



**Easy Read**



**Annual Impact Report  
2023 to 2024**

## What this document is about



This is an Easy Read report.



**Lead Scotland** is a charity which helps disabled people and carers in Scotland to:



- learn new skills
- make friends
- get advice and information



This document will tell you about the work Lead Scotland has done in 2023 and 2024.

It is called an Annual Impact Report.

## Our aims



**Aims** mean things we try to do.

In 2023 and 2024 we had these aims:



1. We wanted to get more disabled people and carers:

- learning
- learning skills to get a job



This year we got lots more people learning.

We helped nearly **600** people to learn.



This is more than last year.



2. We wanted to help more disabled people, carers, staff and volunteers across Scotland do online learning.



This year we helped nearly **380** people to learn online.



**19** out of every **20** people who learned online said they now felt more confident.



3. We wanted to offer our **befriending** services to more areas.



**Befriending** means meeting someone to build a friendship and do things together.



We have long waiting lists for our befriending services now.



We are trying to get more **volunteers**.

**Volunteers** are people who work with us but are not paid.



4. We wanted our helpline and our information services to reach more people.



We helped more than **130** people who phoned our helpline.



We wrote a new information sheet about **needs assessments**.

We paid 4 disabled students to help us do this.



A **needs assessment** is when a Disability Advisor from a college or university meets with a disabled student.

Together they work out what kinds of support the student might need to do their course.

# Our Learning Services

We offer learning across Scotland.



The courses are things like:

- travel training
- getting jobs
- using computers and other devices
- getting Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) awards
- reading and writing



We help each person in the way that suits them best.



1 of our learners is called Greg.

He has a learning disability – which means he finds learning some things a bit harder.



Greg worked with a volunteer called Daisy to practise reading and spelling skills.



He says he is feeling more confident and he can read bus timetables now.





Our Perth and Kinross Tenants project was about giving people devices, wifi and digital learning.



This project won an award at the National Good Practice Awards 2024.



This year we had nearly **590** learners.

Twice as many SQA courses were taken this year than last year.

## Our Job Skills Projects



Job skills are the skills needed to get a job and to stay in the job.

These skills are also called **employability**.

We have run **Employability Projects** this year.



They have been for:

- disabled people
- carers
- people who have several different difficulties in getting a job



We have used a special plan called The Employability Pipeline. It has 5 stages.

Our projects have worked on the skills in Stages 1 and 2.

Our projects have helped learners to:



- get ready for interviews
- learn how to get around
- get **qualifications**
- get better at using devices like computers



**Qualifications** are certificates that show someone has learned skills or knowledge to a level.

## Our Maths Projects



We have run projects to help learners with their number skills and maths skills.

These projects were called **Multiply Projects**.

They helped learners with things like:



- planning how to spend and save money
- using time well
- travel skills
- cooking skills
- working towards SQA awards

## Befriending



Our befriending services are in Fife.



Our services are for adults and **young carers**.

**Young carers** are young people who look after someone in their family.



We offer chats or activities once a week that suit each person.



Our team works very hard to make each person feel supported and happy.



1 of the people we supported this year was called Kate.

Kate has mental health problems and daily pain.



She was matched with a volunteer called Kerry.



Kate and Kerry found that they both liked art and crystals.

They talked by phone every week.



Kate started to feel more confident and began walking her friend's dog to help out.

She says she feels inspired by Kerry.

## Our Volunteers



Our volunteers are very important to us.



This year we have **83** volunteers.



Our volunteers help people to:

- feel more confident
- learn more skills
- do more by themselves



Our volunteers have lots of different life experiences.



Lead Scotland gives volunteers training so that they can:

- teach
- support
- advise



## Our Cyber Project



**Cyber** means the things that happen on our computers and smartphones.

Things like:



- buying things online
- online banking
- making online friends



The Scottish Government gave us money to run our Cyber Project.

We have worked on **5** different things.

1. We have made expert advice easier for more people to get and understand.



We have done this by:

- writing Easy Read guides
- making British Sign Language videos
- putting information into 6 other languages



2. We have run training sessions to help people feel more confident about staying safe online.



3. We have made an online learning space called My.Lead



You can find it at this blue link [My Lead - Homepage | Lead Scotland](#)

It is a place where people can learn at their own speed.



There are **19** short courses are on things like:

- how to stay safe on social media
- how to shop safely online
- how to keep your information safe



**4.** We have a course called Cyber Security Fundamentals and Internet Safety.

So far **55** people have taken this course.



5. We are working with the cyber organisations that put information online.

We are asking them to make things which are easy for everyone, and do not leave some people out.



This year we have had more than **370** learners, from **28** different local council areas in Scotland.



We have added **12** new courses on My Lead.

## Our Policy work



**Policies** are the written rules of how something happens.

Lead Scotland helps to write new policies across Scotland.



We have listened to the things disabled learners find frustrating.

And we have told the Scottish Government about them.



We have helped with the Human Rights **Bill**.

A **bill** is a plan for a new law.



We have helped make a new guide.

It is for organisations that offer training.

Our guide helps them make sure their sessions are accessible to everyone.

## Our Helpline



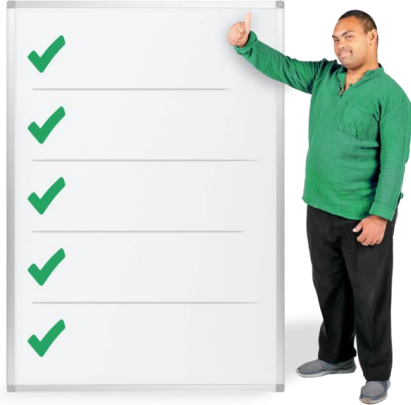
We have a phone line called the National Disabled Student Helpline and Information Service.

It is for:



- disabled people in Scotland
- disabled people's friends
- disabled people's family
- people who care for disabled people
- people who work for disabled people
- people who support disabled people

Our helpline means we can help people with things like:



- sharing courses
- finding funding
- the rights of disabled people
- guides

We have made some of our guides about learning more accessible.



We have put them into different accessible formats, like British Sign Language and Easy Read.



This year we had **133** calls.

They came from **22** different local council areas across Scotland.



Nearly **9** out of every **10** people who filled in our survey afterwards said they felt helped.

## Our future work

Here are some of the things we plan to do in the future:



- get more people taking part in our befriending project
- get more organisations to fund our work
- look at our plans and see where we can work more closely with other organisations

