

INTOUCH



March 2010

InTouch is the system which replaces the home contact approach which we have all been used to for a long time.

The process is described formally in the 2010 edition of POR and is aimed at making sure that we can contact parents and others whenever needed. Some of the questions that have been asked are given below (with answers!):

1. Is this a brand new system that means I need to do more paper work before running an event?

No. Following a review of existing procedures this system has been brought in to replace the Home Contact scheme. It has been designed to be as user friendly and un-bureaucratic as possible, so should actually ease the process of running events.

2. Does this mean I do not need to find someone at home to act as a point of contact every time we go away?

There is no requirement to involve a third party in this role. However for some events having a third party involved could be the best way to manage the system, especially for larger, longer or overseas trips or events.

3. Why is there now a need to go through this process for the normal weekly meeting?

The reasons behind having a properly thought out InTouch system in place remain just as valid whether you are in your normal meeting place or overseas. You probably do most, or all, of what is required anyway, it's just a check to see that you have covered everything.

4. Do I need to find a third party to act as a point of contact for my weekly meetings?

No. There's no requirement to have a third party available for any event unless it is decided that is the best way of managing the system. It seems unlikely that this would ever be the best way of managing the system for a weekly meeting.

5. What's to stop me not bothering with this system?

All activities still require approval from your Commissioner, who will expect a suitable system to be in place. Additionally this system is there to support and help you when organising activities and events, so ignoring it is likely to cause more problems for yourself than anyone else.

6. Aren't we giving the District Commissioner extra work by expecting them to be involved in this system?

No. Their involvement is the same as it was under the Home Contact scheme when they were involved in any emergency procedures anyway. The only difference is that in the event of an emergency they may now be contacted directly by those on an event rather than through a third party. **The way to contact the Chester District Commissioner in an emergency is to telephone 07711 580862.**

Chester and District Scout Council

District Commissioner: David Bull Chartered MCIPD FITOL 69 Five Ashes Road Westminster Park Chester CH4 7QS
T: +44 (0)1244 676059 M: +44 (0)7711 580862 F: +44 (0)20 7691 9364 E: mail@davidbull.net Skype : davidbull2005
District Centre: adjacent Westlea County Primary School Weston Grove Chester CH2 1QJ
W: www.chesterscouts.org.uk/ Want to join or help? +44 (0)1244 398635 enquiries@chesterscouts.org.uk
President : HG The Duke of Westminster Chair: Joanne Turner
Registered Charity Number 511406



7. Are we now asking the District Commissioner to be constantly available every time any Group in their District is doing anything in case of an emergency?

No. Again this has not changed from the Home Contact system. In the event of an emergency the home Scout authority will need to be contacted. In most cases this is likely to be the District Commissioner, who will want to be involved and aware what's going on anyway. **The number to call is 07711 580862.**

8. Does this mean we have to allow young people to bring mobile phones on events?

No. This is a decision for the leadership team to make as part of looking at the Communication System for the event. And if they are brought along it may be useful to have some guidelines or agreement as to their use.

9. Why are we expecting adult events to use this system?

The reasons behind having a properly thought out InTouch system in place remain just as valid whatever the age of the participants, so an InTouch system needs to be in place for all adult events, and also include details of any adults present at an event for young people.

10. If I do use a third party as a point of contact, why do they need to be CRB checked?

It is a requirement of The Scout Association that anyone aged 18 or over undertaking any responsibilities in Scouting must undertake a Personal Enquiry.

11. If I do use a third party as a point of contact, can they be related to anyone involved in the activity?

The third party can be related to a member of the event party, however if this is the case the leadership team will need to have thought about how the system will work if the third party's relative is involved in an emergency and they are not in a position to be able to carry out their role.

12. Where can I find more information about InTouch?

All information on the InTouch can be found at www.scouts.org.uk/intouch. If you have problems downloading the documents, let us know and we will provide hard copies.

Copies of the emergency procedures card are available from the District Scout Centre.

13. When is InTouch starting?

In Chester InTouch is in force from 2 April 2010.