

BEYOND2018

YOUSHAPE MONTH

#YouShape

Locally and nationally, Scouting continues to deliver our 2014-18 Strategic Plan, Scouting for All. As a Movement, we are proud that we are growing, becoming more Youth Shaped and inclusive while making a positive impact in our communities.

As a Movement, we are now planning Scouting's future beyond 2018, thinking about our priorities, the work we wish to continue and any new areas where we can make a difference, all to answer the questions: how can we improve the life chances of young people and better support our volunteers? Summit17 is an important opportunity to contribute to this important process.

During YouShape Month 2017, over 6,000 young people were asked what they enjoyed most and least about Scouting, what they achieved, and what they valued in the adults that supported them.

The initial results are outlined below for all delegates attending Summit17. Whether you are a youth commissioner, section leader or line manager, I hope the voices of young people remain front and centre of your discussions as you decide what Scouting should prioritise in the next strategic plan. My team are working on what conclusions or recommendations we can draw from this evidence, so please do come and speak to me if having read this, you have any thoughts you would like to share.



Hannah Kentish, UK Youth Commissioner

YOUSHAPE 2017

During February 2017, section leaders and youth commissioners were asked to undertake activities that would allow young people to express their opinion on areas that will support the creation of a new strategic

plan for Scouting (between 2018-23). By the end of February, 154 submissions were made, reflecting the views of over 6,000 young people.

Methodology

We asked four questions, for which we allowed the section leader or youth commissioner leading the session to return three views. The questions were:

- We want to know what young people think is **great about Scouting**. We'll use this to understand what we should support the Movement to do more of. Please enter the three activities or features of Scouting your young people's said they most enjoy.
- We want to know what young people think **could make Scouting better**. We'll use this to understand what we should support the Movement to do less of or do differently. Please enter the three activities or features of Scouting your young people said they enjoy least.
- We want to know what young people really **value in a leader**. We'll use this to understand how we can train and support adult volunteers better. Please enter the top three characteristics they most value in an adult leader.
- We want to understand what young people want to **get out of their time in Scouting** (skills, qualities and attributes). We'll use this to improve the support we give the Movement to develop young people. Please enter the top three things your young people said they want to get out of their time in Scouting (skills, qualities and attributes).

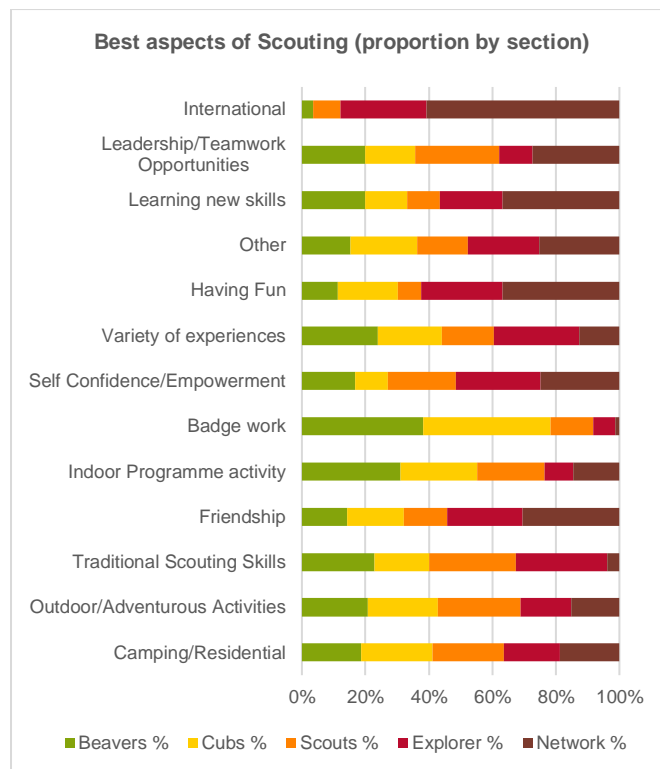
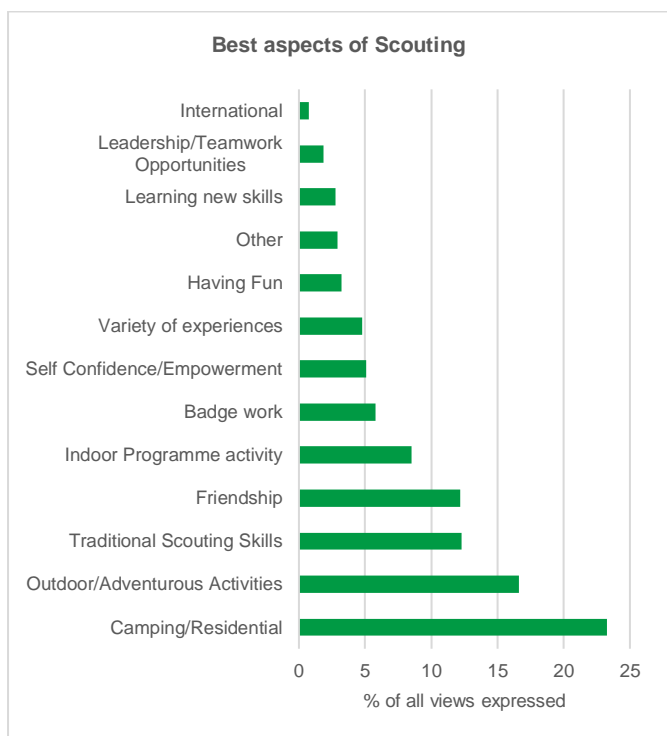
We received 150 valid submissions in total, representing the views of 6,230 young people. Within this, 25% were Beavers (6-8.5 years old), 34% were Cubs (8.5-10 years old), 28% were Scouts (10-14 years old), 11% were Explorers (14-18 years old) and 2% were Network members (18-25 years old).

We then took each view expressed and categorised them into broader categories which captured the points being made in a consistent way. We then worked out the percentage that category represented as a proportion of all the views received.

This method has a number of limitations (bias of the section leader/youth commissioner in summarising points made, interpretation of views by UK Headquarters when categorising views, disproportionate weighting given to submissions where more than one section has been involved etc) but we are confident that the evidence in this report gives a fair, high-level reflection of what young people in Scouting felt about the questions we asked (i.e. *'Camping/residential opportunities are the most appreciated activities in Scouting'*) but should not, however, be used to suggest precise proportions of young people holding any particular view (i.e. *'23% of all young people in Scouting's favourite activity is camping/residential opportunities'*).

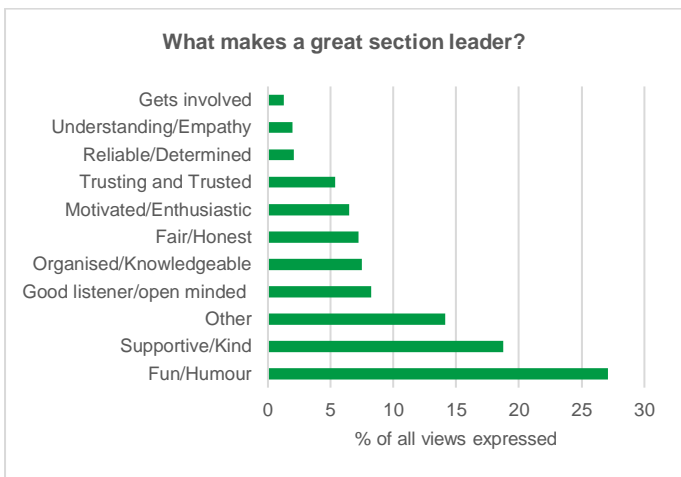
Favourite parts of Scouting

By far, the favourite activities of young people in Scouting were **camp/residential** and **outdoor/adventurous** activities. This was closely followed by **traditional Scouting activities** such as fire lighting, backwoods cooking and survival exercises. Activities involving or building **friendships** also featured highly.



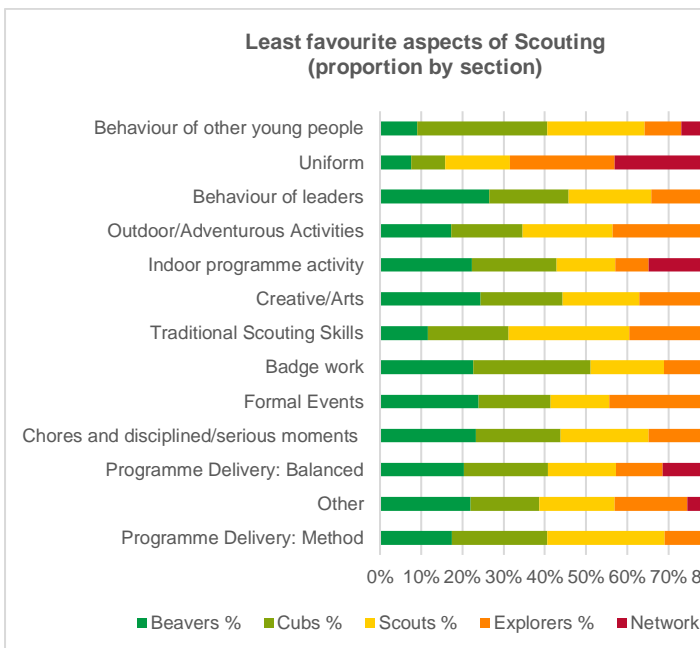
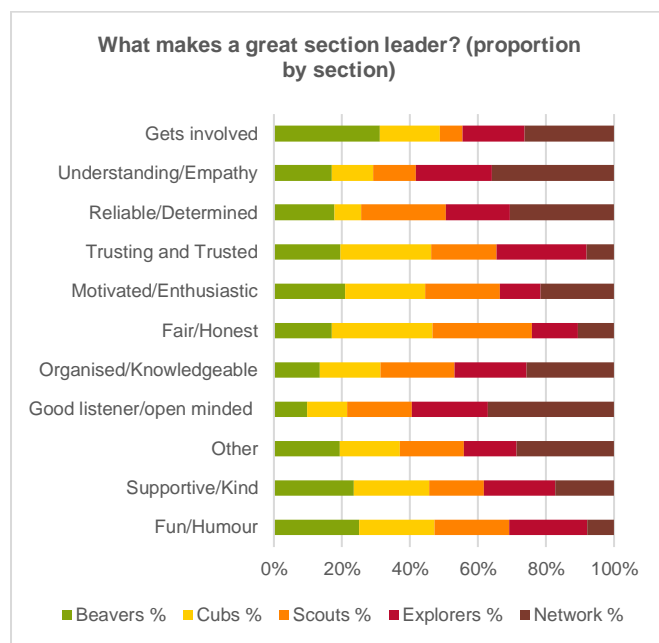
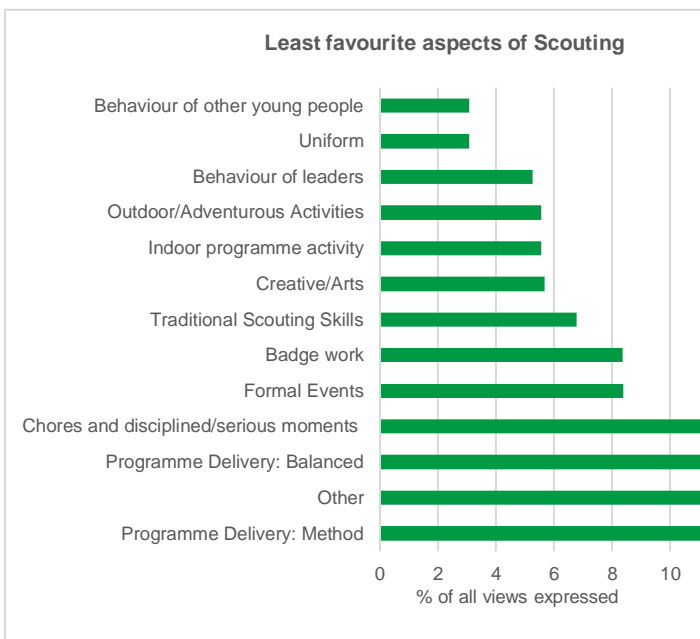
Least favourite parts of Scouting

Whilst there was a much wider spread of opinions for this question, young people highlighted **failure to deliver according to the Method** (specifically activities that involved writing, a lack of learning by doing or school like tasks) and a **lack of balanced programme** (repetitive or non-stretching activities). Perhaps unsurprisingly, **chores and moments that required discipline/quiet** were not viewed favourably. **Formal events** (such as parades and St Georges Day) and **some forms of badge work** (particularly where requirements involved 'homework' or seemed unachievable) were also mentioned often. A number of specific parts of the Scout Programme were highlighted, many related to indoor programme activities, some outdoor pursuits, and creative and arts based activities. The uniform was referenced by Explorers and Network, and finally some perceived negative behaviours by leaders and other young people were cited.



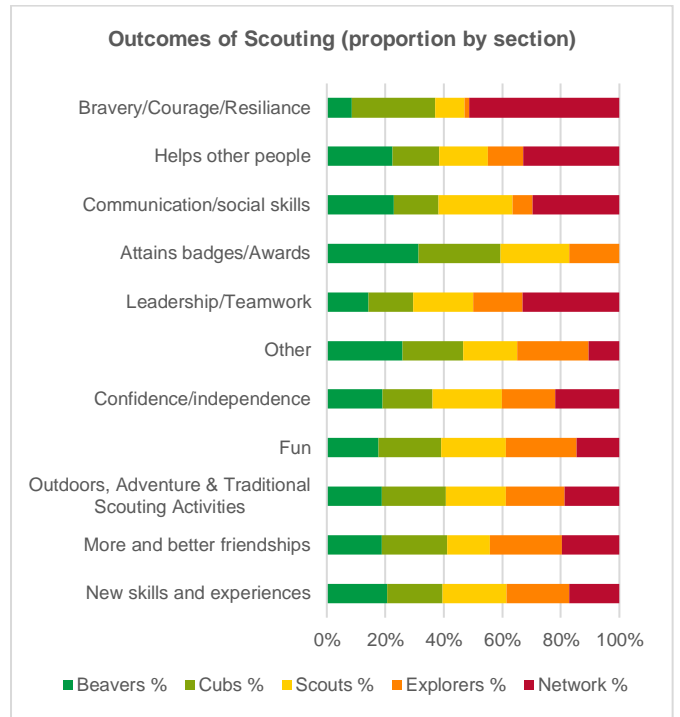
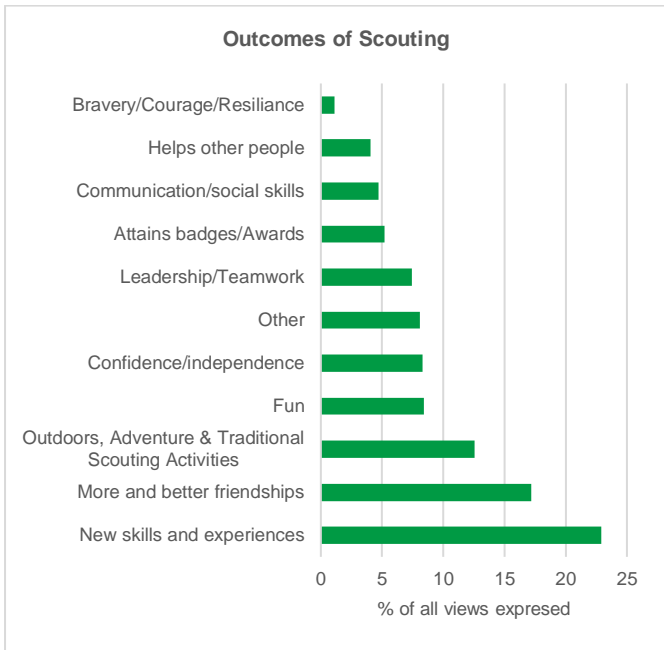
The ideal section leader

Overwhelmingly, young people appreciated adult volunteers who were **fun**. They looked for adults to be **supportive and kind**, with many highlighting **good listeners** who were **open minded**, as being appreciated. They also appreciated those who were **knowledgeable**, able to teach them new skills, who treated them in a **fair and honest** way, were **motivated and enthusiastic**, and were both **trustworthy** themselves and **trusting** of young people. Beavers were particularly keen that adult volunteers **get involved** in activities themselves.



Outcomes of Scouting

There was a strong sense that the **variety of experiences and new skills** was strongly valued rather than any one particular skill or outcome. Young people formed **more and better friendships**. There was a strong appreciation for **experiencing outdoors, adventurous and some traditional Scouting activities**. Young people felt they were more **confident and independent** as individuals, but also better **team players and leaders** as a result of Scouting. **Badges and awards** were appreciated but more by younger sections, and some felt **braver**, with more courage and resilience.



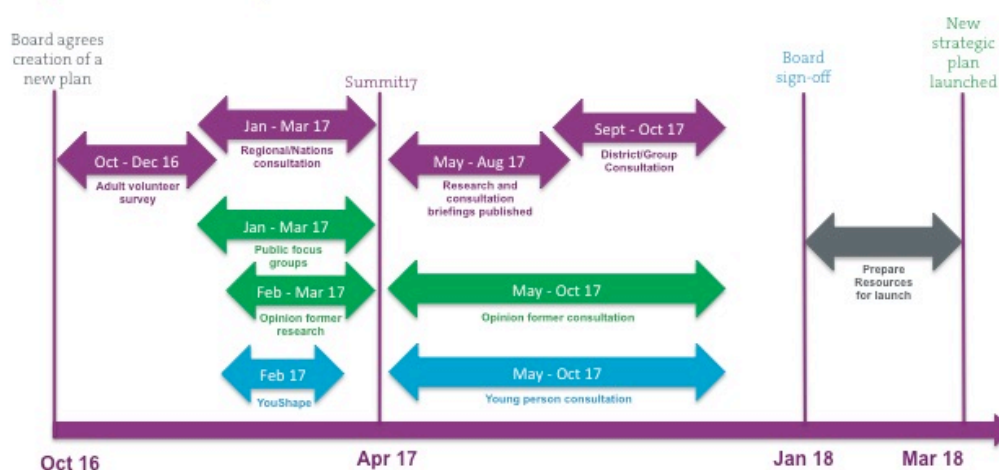
This piece is part of a series of contributions intended to stimulate discussion and debate as we create a new strategic plan for Scouting between 2018-2023.

In early August 2017, we will release a toolkit to support consultation on a District and Group level, with views being fed back nationally. Make sure you've made time at a County or District level to take part in September or October 2017.

BEYOND 2018

To inform the decisions made for Scouting's future beyond 2018, we have asked for views from volunteers, young people, opinion formers and the general public. Over the next two months we will be publishing the reports from this research and consultation to help stimulate conversations in the Movement about the future.

Beyond 2018 | Consultation timeline



Schedule for publication of briefings and resources

The following briefings will be published in April – June on www.scouts.org.uk/beyond2018 and circulated to members through Scouting+. These will summarise the key insights from the research and consultation to date intended to stimulate discussion and debate.

- Briefing 1 – Summit17
- Briefing 2 – You Shape Beyond 2018 report
- Briefing 3 – Perceptions of Scouting report
- Briefing 4 – Volunteer survey report
- Briefing 5 – Regional/Nations consultation report
- Briefing 6 – Opinion former research report
- Briefing 7 – Impact of Scouting on young people report

In August we will publish resources to be used at District and Group level for consultation with volunteers on the next strategic plan, with a method to feedback views nationally.

In September and October volunteers are encouraged to feedback their views on the draft strategic plan through County/District level meetings or events.

The Board will discuss a final draft of the next strategic plan based on volunteer feedback in January and will aim to launch the new plan in spring 2018.

Future conversation resources – Summit17 in a box

To help support the consultation on the next plan, the toolkit will include resources to help you run your own Summit17 event if you wish to or to have a conversation as part of a meeting or event you may already have scheduled. These resources will include presentations, suggested session plans and activities as well as how to submit your feedback.

Make sure you've made time at a County or District level for volunteers to take part in discussions from September to October on the future of Scouting and what we as a Movement should prioritise in the next five years.