

2025 District AGM

All GB leaders are invited to attend their District AGM which includes Chaplains, Captains, Officers, Sub-Officers, Associates, registered Reserve Officers and registered Past Members.

It is important, in the life of GBNI, that districts organise themselves appropriately and in a way that best meets the needs of their local companies.

Each district is governed by a District Executive, and they work best when the views of every company in the district are represented. This helps to keep companies informed and allows leaders to raise issues that are important to them. Districts arrange training for leaders, events and activities for young people, prayer times and provide support to local companies.

They also appoint people to represent the district on various GBNI Teams that feed district views into national activities and decision-making.

The next few pages contain some information on how the District Executive is formed and will highlight how you might be able to get involved at district level.

Length of Service

We still have some cross-over between the 2012 and 2022 Regulations in regard to the length of service of post-holders, this is determined from when they started their term of office.

Post-holders appointed after August 2022 will operate under the GBNI Constitution 2022 regarding their term of office which states: *“The term of office for District Office Bearers and/or Team Representatives, which is, to only hold office for up to four years, followed by a break of one year before being nominated to any other office/team.”*

Post-holders appointed before August 2022 will continue to follow the term of office as outlined in the GBNI Constitution 2012, which states: *“All Office Bearers and Team Representatives are eligible to hold office within their district for a three-year term. At the end of the three-year term, they can be re-nominated for a further three-year term, or nominated to serve in another role for a further period of three years. This must be followed by a break of one year before being nominated to any other office. Whilst the term of office is three years, Office Bearers may choose to serve for only one or two years.”*

Captains

What you need to do!

- Your District Secretary should inform you of the district’s plan to host their AGM.
- Please inform your Chaplain, Officers, Sub-Officers and Associates in good time regarding the meeting details and encourage them to attend the AGM.
- All companies should appoint one leader to represent their company on the District Executive for the next GB Session. Ideally, the representative should be a Commissioned Captain or Officer. A Sub-Officer or Associate Leader may take on the role if no one else is available but are not permitted to take on any Office Bearer/Team Rep roles. You must notify your District Secretary of the name of your company representative prior to the meeting.
- Your District Secretary should inform you, before the meeting, of any upcoming role vacancies within the district. Please read through this guidance and share any opportunities with leaders within your company. Ask them to prayerfully consider this opportunity to use their skills to serve GB further by filling the gap within the district. Any nominations should be forwarded to your District Secretary before the meeting.
- Check with your Chaplain to see if they wish for their name to remain on the Chaplain voting paper to serve on the District Executive and notify the District Secretary prior to the meeting so that they can update the voting paper appropriately.

District Opportunities

We congratulate the commitment of our volunteers across all levels of the organisation. Your passion for the work of Girls’ Brigade in delivering effective youth ministry is deeply appreciated.

If you are not currently serving at district or national level and meet the criteria, please prayerfully consider putting your name forward for one of the available key roles. Ask God to direct your path as you continue to step out in faith to serve Him. Your impact on this organisation does not have to stop at company level; you may have the right skills needed at district or national level to assist in the decision-making, bridge the gap in the lines of communication across all levels and develop ideas to further enhance Girls’ Brigade for future generations to come.

This next section highlights the various opportunities available to serve at district and national level.

These key roles assist with the smooth running of the overall organisation and are a valuable support to all companies within the district.

Office Bearers

Each year, the newly formed District Executive elects Office Bearers from among its members' to fill these roles: Chairperson, Chaplain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, District Commissioner and Assistant District Commissioner.

Commitment is needed for the above roles as they each come with their own level of responsibility. Your District Secretary will have a copy of the Office Bearer Job Description that you can request if interested in a particular role. Alternatively, download CP Form 01-2022 GBNI Role Descriptions from 'My Resources' on the GBNI Website.

Please note that only eligible representatives sitting on the new District Executive can be considered for these roles.

Soon after the AGM, any outgoing Office Bearers should arrange a handover meeting with the incoming Office Bearers to ensure a smooth transition within their role.

GBNI Teams

Get involved!

All GBNI Teams are responsible to the GBNI Board of Trustees, and each one has an important role to fulfil within the life of GBNI. Teams meet four to six times a year at GBHQ and/or online and have opportunities to serve at team events.

GBNI needs gifted, talented people who are willing to represent their district at team meetings and to serve and contribute to the various aspects of each team. The purpose of each team is described overleaf.

Your district should elect one person to serve on each of the following GBNI Teams:

Programme • Activities • PE • DofE Training • Spiritual • Queen's Award

A number of the teams are currently underrepresented by several districts which means that districts are missing out on being a part of the decision-making and future planning of Girls' Brigade.

If you feel you, or an Officer/Sub-Officer in your company, have the necessary experience, skills, attributes and willingness to serve on a particular team, then please speak to your District Secretary before the meeting. They may ask you to complete a Team Service Form which is available to download from 'My Resources' on the GBNI website. Please note that Team Representatives are required to regularly attend District Executive meetings and provide a written summary report to the District Executive outlining all outcomes from their team meetings. They should seek members' views and report any responses back to the GBNI Team for further discussion.

There are also two places available for Youth Representatives to serve per GBNI Team which are currently vacant across most of the GBNI Teams. Please see the 'Youth Reps' section for more details.

Brigade Council

The role of the Council looks at the bigger picture of GBNI, the overall vision and leadership of the organisation. They input into major strategic decisions, represent their districts at national level and provide a communication link between districts and the GBNI Board of Trustees.

The GBNI President, Vice-President, Chairperson, Chaplain and Board Representatives are appointed by Council representatives on behalf of the district. The Council entrusts policy formation and the general management of GBNI Ltd. to the GBNI Board of Trustees.

This is a key body within the GBNI structure, and your district should elect two Commissioned Officers and/or Chaplains to represent your district on the Council. They meet three times a year at GBHQ and are invited to attend a number of key events in the GBNI calendar.

Please note that Council Representatives are required to regularly attend District Executive meetings and provide a written summary report to the District Executive outlining all the outcomes from Council meetings. They should seek members' views and report any responses back to the GBNI Brigade Council for further discussion.

Please discuss this with your leaders and inform your District Secretary before the meeting the names of those interested in representing the district at Brigade Council.

Prayer Coordinator

The intention for this role is to share between the districts any prayer requests that may come into GBHQ, as well as coordinating prayer requests within individual districts. This would ideally be through a WhatsApp group or by email. The coordinator may be required to attend one meeting in GBHQ and plan a prayer gathering within the district should they wish to do so. GBHQ can help facilitate this.

This role can be held by any Commissioned Officer, Chaplain or Reserve Officer who feels they have the gifts to fulfil this role and to encourage and support the companies within their district in prayer. Please pass the names of anyone interested in fulfilling this role onto your District Secretary prior to the meeting.

Please note that this role has no maximum term of office like other roles.

Youth Reps

Please share this with your young leaders

Unfortunately, young women aged 18-25 are still vastly under-represented in our District Executives, GBNI Teams and our GBNI Youth Forum. We need as many young women as possible to take part in these areas so we can achieve effective youth-led decision-making at all levels within Girls' Brigade.

District Youth Reps

Each district requires two young women aged 18-25 to represent girls and young women on their District Executive. If your district has more than two young people nominated for the Youth Representative positions, a vote is needed to elect the representatives.

GBNI Teams Youth Reps

There are two Youth Representative positions reserved on each of the GBNI Teams. These can be filled by young women aged 18-25 from any district in GBNI. They can request which GBNI Team to serve on, according to their skills and interests. GBNI Teams meet four to six times a year at GBHQ and/or online with opportunities to serve at team events.

Serving on the District Executive or GBNI Teams requires commitment and a good level of confidence and communication skills. We must have youth representation in these areas so that the views of our young people can be considered in key decision-making.

GBNI Youth Forum

District and Team Youth Representatives make up the GBNI Youth Forum. This group is for young women aged 14 - 25 and meet several times a year to share what is happening in each of the teams and districts. There will also be time at these meetings for discussions on appropriate topics that may benefit young women in their spiritual journey. Plus, it is a great way to meet and make new GB friends. Find out more about the GBNI Youth Forum by visiting www.gbni.uk/youth-forum

Check with your District Secretary for any Youth Representative vacancies. Discuss the different opportunities with potential young women in your company and encourage them to consider putting their names forward. Before the meeting, inform your District Secretary of anyone interested in serving as either a District Youth Representative or GBNI Team Youth Representative.

Chaplains

Two company Chaplains are to be elected to serve on the District Executive. GBNI values the encouragement, support and pastoral care that our Chaplains bring to GB. We would like to encourage our Chaplains to serve on the District Executive to bring their experience and knowledge to assist GB in its Vision and Strategy.

Chaplains should prayerfully consider this opportunity and the positive contribution they could make to the work of Girls' Brigade. Any Chaplain who does not want their name to be included on the voting paper should inform their Captain before the meeting.

Please note a GB Chaplain may be an ordained minister, deaconess or other person appointed by the church with oversight of the church/mission.

Ideally, the appointed company Chaplains would hold the role of either District Chairperson or District Chaplain. Where this is not possible, these roles can be filled by others within the District Executive.

Stewarding

Open to anyone aged 18+ who would be willing to attend and assist at two/three national or district events over the GB session. Duties range from meeting and greeting, registration desk, serving refreshments to managing crowd flow.

Please pass the names of anyone interested in stewarding to your District Secretary before the meeting.

Reserve Officers

Officers on the GBNI Reserve Officer Register for 2024/25 are welcome to attend the AGM, however, they are not eligible to vote on district decisions.

If willing, they can contribute to the work of the district either informally or by representing them as an Office Bearer or on a GBNI Team.

Reserve Officers may be co-opted onto the District Executive and may hold positions of office under the same conditions as all other post-holders.

Past Members' Association

Those registered as part of the Past Members' Association are welcome to attend the AGM, however, they are not eligible to vote on district decisions and cannot serve on the District Executive.

Opportunities to serve in GBNI

Purpose of Teams in GBNI: To assist in the leadership of GBNI around an agreed Vision, Aim and Values and ensure the organisation fulfils its financial and legal responsibilities and promotes best practice.

TEAM	PURPOSE: TO...	WE NEED PEOPLE WHO ARE/ HAVE...
All Teams	<p>Assist in the leadership and running of GBNI. Ensure GBNI Strategy and plans are effectively implemented. Ensure GBNI provides high-quality services that meet the needs and expectations of all members’. Ensure that GBNI’s resources are managed prudently and accountably. Ensure GBNI generates sufficient income to achieve its Aim and Objectives. Ensure that GBNI fulfils its responsibilities for the safety, health and welfare of volunteers, staff and visitors. Ensure there are good relationships between the GBNI Board, District Executives, staff and volunteers and other relevant agencies. Team members are required to report all outcomes from each team meeting to their District Executive. They should seek members’ views and report any responses to their team for further discussion.</p>	<p>A desire to serve God. Passionate for the work of GBNI. Commitment to helping GBNI move forward. The ability to see the ‘big picture’. The ability to work to deadlines. Gifts to encourage companies to recognise and embrace the Vision Statement. The ability to work as a team member and/or use own initiative. Excellent organisational and coordination skills. Good communication skills. The ability to make decisions on behalf of others and feedback information. Committed to attending the majority of their team’s meetings.</p>
Brigade Council	<p>Vision and leadership. Plan and drive the Strategic Vision of GBNI. Input into the major strategic decisions. Meetings: Three times per year plus attend key events in the GBNI calendar.</p>	<p>Strategic thinker. Able to debate issues effectively. Able to make decisions that will further the Aim and Vision of GBNI. A broad experience of company life, district work etc. European/International focus.</p>
Spiritual	<p>Plan, prepare and deliver the annual Scripture Course. Develop the spiritual aspects of the Girls’ Brigade calendar. Encourage companies to work towards our Vision Statement. Meeting: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Experience in preparing and teaching scripture material for children and teenagers. Passionate about spreading the Gospel, helping girls engage in the Bible and grow as a disciple. New, innovative, creative, relevant ideas to include in the programme e.g. prayer, dramas and music.</p>
Programme	<p>Plan, prepare and deliver the GBNI Programme, including the development of new badgework ideas. Equip companies with materials, helping them to achieve our Vision Statement. Review and revise the programme for each Section. Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Enthusiastic about developing badgework within Girls’ Brigade. New, creative, relevant ideas to include within the GBNI Programme.</p>
Activities	<p>Oversee and manage a range of physical, educational and creative events which reach a wide range of girls within GB. Provide a programme of activities to enhance the all-round development of our members’. Look after competitions (other than PE), social events, sporting and creative activities. Develop new activities and partnerships with professional bodies. Meetings: approx. five times per year.</p>	<p>Skilled in any of the following areas: speech and drama, music (instrumental and vocal), sound recordings, arts and crafts, dance, sports etc. Event management experience. The ability to introduce a new skill that could potentially enhance our programme of activities. Able to steward at NI competitions and other events. Ideally, First Aid trained.</p>
PE	<p>Assess and manage dance, PE and fitness within GBNI. Plan and coordinate the annual PE competitions. Assist and support worksetters throughout the year. Meetings: approx. five times per year.</p>	<p>Be able to steward at the various PE competitions. Interested in encouraging and developing PE within Girls’ Brigade. Practical dance experience. Be able to attend vetting as part of the worksetters process. Develop new worksetters.</p>
Duke of Ed. Award	<p>Run the Award in Girls’ Brigade. Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Knowledge and experience of the Award. Experience in outdoor pursuits.</p>
Training	<p>Responsible for the programme of training offered to new and existing leaders in GB. Meetings: approx. four times per year.</p>	<p>Experience in assessing training needs. Experience in coordinating company/district training.</p>
Queen’s Award	<p>Oversee and manage the Queen’s Award Programme. To consider new and innovative ways to increase the impact of the Award. Assist with interview and presentation evenings. Meetings: approx. six times per year.</p>	<p>Knowledge and enthusiasm about developing the Award within Girls’ Brigade. New, creative, relevant ideas to include within certain elements of the Award. Interview and assessment skills.</p>

District AGM Dates and Venues

District Name	AGM Date	Venue	AGM Time
1 - Castlewood	7th May 2025	St Mary's Parish, Ballybeen	7:30 PM
2 - Shaftesbury	6th May 2025	Finaghy Methodist	7:30 PM
3 - Cavehill	14th May 2025	Shankill Methodist	7:30 PM
4 - Ards	14th May 2025	Carrowdore Presbyterian	7:30 PM
5 - Strangford and Mourne	29th April 2025	Clough Presbyterian	7:30 PM
6 - Lagan	13th May 2025	Trinity Methodist, Lisburn	7:00 PM
7 - Mid Ulster	6th May 2025	Redrock Presbyterian	7:30 PM
8 - Glenabbey	7th May 2025	Whitehouse Presbyterian	7:30 PM
9 - East Antrim	9th May 2025	Ballynure Presbyterian	7:00 PM
10 - North Antrim	8th May 2025	The Carrie Restaurant, Kells	7:00 PM
11 - North West	7th May 2025	Banagher Presbyterian	7:30 PM
12 - West Ulster	5th May 2025	Mountjoy Presbyterian	7:30 PM
13 - Riada	29th April 2025	Royal Court, Portrush	7:00 PM
14 - Bann	6th May 2025	Banbridge Methodist	7:30 PM
15 - Lough Neagh	1st May 2025	Randalstown OC Presbyterian	7:15 PM

District Secretary Contact Details

District Name	Name	Telephone	Email Address
1 - Castlewood	Denyse Paul	07549 255925	annunciation@gbni.co.uk
2 - Shaftesbury	Jacqueline McKechnie	N/A	district2@gbni.co.uk
3 - Cavehill	Helen Weatherald	07543 634178	cavehilldistrictgb@hotmail.co.uk
4 - Ards	Louise Pyper	N/A	district4@gbni.co.uk
5 - Strangford and Mourne	Noelle Martin	07749 401491	gbdistrict5@gmail.com
6 - Lagan	Lesley Duckworth	07742 909580	district6@gbni.co.uk
7 - Mid Ulster	Jill McClelland	07710 588584	highstreet@gbni.co.uk
8 - Glenabbey	Karen Borghmans	07866 222838	goodshepherd@gbni.co.uk
9 - East Antrim	Nicola Wolfe	N/A	district9gbni@gmail.com
10 - North Antrim	Claire Calderwood	07817 297997	district10@gbni.co.uk
11 - North West	Ruth Thompson	N/A	glendermott@gbni.co.uk
12 - West Ulster	Christine Birney	07933 990147	district12@gbni.co.uk
13 - Riada	Irene Dorrans	07545 565470	district13@gbni.co.uk
14 - Bann	Sharon Moffett	07921 999948	ballydown@gbni.co.uk
15 - Lough Neagh	Ruth McNaul	07725 008761	dundrod@gbni.co.uk

When using the @gbni email addresses above, your email will be re-directed to your District Secretary's personal email account.