coverage with area based volunteers appointed to work closely with Districts and Groups.

Promoting Scouting

We have made good use of professionally produced resources to enhance brand identity and deliver a professional image at many events around the County. All County resources and promotional items have a consistent look and feel.

Looking ahead

- We will monitor and continue to improve our press coverage.
- We will support Groups and Districts in the development of on-brand communications including District websites.







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