

Bexley Scouts Development Day – 19 March 2011

Outputs from Discussion Groups

1 Scope of District Functions

1.1 Programme Group:

Modifications to ADC (Programme) draft brief (highlighted):

Assistant District Commissioner (Programme)

Responsible for: District Scouters and/or Advisers

Responsible to: Deputy District Commissioner (Programme)

Key Relationships:

Internal: County Programme Team, District Team, GSLs, Local Training Manager, District Administrators

External:

Key Function:

Working as part of a District Team to support the delivery of the Scout programme within Groups and monitor the quality of the scouting offered.

Specific Functions:

1. ensure regular (and random) visits to sectional meetings (as allocated by DC / DDC)Programme) to identify additional support needs [Note: this description allows for local decision making to allocate members of the District Programme Team to different meetings so they could, for example, be allocated on either a geographical or sectional basis]
2. provide advice to sectional leaders on improving balanced programmes (approach needs to be supportive rather than seen as a spying exercise – need to promote a culture of leaders expecting support visits rather than being put out by them)
3. assist the GSL in monitoring the implementation of the policies of the Scout Association
4. promote additional activities at District level as required by Groups to augment the sectional programmes
5. provide or facilitate social and training events (eg District Camps) for leaders

1.2 Management Group:

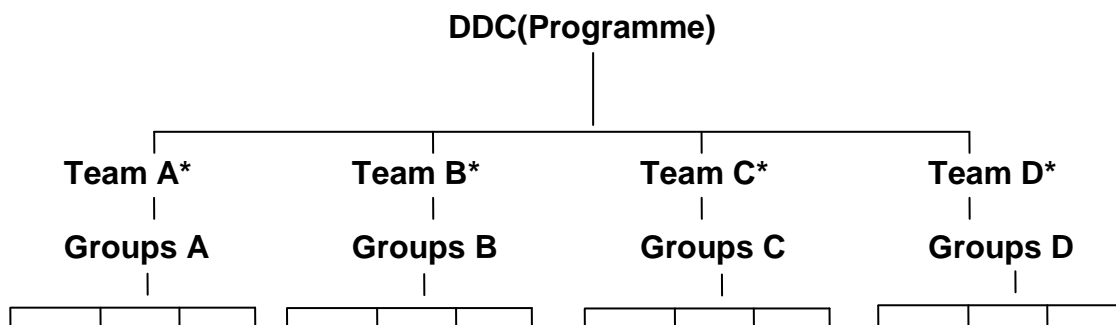
No feedback

1.3 Governance Group

No feedback

2 Possible Structures

2.1 Programme Group:



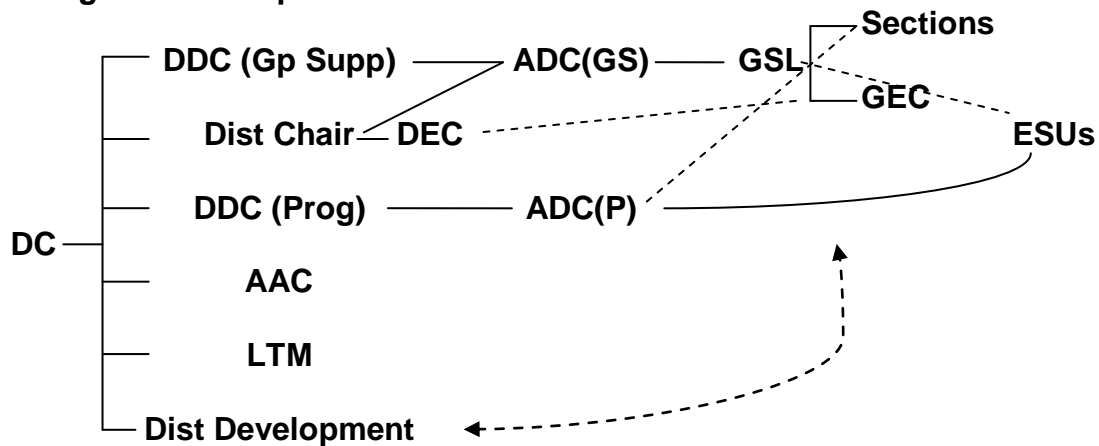
* as many groups of Groups as numbers dictate

Reasons – for larger and smaller events to supplement basic programme.
Events to be what the children want – not what the leaders have always done.

Separate groups of adults to run events overseen by ADCs or adviser.

Different ADC for each section.

2.2 Management Group:



Note: ADC will support a number of Groups but all management and governance support is provided through ADC(GS) who will have dual reporting line / relationship with DDC(GS) and District Chair.

2.3 Governance Group

District will be very large so needs 4 sub-districts.

Appointments committee needs Chair and Secretary for whole District with 4 sub-district chairmen and secretary and 4 sub-sub-committees which will get together as whole District appointments committee at least once a year

1 Borough Commissioner for leader training needed with 4 sub-district leader trainers.

Training should be Borough-side or even regional. Activities should be sectional by sub-district. ES and SN can be run at Borough or County level. SAS should be left at sub-district but if requested would help out if possible.

Communications:

- we should be called Bexley Borough Scouts
- Borough website needed with sub-district / Group pages
- Recruitment person overseeing whole Borough with sub-district contacts
- Internet forum for leaders only (adults)
- New Borough should support Civic Parade and Danson show
- Personal contact needed – speak to each other. Everyone to know who to contact if problem.

Buddies system – treasurers, secretaries etc – Borough wide.

Recruitment – welcome pack for parents of new members.

3 First Steps / Quick Wins

3.1 Programme Group:

- Designated areas should get together and begin to plan for the future
- Adults should socialise and exchange ideas – summer BBQ etc
- District team need to make their faces known to new section leader base
- Make all leaders aware they can visit other current district sectional meetings
- New DC should try to keep existing district teams functioning as per their district events
- Ensure leaders in peripheral groups know they will not be isolated / losing links with existing district.

3.2 Management Group:

- Ensure all good work continues
- GSL mentors
- Understanding of old district activities and keeping them going / amalgamation and expansion of existing activities
- Survey current resources
- Borough map with groups shown
- Wider access to Council resources
- Long term media access to changes happening in County
- Badge days
- Medium term – cross fertilisation.

3.3 Governance Group

Included in structure discussion

4 a Concerns / Worries re change process

Identity:

- Loss of identity
- District is too large
- What happens if two groups have same coloured scarf?
- Are we Districts or a Borough?

Benefits:

- Savings of manpower exaggerated – will have an extra tier of management

Administration:

- Recruitment of administrators – will it be any easier?
- Pooling of resources not a good idea
- Nowhere large enough for all equipment
- “Capitation” increase
- What happens to old district funds?
- What happens to Jimmy bus?
- Group assets stay in Group

Management / Support:

- Support will be lost
- Extended communication links
- Leaders will be moved into an area where they won't know anyone
- Not all current ADCs will have role in new organisation
- Filling all roles in new organisation
- Non-acceptance of what has been done – some adult volunteers will leave

Programme:

- Borough too big for single District events
- Some events will be too large to be practical
- St Georges Day – is there a venue big enough in the Borough / how will it be organised
- Inter – colony / pack / troop / Group competition or challenge
- No discounts for buying in bulk

b Opportunities

- Good idea for working with Borough Council
- Specialist canoeing / sailing etc can be done at Borough-wide level
- Start Boroughwide activities at oldest end – SN / ES due to lower numbers
- Bexley Scout Borough HQ to be at current Bexleyheath District HQ, Mayplace Road.