

# A VISION FIT FOR THE FUTURE

UK Chief Commissioner **Wayne Bulpitt** looks ahead to Scouting in 2018

**S**couting has changed over the past ten years. Some of you will remember what it looked and felt like back then. Others will have joined during, or perhaps even because of these changes.

A decade ago, Scouting was in a very different place, and our numbers spoke for themselves: 30,000 Members were leaving each year. We took a long, hard look at where we were and where we could be and, as a result of that work, we set ourselves six key objectives, that by 2012 we would be: Growing, Youth-led, Focused, Sound, Relevant and Diverse.

To achieve this, we changed the way we look and do things. We introduced a new uniform, programme and training scheme. We became smarter at how we deliver Scouting through better support for volunteers, and enabling people to volunteer flexibly.

The centenary of Scouting and the 21st World Scout Jamboree were fantastic celebrations of Scouting, which also demonstrated that Scouting is exciting and relevant.

We've grown steadily, attracting more young people and adults to Scouting. And in 2011, we are more diverse with more communities turning to Scouting for opportunities, activities and expertise.

**Our Members took responsibility for bringing about the changes – and look at what we achieved**

Young people are now taking a greater role in decision-making locally and nationally. They have become the face and voice of Scouting, and our Young Leaders are helping to deliver great programmes.

Our campaigning work has shown that we are relevant and engaged in issues affecting today's society. We're more sound and focused as an organisation, with a clearer idea of who we are – delivering everyday adventure. We've improved the way we take decisions as well as our centres and facilities.

But all of these achievements didn't happen by chance. They happened because, as a Movement, we made it happen. Our Members took responsibility for bringing about the changes we all knew were necessary – and just look at what we achieved.

## The future

We have achieved a great deal, but we still have challenges ahead and I know that many of us at local and national level are still working to meet these over the next year. But what of the future beyond 2012?

Over the past two years, we have been thinking about what the next decade of Scouting might look like, what the new challenges will be and how we can work together as a Movement to meet them.

As a result of this work, we have developed a new vision for the future, taking us to 2018.





**Members of Scouting in 2018 will feel:**

- Empowered – we all want to feel encouraged and allowed to make decisions that are right for Scouting in our area
- Valued – we want to feel truly appreciated for what we do
- Proud – we want to be happy to tell others of the everyday adventures we enjoy.

For the past few months, we have been sharing this with District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders around the UK, beginning the process of thinking about how we achieve it.

The past ten years have shown just how much we can achieve when we all work together. And I know that I am personally confident and excited about the future of Scouting.

**Scouting in 2018 will:**

- Make a positive impact in our communities – we want every community to demand to have Scouting
- Prepare young people to be active citizens – we want to be recognised by society for shaping the lives and future of young people
- Embrace and contribute to social change – we want to be recognised for helping young people to change for the better the world in which they live.

**Scouting in 2018 will be:**

- Shaped by young people in partnership with adults – we want young people and adults to work together to make Scouting exciting and relevant
- Enjoyed by more young people and more adult volunteers – we want to continue to grow, with more young people and adults joining us, and staying with us for longer
- As diverse as the communities in which we live – we want everyone to have access to Scouting.



# WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS 2018

Scout Association Chief Executive **Derek Twine** looks at how our new vision was developed and how we can all join forces to achieve it

The process of developing a new vision for Scouting has taken two years and has involved thousands of young Members at every level of Scouting.

We carried out research with experts looking at what the world will look like in the future and how the changing generations will impact our Movement (read the report at [www.scouts.org.uk/2018](http://www.scouts.org.uk/2018)).

Many of you will have seen the results of that analysis at the local workshops we ran to discuss what we want Scouting to look like in the future. We have also gathered input from young people and volunteers at all levels.

At the workshops, District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders thought about how they can lead and manage Scouting to continue to grow, develop and ultimately achieve this new vision. I know that some District Commissioners are holding meetings about this. Don't worry if yours hasn't yet – we're still working towards achieving our 2012 objectives that we set ourselves in 2002. This is just the start of the process.

Over the coming months, you will hear more about the new vision and how we can all work together to achieve it. There will be articles in the magazine and you can keep up to date online at [www.scouts.org.uk/2018](http://www.scouts.org.uk/2018) where we'll share what's going on nationally and locally.

The process of developing a new vision for Scouting has involved thousands of Members

## YOU TELL US WHAT WE CAN DO TO ACHIEVE THE VISION

'In our District there are a lot of young people working with adults already. In Explorers we have a planning night at the beginning of the year, and the leaders go off and see what they can do to make it possible. That works well.'

**Matthew, Young Leader**

'We can improve the diversity of our membership by getting more information out to people. We don't advertise enough to the female population. People still think it's all boys and if we can improve the public perception, we can increase the population and the diversity of our Group.'

**Carl, Scout Leader**

'Scouting has made a positive impact on our community already. When I was young, it was hidden away, but now you see people walking around town and in schools wearing their i.Scout hoodies. It's important to be seen doing activities and doing what we do well. I'm most proud when we're growing. We've doubled in size in the past year. We targeted schools, holding presentations. It really worked.'

**Gemma, Cub Scout Leader**

'We can help volunteers feel valued by rewarding people for their time. Saying thank you makes a big difference, keeps them involved in the team and makes them happy. We let a variety of people give as much or as little of their time as they like, such as parents driving the minibus. This takes the pressure off us.'

**Steven, Assistant Scout Leader**