

SCOUTS FROM [insert town] AIM TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY MORE ACCESSIBLE

[Group name] spent [an afternoon/an evening, etc] in [City/ Town] looking at how to improve disabled access is in their local community. Working in partnership with charity Leonard Cheshire Disability, the group conducted access surveys to find out how accessible local venues are for disabled people. Not only are the Scouts increasing awareness of this important issue, they are also developing valuable skills for life.

This is part of the A Million Hands initiative, which creates opportunities for Scouts around the UK to volunteer in their local communities to make a positive impact on society. It aims to reach half a million Scouts and involves charities including Leonard Cheshire, Mind, Alzheimer's Society, WaterAid, Guide Dogs, and The Canal & River Trust. The charities were chosen by the Scouts as representing the issues they care most about. This spring, Scouts groups across the country will take action on their chosen issue by volunteering in their communities or taking part in charity work, as part of the A Million Hands 'Big Moment'.

[Number eg. Twelve scouts/cubs/beavers] visited some local venues and businesses including [venue/ business name] to see how accessible they were for disabled people. They finished the day by completing an access survey provided by Leonard Cheshire. They will feed back their findings to the venues along with some tips to make adjustments to improve access for disabled people.

Suggested quote below

[Name of Scout leader], leader of [Scout group name], said:

"We have been learning accessibility in our community and how simple changes can make a huge difference. The young people are finding out about how to develop a community that works better for everyone. They are having fun and learning important skills for life."

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, said:

"With the help of Leonard Cheshire, the Scouts carried out access surveys in their communities to see what businesses and services were accessible for disabled people. They then provided feedback about ways in which access for people who are disabled can be improved. This amazing project has highlighted simple ways that we can make a huge difference to people living with a disability"

ENDS

Media enquiries:

For more information, high resolution images of the event and interview requests please contact:

[Leader's contact details]

Notes to editors:

About Leonard Cheshire:

Leonard Cheshire is the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of services for disabled people. Our services include high-quality care and community support together with innovative projects supporting disabled people into education, employment and entrepreneurship. Worldwide, our global alliance of Cheshire partners supports disabled people into education and employment, and works in more than 50 countries. With over 7,500 staff, the charity supports over 7,000 disabled people in the UK. Visit: www.leonardcheshire.org

About A Million Hands campaign:

The Million Hands campaign is enlisting half a million Scouts to work with some of the UK's biggest charities – Mind, Alzheimer's Society, WaterAid, Guide Dogs and Leonard Cheshire, and The Canal & River Trust – over the next three years.

About Scouting

Scouting, the world's largest youth movement, was founded on 1 August 1907.

- In the UK, Scouting is supported by The Scout Association, enabling 7,000 groups across the country to provide opportunities to over 450,000 young people aged 6-25
- Scouting helps young people, both boys and girls, enjoy fun and adventure, while developing skills for life: the practical, character and employability skills they need to succeed
- Over 200 activities are offered by Scouting around the UK, from canoeing and caving to coding and community projects, made possible by the efforts of over 140,000 adult volunteers
- Worldwide, Scouting has over 40 million members – both male and female – and operates in nearly every country in the world.
- UK Scouting has over 250 Scout Activity Challenge badges. These require participants to achieve a level of understanding and skill realistic and appropriate to their age range