

# Background to Scout Active Support



Item Code FS330097 October 2009 Issue 1

**0845 300 1818**

Consultation and review of Scout Fellowship was started three years ago and has been a long progress; mainly because as far as possible, every strand of Scout Fellowship activity was examined.

Initial consultation highlighted existing issues and showed the need for some review of, and possible change to, the Scout Fellowship, but did not provide specific answers. The consultation brought out a variety of positive stories, showing where and when Fellowship is working well - it is a real asset to the District/County. However, it also brought out a large number of issues, showing that where Fellowship does not work well it is seen as a burden, so doesn't receive support from Commissioners as they are handling more important matters.

The consultation process also brought forward strength of feeling amongst many Fellowships that they are undervalued and not readily engaged in supporting local Scouting.

Whilst it is acknowledged that every 'adult only' group supporting Scouting should be a Scout Fellowship, many avoid use of the name 'Scout Fellowship'.

The work and support given by the current Scout Fellowship provision to Scouting is both valuable and vital; the review was aimed to ensure that positive aspects of current Scout Fellowship provision is kept allowing Scout Active Support to support local Scouting whilst being effectively supported locally.

The review highlighted the need for a more formalised structure that recognises that Scout Fellowships can have a combination of three different elements – skill, support and social activity. All Fellowships will have these elements

to a varying degree and it should be recognised that they are all important for a healthy and active Fellowship.

The review highlighted the need to strengthen the line management structure for Fellowship – enabling the responsible Commissioner to have more control, and a greater ability to target the support provided by Fellowships.

A desire was identified for Fellowships to be more closely integrated with adult leadership.

Also recognised was that responsible Commissioners should be able to manage, or have a link to the management of the Scout Active Support provision in their own County/Region/District in a way that suits them.

The greatest strength about Scout Fellowships is their flexibility. This means that there can be any number of different types of Unit. They can also be based at Group, District County or even National levels of The Association.

Communications and local support – this has been a key area of work over the last year with a new website at [scouts.org.uk/fellowship](http://scouts.org.uk/fellowship); Scout Fellowship e-News which has rapidly grown in strength; Regional support at days; Regular features in *Scouting* magazine and the *Focus* supplement, which have been slowly changing the overall profile of Scout Fellowship in preparation for the launch; and finally development of resources and factsheets.

## Recommendations for the Review

Following the 3 year review, these are the recommendations that became apparent:

- That the image and brand of the current Scout Fellowship be changed in line with The

Association's brands refresh, and that the title of Scout Fellowship is changed to 'Scout Active Support Unit'.

- That the management and support structures for the current Scout Fellowship be changed and that a new appointment of 'Scout Active Support Manager' is created.
- The Appointments of ADC (SF) and ACC (SF) be removed with effect from 31 Dec 2010.
- The Role of Scout Fellowship Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are made obsolete.
- That 'Policy, Organisation and Rules' are amended to the effect that the 'Scout Active Support Manager' is a member of the District/County/Area's management team.
- That the Scout Active Support Manager must hold or be working towards a wood badge.
- That Policy, Organisation and Rules are amended to the allow Scout Active Support Units to operate financially in a very similar way to Scout Networks.
- That a new, optional role of Scout Active Support Coordinator is created, and that Policy, Organisation and Rules are amended to allow the day-to-day administration of Scout Active Support Units to operate in a similar way to the Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections.
- That the Scout Fellowship's 'Remit' is replaced by a proactive Service Agreement as decided between the responsible Commissioner and the Scout Active Support Manager.
- That part of the Scout Active Support Manager's role is to establish and maintain active links with Scout Networks and Explorer Scout Units in their respective area.

Scout Active Support is a resource for Managers of local Scouting including Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners and County Commissioners, to use in which ever way is required.

The elected roles of Scout Fellowship Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will disappear. Scout Active Support Units will be managed by an adult appointed by the Responsible commissioner for this purpose. The Responsible Commissioner will have responsibility for the operation of Scout Active Support in their District, County or Area – giving more control to County and District Commissioners whilst reducing the burden of everyday tasks.

The ways that Scout Active Support can aid Scouting is endless however, it is vitally important that Scout Active Support Units have direction as well as the freedom to develop as a group of adults.

### **What is Scout Active Support?**

Scout Active Support is a way that adults can provide support to local Scouting.

Scout Active Support is a way for adults to volunteer some time to Scouting in a flexible way that suits them.