

Role description for a Regional Commissioner in England



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About this factsheet

This factsheet will help those currently in the role of Regional Commissioner, provide information for those considering the role and also assist those managing the appointment process. It contains the following:

1. An outline role description. This will help to provide an overview of the role and its priorities. It describes what the role should achieve without going into detail.
2. A person specification. You can use this to help identify the skills required for the role, the training that may be required to carry out the role successfully and to select someone for the role.
3. A detailed description of the role. This will help you and your line manager explore the role so that you can agree how it will be carried out, what the priorities and responsibilities are and agree a training and development plan.

The detailed role description is based on the six areas of leadership and management that The Scout Association believes are required to motivate other adults and provide excellent Scouting in your community. These are:

1. Providing direction
2. Working with people
3. Achieving results
4. Enabling change
5. Using resources
6. Managing your time and personal skills

Further information about leadership and management can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/managers

How to use this factsheet

Every Region is different and every Regional Commissioner is different. This factsheet is intended to be a starting point for agreeing what is needed for the Region at this point in its development. It should also be used as the basis for mutually agreeing how the role will be carried out and how responsibilities will be allocated (for instance in a role share).

That's why it is not intended that this whole factsheet is to be given to a current role holder or potential candidate. The Deputy Chief Commissioner for England should adapt this information so it best fits your current situation, taking into account whether you are reviewing a current role holder, looking for in a new Regional Commissioner or agreeing the role with a new person. For instance you may wish to give only the outline role description to someone considering the role, providing more information and detail as they require it.

But do make sure you agree a role description with a Regional Commissioner. That way, in the future, you can both review how the role is going.

Please use this factsheet as the starting point for this agreement and be prepared to make mutually agreed changes if necessary.

The Scout Association

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Outline Role Description

Title: Regional Commissioner

Outline: Responsible for leading the Scout Region: ensuring that the Region provides good quality Scouting for young people, developing Scouting in the Region, promoting and maintaining the policies of the Association within the Region and proactively managing and supporting the County Commissioners.

Responsible to: Deputy Chief Commissioner for England

Responsible for: County Commissioners in the Region

Main contacts: County Commissioners in the Region, Deputy Chief Commissioner for England, Chief Commissioner for England, UK Chief Commissioner, other Regional Commissioners in England, International Commissioner, UK Commissioners, County Presidents and Chairs, headquarters staff – especially the Regional Development Manager and the Development Officers operating within the region.

Appointment requirements: Must complete the relevant training (wood badge) within three years of taking up the role.

Main tasks:

- Lead the Region so that it thrives and has the best systems in place to support the Counties and to develop Scouting in the Counties.
- Provide line management and support to the County Commissioners in the Region including setting objectives for their work and holding regular reviews and one-to-one meetings.
- Ensure that Scouting in the Region works towards The Scout Association's vision and strategic objectives.
- Together with the County Commissioners agree the regional priorities and produce a plan to deliver these to meet The Scout Association's vision and strategic objectives.
- Ensure that Scouting in the Region is attractive to young people and adults from all backgrounds in the Region.
- Ensure that problems within the Region are resolved so that an effective volunteering culture is encouraged and that excellent Scouting is provided to young people in the Counties.
- Work with the Deputy Chief Commissioner for England, the Chief Commissioner for England and the other Regional Commissioners in England to share ideas and implement initiatives to support Scouting in England.

Person Specification

Knowledge and experience	Essential/Desirable
Ability to manage adults	Essential
Understanding of the challenges of working in the voluntary sector	Desirable
Experience of working with young people and/or community work with adult groups	Desirable
Recent experience of working in the Scout or Guide Movement as an adult	Desirable
Skills	Essential/Desirable
Excellent written and oral communication skills	Essential
Provide advice and guidance effectively to others	Essential
Provide inspirational leadership for the Region	Essential
Provide strategic direction for the Region	Essential
Motivate adults volunteering in the Region	Essential
Build, maintain and facilitate effective working relationships with a wide range of people	Essential
Enable others to identify issues, clarify objectives, develop attainable objectives and gain the necessary skills and confidence to work as an effective team	Essential
Ability to negotiate compromises	Essential
Plan, manage and monitor own tasks and time	Essential
Construct and implement long-term plans that improve and expand the Scouting offered to young people and identify any training, resources and other needs required to undertake this work	Essential
Use basic computer software	Essential
Personal qualities	Essential/Desirable
An understanding of the needs of volunteers	Essential
Flexible approach	Essential
Self-motivated	Essential
Able to work as part of a team and promote good teamwork	Essential
Resourceful, energetic and enthusiastic about the job	Essential
Acceptance of the fundamentals of the Scout Movement	Essential

Detailed Functions

The role of Regional Commissioner is based around six key areas of management and leadership.

Providing direction – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Lead by example to promote a co-operative culture of working in the Region.
- Create a vision for the future development of the Region that takes into account the strategic objectives of The Scout Association.
- Develop a plan to realise the vision for the Region and work with others to implement and regularly review it.
- Provide leadership, inspiration and motivation for all County Commissioners volunteering in the Region;
- Work collaboratively with the Regional Development Service to agree priorities for the Region.
- Ensure that everyone in the Region follows the policies and rules of The Scout Association.
- Carry out regular one-to-one meetings and support adults who report directly to you.

Working with people – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Develop good working relationships based on trust and Scout values with the adults within the Region and with other stakeholders.
- Encourage County Commissioners to manage succession planning and identify the roles that they need to make the County work effectively and recruit suitable people into those roles.
- Manage succession planning of County Commissioner appointments.
- Allocate tasks to people within the Region and monitor the progress of those tasks.
- Support County Commissioners to develop by completing formal training requirements, learning on the job, trying out new skills and addressing problems affecting performance.
- Build a team spirit in the Region and support the development of the team as a whole.
- Address conflict as it occurs within the Region and reduce the likelihood of it happening through good communication and other methods.
- Run effective team meetings in the Region and participate fully in meetings with the Deputy Chief Commissioner for England, the Chief Commissioner for England and other Regional Commissioners.
- Ensure that County Commissioners perform to agreed standards and if serious problems occur, the correct procedures are followed in consultation with the Deputy Chief Commissioner for England.
- Appropriately acknowledge good work carried out in the Region (through local events and the national Scout adult award scheme).
- Carry out effective reviews and re-assign or retire people if necessary.
- Build and maintain collaborative relationships with other relevant organisations in the Region.

Achieving results – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Satisfactorily complete projects in the Region for which you are responsible.
- Ensure that all the initiatives in the Region are managed appropriately.
- Ensure that there are appropriate processes in place within the Region to ensure that Scouting is delivered effectively to young people.
- Ensure that Scouting is promoted locally within the Region to adults and young people including a focus on their needs and expectations.
- Monitor and review the progress that County Commissioners are making against their targets and development plans.
- Have a robust Regional Development plan in place and regularly review progress.
- Satisfactorily resolve escalated problems and issues raised by adult and youth members of the Region and by parents or carers of youth members in the Region.
- Work with County Commissioners to continually improve the performance of all elements of Scouting within the Region.

Enabling change – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Support and encourage adults in the Region to think of new and creative ways to improve Groups, Districts, Counties and the Region.
- Be enthusiastic about new ideas, give constructive feedback on those ideas and encourage and support further work on them.
- Communicate your vision for the future of the Region and lead people through changes that this vision requires.
- Develop effective plans to implement change and then carry them out, working together with relevant members of the Region.
- Recognise the contribution of others towards change and improvement.

Using resources – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Ensure that any monies (including grants) that are handled on behalf of the Region are sufficient for the work being undertaken.
- Ensure that the health and safety of everyone involved in Scouting within the Region is properly managed at all levels.
- Make decisions about all matters within the Region based on the best available information.
- Ensure that key knowledge within the Region is properly managed and used to improve the operation of Scouting within the Region.
- Provide resources, support and encouragement for teams of volunteers within the Region to work in many ways.

Managing your time and personal skills – as an effective Regional Commissioner you will be required to:

- Agree realistic goals and targets with the Deputy Chief Commissioner for England for the development of the Region that work towards The Scout Association's strategic objectives.
- Consider the future requirements of your role then identify the skills and knowledge that you need to develop or improve and the steps that you will follow to do so.
- Ask other adult volunteers for feedback about how you carry out your role and act on it.
- Develop and maintain personal contacts with people both inside and outside of Scouting who may be able to help you to achieve your plans for the Region.