

Scouts from **[insert town]** highlight the challenges people with sight loss face

[Insert Scout Group name] has held a Safer Street Party to highlight and help resolve some of the issues faced by people with sight loss in their communities on a daily basis. The party's theme, Safer Streets, supports the Streets Ahead campaign from the charity Guide Dogs. Streets Ahead aims to tackle some of the most common physical barriers to accessible streets, such as cars parked on pavements and street clutter like A-boards.

The Scout Group did the activities and organised their Safer Street Party as part of A Million Hands, an initiative organised by The Scout Association. A Million Hands seeks to mobilise the Association's half a million Scouts to do practical things to help others in their communities. Not only are the Scouts increasing awareness of this important issue, they are also developing valuable skills for life.

Young members of the Scout Group held their party at **[insert venue]**, inviting **[neighbours/local councillors/the MP]** along and urging them to do whatever they can to remove these physical barriers.

Over the last few months, the Scout Group has also completed activities devised by Guide Dogs to help them understand some of the difficulties people with sight loss experience. They played Safer Streets bingo, spotting some of the things that can get in the way of someone who's blind or partially sighted as they walk down a street, and enjoyed a visit from a Guide Dogs speaker.

Suggested quote below

[Insert name], Scout Leader said: "It was wonderful to see so many of our young Scouts enjoying themselves while raising awareness of a really important issue, while developing valuable skills for life.

"Things like cars parked on pavements, badly placed wheelie bins or overgrown hedges force guide dog owners to walk into the road, which is obviously dangerous when you have sight loss. We want to make everyone think about how their actions can affect others."

[Delete this paragraph if not applicable]

Scouts also collected £xx for Guide Dogs at their Safer Street Party, as the charity relies on donations to continue its life-changing work. Every pound raised will make a difference to people in the UK living with sight loss.

– Ends –

For more information, contact **[insert name]** on **[insert email address]** or **[phone number]**.

Notes for Editors

About the charity Guide Dogs

Every hour, another person in the UK loses their sight and if this happens to you, Guide Dogs is there to make sure you don't lose your freedom as well.

A UK-wide charity, we're specialists in giving people with sight loss the means to live life on their own terms and to step out into the world again. Find out more at www.guidedogs.org.uk.

We rely on donations to continue our life-changing work – every pound raised makes a difference to people in the UK living with sight loss. There are almost two million people in the UK living with sight loss today, a number which is predicted to double to four million by 2050.

You can find out more about Guide Dogs' Street Ahead campaign at www.guidedogs.org.uk/streetsahead.

You can find out more about The Scout Association's A Million Hands initiative at www.amillionahands.org.uk.

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