



Happy New Year!

With our successful Centenary now behind us, 2008 promises to be a year of consolidation and moving forward. All of us at UK HQ wish you a very happy New Year and it goes without saying that if you want any help or advice over the coming months, just email or phone us.

Key work areas

There are five key projects that we will be managing over the coming months and years. They will provide direct support to you in Areas and Counties and enable us to work with you to support Cub Section Leaders.

We have now appointed a small group from around the UK to lead this work, and will probably invite one or two more of you to join in as the work develops. You will notice below, as well as describing the key aims of each project, we have also identified the lead people and their background. For further information please contact either Chris Nagle or Steve Moysey at Gilwell Park by emailing cub.scout@scout.org.uk

Cub Scout Development

Graeme Hamilton will be leading this core work for the Section. Everything we do hangs on the sole aim of stabilising the Section, retaining current members and growing the Section: both adults and young people. We aim to 'make the lives of Cub Scout Leaders easier' and through that retain Leaders, reduce the burdens that are often placed on them and help people locally identify others who can assist. We are also developing a data vault for easy one stop access and links to all those forms, documents and fact sheets that Leaders look for.

A second strand of this work will be to grow one new Cub Pack in each District by 2010. We'll be working with District Commissioners to secure that goal. There will be a clear need for you to support ADCs to identify potential and to make that happen.

Older Cub Scouts and Moving-on

Rob Rowles, recently 'retired' ACC Cub Scouts in Gloucestershire, and Ian Stewart, current Cub

Scout Commissioner in Northern Ireland, will lead on this project. We are still seeing too many Cubs leave before they move on to Scouts, or shortly after they get to the Scout Section. This project will seek to identify reasons and trends, and through some problem solving, propose ways to reduce the loss. Again involvement and best practice ideas from Areas, Counties and Countries will be important to the success of this project. The project team will jointly work with volunteers from the other Sections.

Role of AAC/ACCs and ADCs

May Castrey, Cub Scout Commissioner for Wales, and Val Thomason, Deputy County Commissioner for Cheshire, are soon to engage you in a serious look at your role and that of ADC Cub Scouts. The emphasis will be on achieving outcomes for the role that meet the needs and demands of a Cub Scout Leader and his/her team in the early 21st Century. Development support will be at the heart of this. The challenge for the project team is to capture your knowledge and experience to make this effective.

Communication

Barbara Beck, ACC Younger Sections in Central Yorkshire, will lead this wide-ranging project. Dave Wood, who one of the main contributors to the Scouting Magazine Cub Section supplement, will support Barbara in this. Essentially we want to see a more joined up approach to communication within the Cub Scout Section. The goal is to join up information in the Cub Section supplement in Scouting Magazine, Programmes Online and features on the online Cub Island. Barbara will also lead on how we effectively give a voice to the Cub Scouts across the Movement and in their own Packs as part of our contribution to the wider Youth Participation strategy.

Programme refinements 2008

The changes to the Programme were introduced in December 2007 and Leaders should now be working on introducing the changes.

As an overview, the Zones have been tweaked and now match the name of the Zones in the other

sections and the number of Challenge Badges has been increased to seven.

We would like to hear what people think of the changes. Many of the comments we have already received have been positive. These include: 'it now makes it easier to understand the Balanced Programme' and 'glad that there are now more Challenge Badges.'

Now that we have tweaked the zones and Challenge Awards, Kathryn Castle, ACSL and member of Suffolk County Cub Scout team, is taking the lead in developing support for Leaders in those zones and activities that are the most challenging, and which many shy away from. Again with your input and support we can bring some degree of comfort to those Leaders, and perhaps also enhance their skills development through the adult support network.

Your Programme, Your Voice

The UK Programme Team is in the process of introducing a regular online survey to act as a sounding board for specific areas of the Programme. Randomly selected members of the Movement will be invited to take part in 'Your Programme, Your Voice' surveys every three months. The Cub Scout Section has been chosen to pilot the scheme, and we will be rolling it out to other Sections as soon as possible. We are encouraging Leaders to share the questions with others in their teams, and be as honest as possible with their responses. Summary feedback will be given to all of those taking part and shared where appropriate. The information gathered will be used to develop Programme support in the future.

Welcoming new AAC/ACCs

Very shortly we will be re-introducing Welcome Packs for new AACs/ACCs. What do you do locally to welcome new ADCs? Do you have any good practice ideas that we can share with the rest of the Country? Please send them in via the Cub Scout office at cub.scout@scout.org.uk

Training Module relevancy

In June 2008, the Adult Support team are seeking Leaders involved in the Cub Scout Section to check out their role profile against the training modules for each role. If you would be interested in volunteering, please email your details to Steve Moysey in the Cub Scout office at cub.scout@scout.org.uk.

Home Contacts

The Home Contact system has been in place for a number of years – it was designed in a world before mobile phones and other modern communications. We are currently looking at our procedures for this and would welcome any feedback on what you or Leaders around you think about the system. Please let us know at: cub.scout@scout.org.uk – preferably before the end of March 2008

Out and About

The Cub Scout Team are happy to come out to Counties/Areas and Districts to run workshops on Programme related issues that Leaders might be struggling with and need a little bit of extra help. For example we could include:

Programmes Online	Programme Planning
Young Leaders	Nights Away
International ideas in the Programme	

And more.....! We can come and build a 'bespoke' Programme session on whatever you need. Just contact: cub.scout@scout.org.uk

Activity eNews

If you want the latest information from the Activities team at UKHQ, please visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/news/enews/jan08.pdf and view their latest eNewsletter.

Finally...

If you have any ideas that you feel would make future issues even more helpful, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Andrew Wellbeloved **UK Commissioner for Programme**



Graeme Hamilton **UK Adviser for Cub Scouts**



Steve Moysey **Programme and Development Adviser**