

Croydon Scouts
Connect



Introduction:

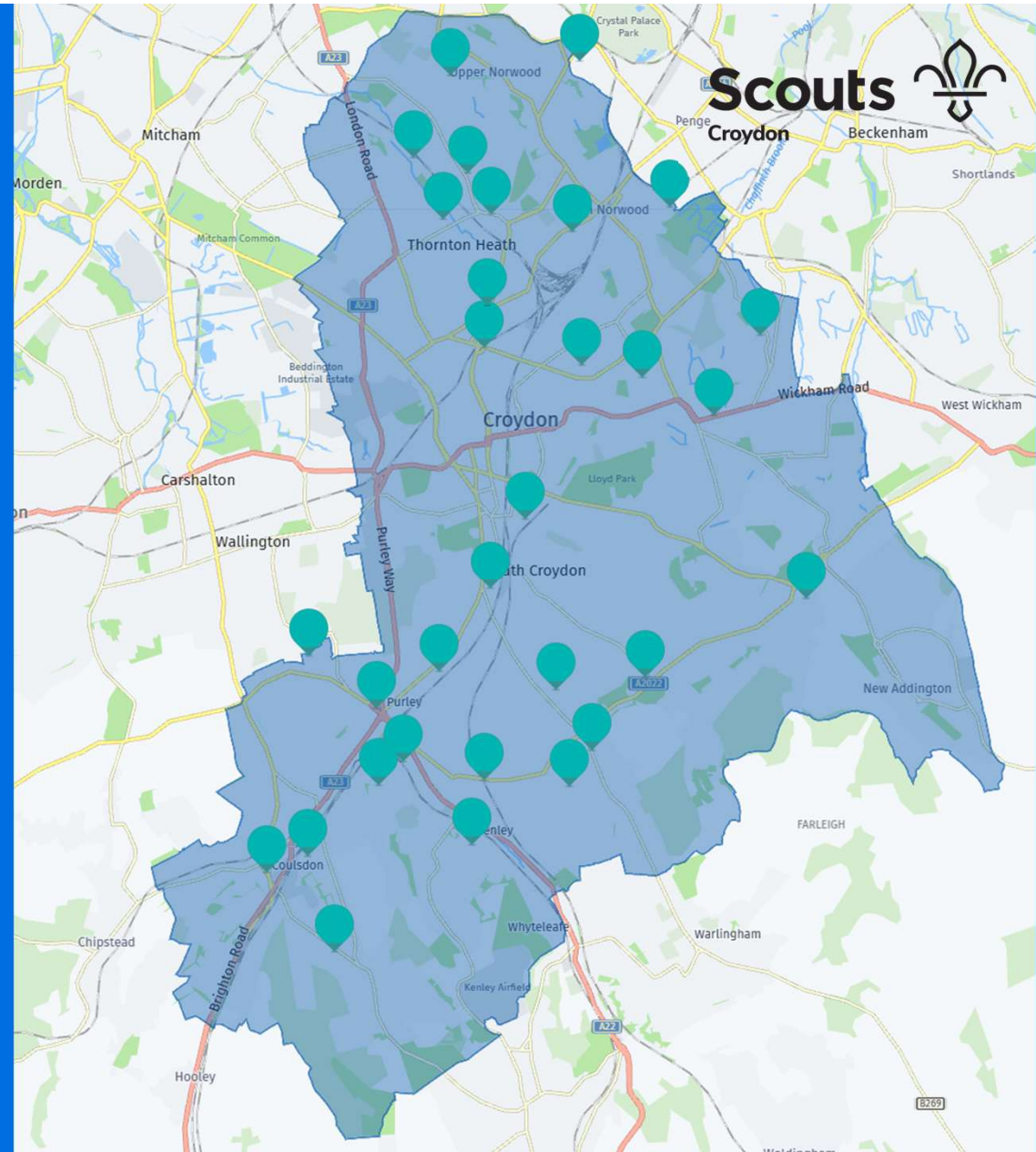
Overview & Housekeeping

State of the Union

Awards

Ben Taylor – CVA

Join the Conversation



State of the Union...

Why do we do this?

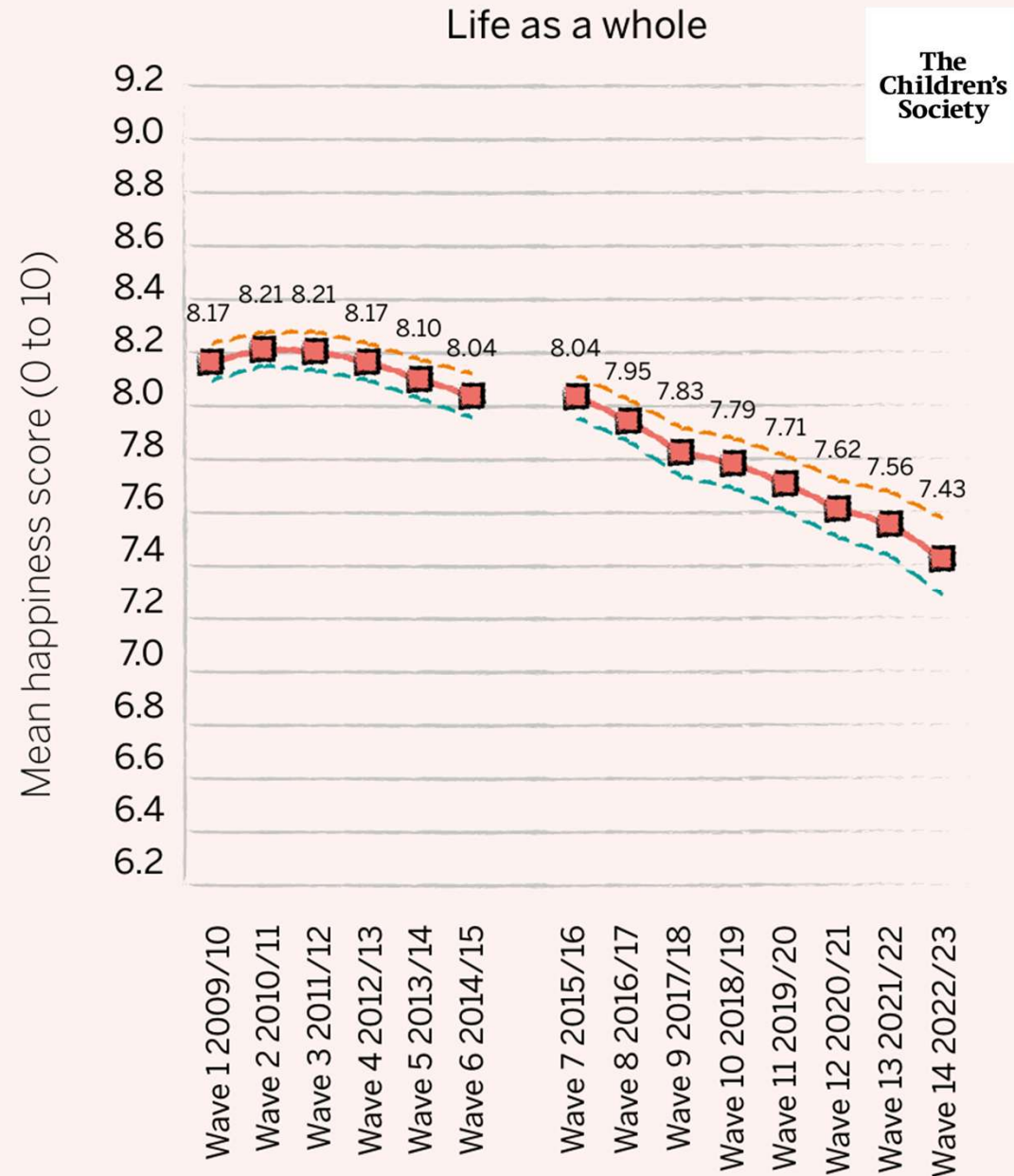
Children's self-assessed happiness with life as a whole has been in continual decline since 2010.

37% of children surveyed in 2025 worried their parents struggled to afford activities outside of school.

Young people surveyed often said they were searching for community and a sense of belonging online.

Professionals surveyed largely felt that the reasons CYP experienced low wellbeing was "overall erosion of community and a loss of collective responsibility for children and young people's wellbeing"

**Read more in the Children's Society
Good Childhood Report 2025**



Scouts provides an antidote.

Young people surveyed stated they generally want to be active in improving things, but that their power was limited.

Negative messages about young people impacts how they feel about themselves and other young people.

Young people shared that they could feel isolated in their wider communities and lack opportunities and spaces to socialise.

Young people felt they needed better support from adults to belong, to navigate digital life and to be heard by those in positions of power.



2025 in review..

Transformation

The big one.

- We are through the “mechanics” of the transformation project.
- Safety training was completed...

Communication

- Relaunched GLV meetings under the DLT umbrella
- Monthly(ish) updates to all groups

14-24

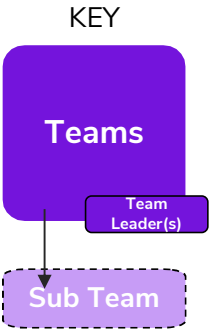
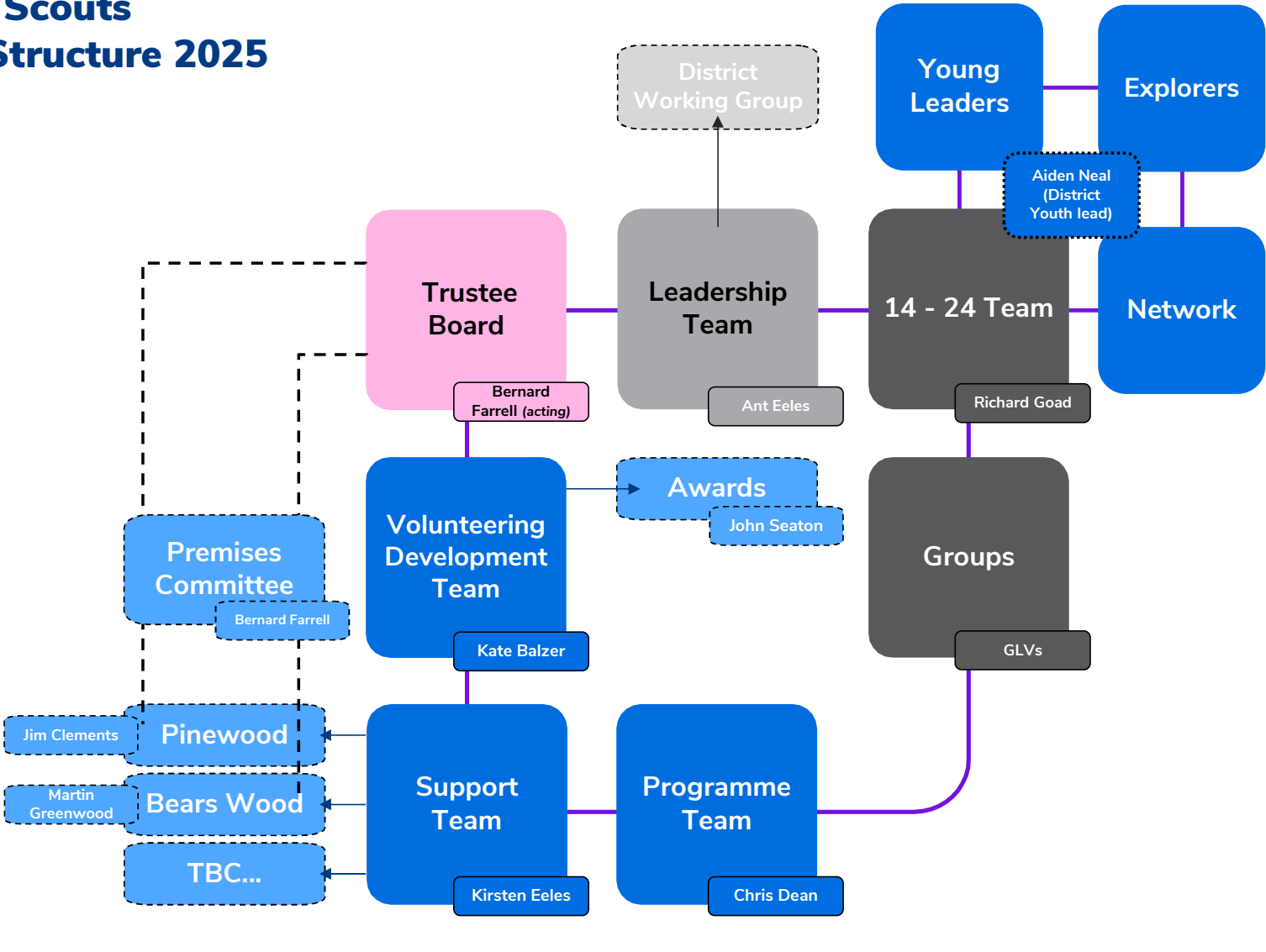
- Appointment of Youth Lead
- Relaunch of Network

Numbers

- Expecting to see modest rise in youth membership
- 2 new squirrel dreys, 1 new troop.

Croydon Scouts

District Structure 2025



Croydon Scouts

Programme Team Sep 2025



Team Leader:
Chris Dean

Section Support Clusters

Dawn Lockyer Jennie Davidson	Linda Ford John Edwards	Andrew Davies Richard Carrau	Marina French VACANT	Debbie Jeffries Neil Tyson
Cluster 1 1 st Coulsdon 7 th Purley 9 th Purley 17 th Purley 21 st Purley 30 th Purley	Cluster 2 1 st S&A 5 th S&A 11 th Purley 16 th Purley 18 th Purley 19 th Purley	Cluster 3 1 st Purley 6 th Croydon 7/12 th Croydon 25 th Purley 29 th Purley	Cluster 4 1/27 th Croydon 10 th Croydon 23 rd Croydon 28 th Croydon 29 th Croydon 31 st Croydon	Cluster 5 26 th Croydon 39 th Croydon 44 th Croydon 61 st Croydon 67 th Croydon

Programme Area Leads

International: Dawn Lockyer	Top Awards: Jennie Davidson, Debbie Jeffries & Dawn Lockyer
Adventurous Activities: Jim Clements	Events & Activities VACANT
Programme / Residential VACANT	Nights Away Richard Goad

Support

Adele McCutchen
Alex Graham
Ben Handley
Brian Young
Sue Graham

Work in Progress...

Volunteering Culture

We're talking more...

- Asking for help and advice sooner
- Saying "I'm struggling" rather than soldiering on.

Sharing Success

- We need to improve our website, social media, and revamp our newsletter.

Respect

We're working on respect

- Start from the common ground.
- Disagree as if you still want to go for a pint / coffee afterwards...

Numbers

- We need more volunteers, and we need to bolster struggling groups.

Volunteers

**1000 adults.
1230 roles (nearly 1 in 4 of us has > 1 role)
450 are “Non-members” (Helpers).**

What if we asked some of these non-members to become regular volunteers?

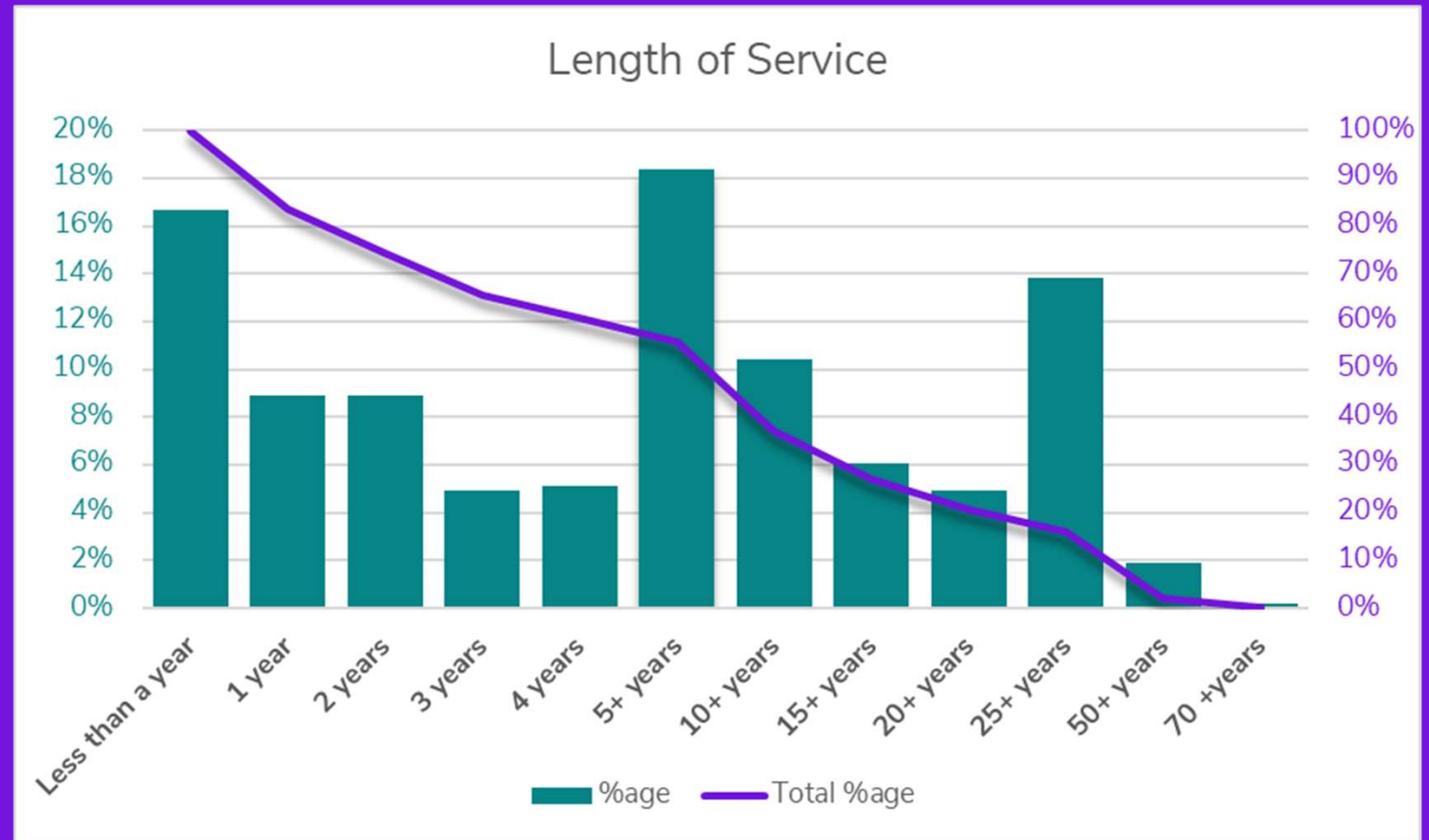
Just 10% could make a massive difference to our district.

“We can’t recruit new volunteers”

88 (>15%) of our volunteers joined in the last 12 months

“Parents only want to help until their child’s gone up to beavers, cubs etc”

50% of our volunteers have 5 or more year’s service.



2026

Support

- Improving the flow of news via the website and onwards into a newsletter
- Supporting groups with social media support and sharing posts

Programme

- Ambitious Programme
- Improving engagement between groups and their clusters
- Improved skills training
- NAP & Permit training (w/GLSW)

Volunteering

- Restarting reviews
- Mentoring for new GLVs and buddying for new volunteers
- Recruitment campaign

14-24

- Identifying improvements for Young Leader training and sharing
- Looking at explorer provision in North of district.

Transformation

Embedding the changes and getting the best from our new team structure

How can you help?

Squirrels

- We are swamped with squirrel enquiries. Could your group be the next?

Programme & 14-24

- Engage with the programme team clusters
- Support and engage your young leaders effectively

Volunteering

- Ask just a few of the 450 “helpers” in the district if they would become regular volunteers

Compliance

- Keep on top of your own/your group’s learning (My Learning)
- First Response

Volunteering Culture

Embrace our Volunteering Culture

Awards

Youth Award Schemes

Jack Petchey

- Still 2 more slots before the end of November

- Link on Croydon Website
- Email Julie Findlay:
julie.findlay@glswscouts.org.uk

DL's Awards

- Explorers/YLs, Network and young adult volunteers

- Link on Croydon Website
- Email to
youth@croydonscouting.org.uk

Ben Taylor – Croydon Voluntary Action

This deck was edited after the presentation to remove irrelevant information.

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