

Responses to the plan

Thank you for your responses to the plan for achieving our Vision for 2018. The plan is ambitious and there are challenges to overcome.

Many members have asked questions around common themes in the plan; we have collated these questions and the responses are below.

‘We have been growing for a long time. Sustaining growth is hard to maintain and the growth target seems steep. How can this be best achieved alongside allowing section leaders to run good programmes?’

The growth target of 500,000 young people is broadly in line with the growth of the past couple of years, recognising the compounding nature of this. The plan recognises the need to increase the number of adult volunteers by a greater extent. It also recognises the vitally important role played by a good quality programme. On [page 8 of the plan](#) we highlight what each objective means for youth members, sections and groups etc. The importance placed in sections on the delivery of an amazing programme and the underpinning strategies focus on supporting this.

‘To achieve the vision we need more leaders. We have tried every trick in the book to promote and attract parents/adults. How can you help us?’

You can find a number of tips and tried and tested activities to recruit adult volunteers via the [member’s resource areas](#) on the website. In addition, we are continually piloting a number of development opportunities and you can find a summary of these via the [UK Chief Commissioner’s blog](#). There are also specific plans to target new adult volunteers, such as the 18-25 year-old audience.

‘Training needs to be more flexible for leaders. It is very hard for adults to commit to day-long training courses alongside the other hours we ask of them to run Scouting. How can we make training more incentivised and accessible?’

We recognise that the area of adult training needs a better approach and this is recognised in the underpinning strategies of [our plan \(page 16\)](#). The feedback we receive is that the

content remains relevant and is of interest, but that we need to be more flexible and consistent with our local delivery. There is no 'one size fits all'. We will be piloting a number of different approaches over the coming year or two and remain open to suggestions as to what this might look like.

'We are struggling with our meeting places. Local authorities are selling off land/taking over buildings and we need help to keep Scouting in our local community and have a place to meet?'

We agree. It has been increasingly obvious to us in the past year that this is a significant hurdle to the growth and sustainability to local Scouting and this is recognised as a new objective within the strategic plan. We have established a group to look at this and it is holding its first workshop in July.

A key element for this work will be establishing partnerships with charities and businesses to identify new spaces. The HQ fundraising team will be targeting national funding opportunities to channel new funding locally to invest in facilities.

'We say money should not be a barrier to young people joining but in my area it is. Many parents cannot afford to send their child, especially if they have more than one. How can we help get around this?'

Some financial help is available from UK headquarters, contactable through the Information Centre or [website](#) and [advice on raising funds](#) is also available. There are also a number of things we can do locally, such as recycling uniforms as young people grow out of them, ensuring that the activities we offer are as inclusive as possible. We are working with other organisations with the aim of increasing external-funding opportunities to remove cost barriers. The most recent example is that we are currently working with the Government to ensure the LIBOR funding announced in the budget is deployed in certain areas so that money isn't a financial barrier for the set-up costs of Scouting in particular.

Email vision2018@scouts.org.uk if you have any queries relating to the Strategic Plan.