

Report on the Scout Fellowship Review Questionnaire, November 2007

Thank-you to all who responded to the recent Scout Fellowship Review questionnaire. This paper is a summary outline of some of the results.

A total of 491 responses were received between August and November 2007, both online and by post – some of these were individual responses and some were group responses. These responses came from a wide variety of people across the Movement including managers, supporters, current and past Fellowship Members, Network Members and Section Leaders. They reflected areas where Fellowship is thriving, and also areas where Fellowship has been unsuccessful.

Throughout the responses it is clear that people are passionate about Fellowship, and about Scouting in their local area.

Question 1: Explain what you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed approach with the Scout Fellowship social and support units.

The responses given to this question were particularly interesting. Most people were able to provide a balanced view and comment on both strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

The strengths given for this proposal recognise the aim and spirit in which it was devised. By far the main strengths commented upon were:

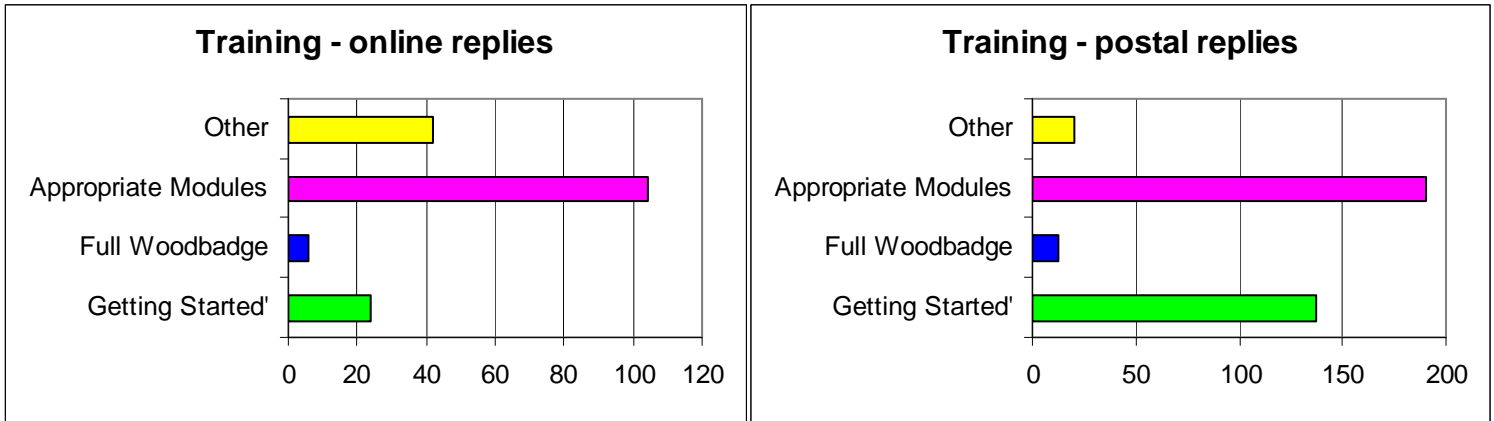
- Clarity and the distinctive focus of each group
- The importance of supporting the social side of Scouting for adults
- The choice and flexibility that the model offers.
- Provision of valuable additional support to Scouting
- Opportunity to use invaluable experience and skills
- Allows people to maintain contact with Scouting in a way that suits them

A large part of the weaknesses listed revolve around the mistaken impression that an existing Fellowship would be forced to split into two, or that a ‘support unit’ would not be allowed to also enjoy social activities. Other weaknesses listed identify concerns over how proposals would be implemented. The main comments were:

- It is important for people to experience social and support elements
- The proposals appear prescriptive, complicated and divisive
- Social units appear to add no value to Scouting
- May result in a dilution of Fellowship, or a decline in membership
- Could require additional resources
- Financial issues (these are covered later)

Question 2. In your opinion, what training would be appropriate for members of the support units?

For this question a distinction has been made between those responses received by post, and those received online. This is because the postal survey allowed choice of as many options as desired, whereas the online survey restricted the respondent to one answer.



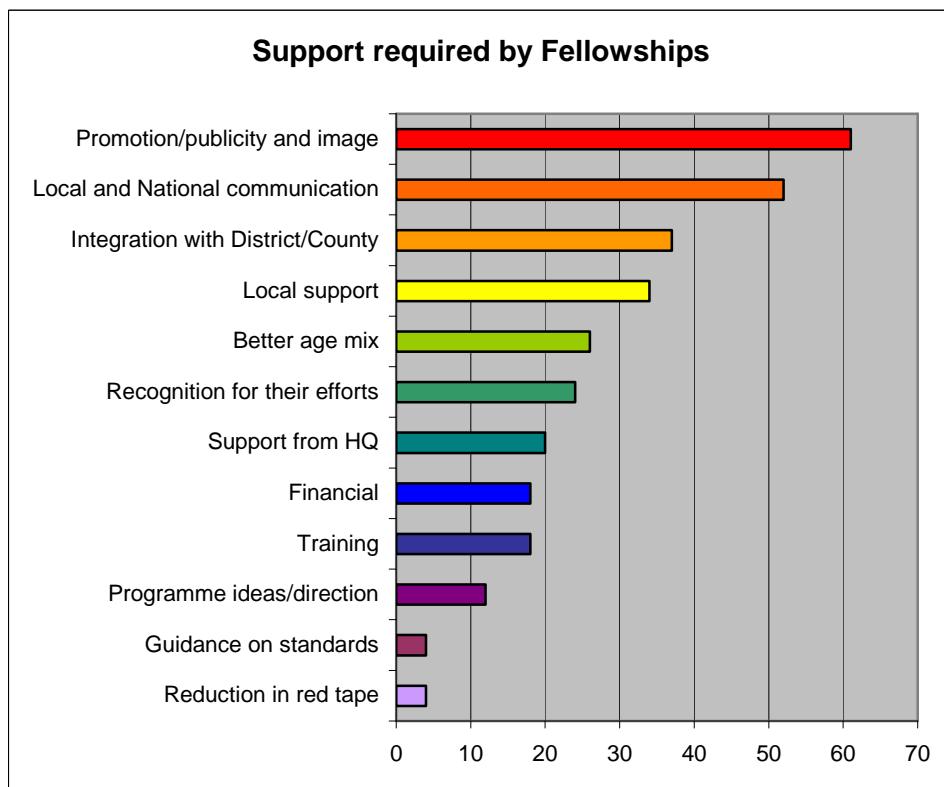
These responses show a positive recognition of the flexible nature of the Adult Training scheme. They reflect the way in which the training scheme currently works for Fellowship members – allowing members to complete training which is relevant for them. There was some concern over whether training would be compulsory for those long-serving members who may have already completed woodbadges etc.

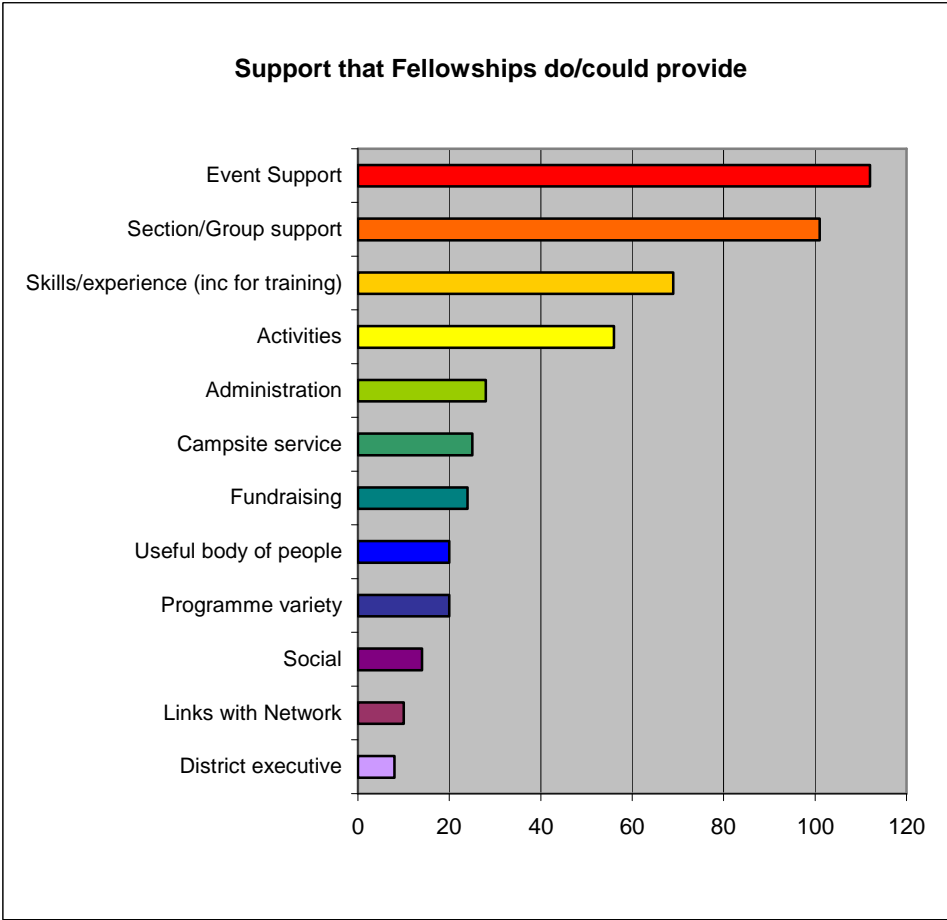
Question 3. Based on the needs of your County/Area/District, indicate the three most important areas in which you feel you need additional support?

This question was answered in two different ways, reflecting the variety of people who responded. Some responses focussed around the support that Fellowships do or could provide to local Counties/Areas/Districts. Others focussed around the support that Fellowships would like to receive on either a local or national level.

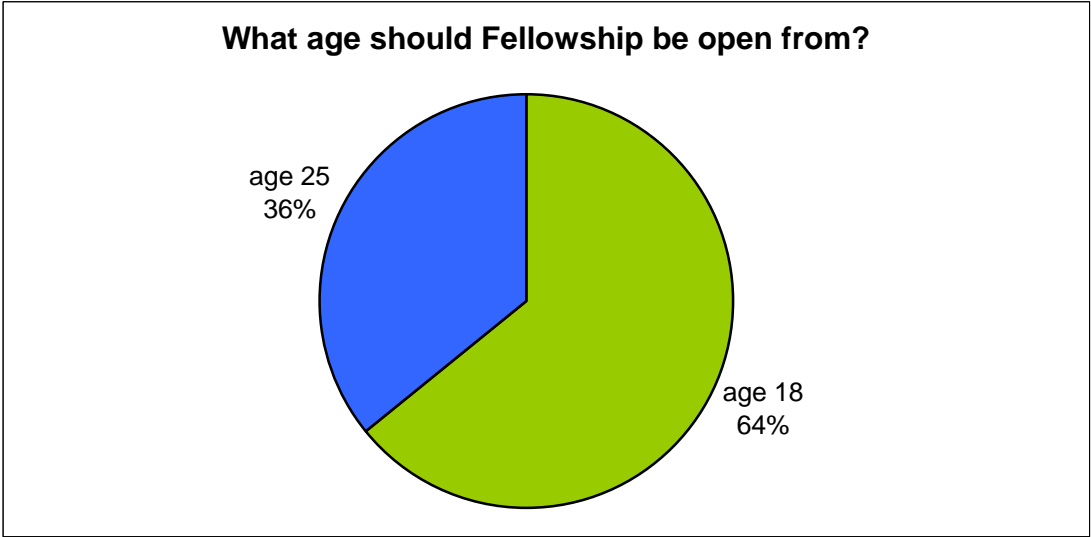
One issue raised by both groups of people is:

- adult recruitment (mentioned by 72 people - 15% of respondents)



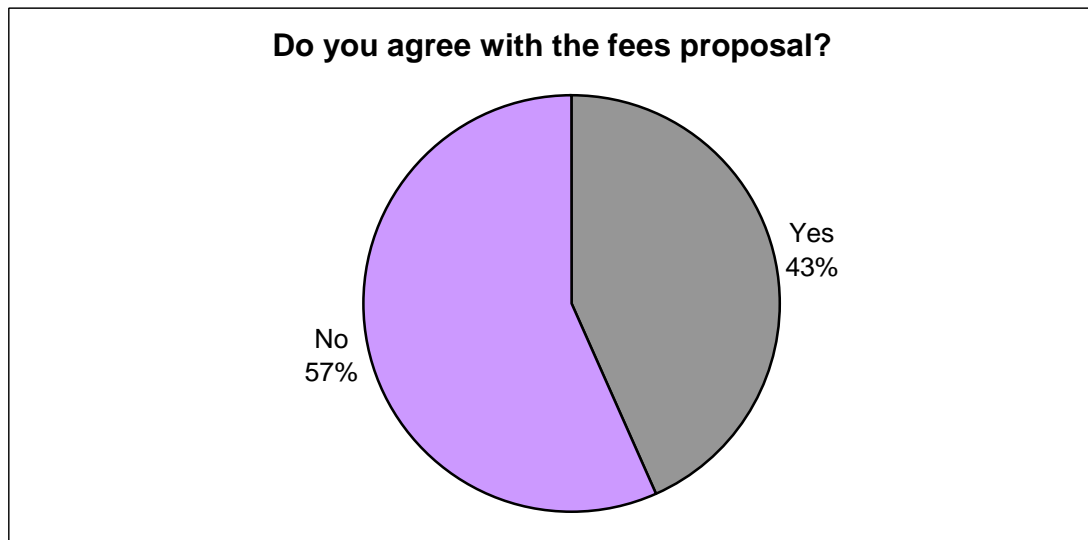


Question 4. Should the Scout Fellowship (Support and Social units) be open to adults from the age of 18 or 25?



Additional comments provided in this section highlight the range of options open to adults in The Scout Association, and also recognise the important part that the Scout Network can play.

Question 5: The proposal is that social unit members will pay the membership fee themselves and that support unit members will have their membership fee paid by those they support (e.g. The Group). Do you agree?



The reasons that respondents gave for their answers to this question highlighted the huge range of opinion and local practice which exists over who pays, and how much they pay. This diversity of viewpoints is relevant to all adults in Scouting, not purely to the Scout Fellowship.

Question 6. Please provide any additional comments regarding this proposal

Responses to this question were many and varied, often expanding on a particular point covered above. The overwhelming pattern of these responses was that people are proud of the support that they currently provide to Scouting, and are considering how their local Fellowship, or local individuals, would fit into the proposed model.