# About Lead Scotland

Lead Scotland is a charity supporting disabled people and carers by providing personalised learning, befriending, advice, and information services. We have projects across Scotland and a national helpline and information service. Our local learning and befriending services are community and home based, one to one or in small groups so that people have the right support to learn and participate. We support people to build a bridge to reach their ambitions of personal development, learning, volunteering, and work. At a national level, we provide information and advice on the full range of post-school learning and training opportunities, as well as influencing and informing policy.

**Lead Scotland Vision**

Our vision is of a fair society where disabled people and carers have an equal opportunity to learn, participate and achieve their potential.

**Lead Scotland Mission**

To influence change and provide personalised learning, befriending, advice, and information services.

**Strategic Goals for 2023 to 2026**

* Offer more local and remote learning opportunities, which improve access, offer accreditation, build confidence and skills, reducing educational exclusion.
* Extend our Befriending Services to reduce social isolation and create new pathways to learning.
* Extend our disabled student’s helpline and information services so that more students understand their rights, entitlements and make informed choices about their options.
* More disabled people have the opportunity to influence policy makers, breaking down systemic barriers to improve access for future learners.

**Our values**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Equality | * Integrity | * Openness | * Mutual respect | * Kindness |

**Context**

Lead Scotland operates in the context of a competitive marketplace for the delivery of services and support for disabled people and carers. The organisation is recognised as a leader in the delivery of formal, non-formal and informal learning, and is active in developing new services and products to retain this position. As a charity and company limited by guarantee in the current financial climate, Lead Scotland must be responsive to opportunity, alive to the financial pressures of the external environment, and ready to act quickly and decisively to changes as, or before, they occur. Our Learning and Befriending Coordinators support management and development colleagues in facilitating engagement with stakeholders to place Lead Scotland at the centre of person-centred education and befriending support provision in Scotland. This involves working in harmony with funders’ requirements and in line with Lead Scotland’s values and responsibilities.

**About the Befriending Project for Young Carers**

Our Fife Young Carers Befriending project has been operating since 2019, delivering successful outcomes with funded support from Fife Council’s Health and Social Care Partnership. The service provides targeted support for young carers to access activities within their communities giving them a break from their caring role / responsibilities and facilitating participation in activities which support improved mental health and wellbeing. The service is delivered by a Befriending Coordinator and is underpinned by an existing pool of trained volunteer befrienders, recruited from the local community. Volunteer befrienders are matched for one-to-one support with young carers.

Our core approach for every participant is person-centred and participants engage in activities structured around supporting them to pursue their interests, identify their own outcomes and achieve their aims. The objective is to give short-term support of up to 6 months duration, but this may be extended depending on individual need. The project is delivered through a blended approach to service delivery which includes both remote and face to face support as appropriate depending on each person’s needs.

*“Lesley and I had a great time at Deep Sea World yesterday. We caught the bus from Buckhaven and spent the day at Deep Sea World, had lunch at the café and then caught the bus back. Lesley seemed to have a fantastic day and she was really chatty and excited which was lovely. She has come such a long way from our first encounter.” Volunteer Befriender*

The role is home-based, with travel throughout Fife, and offers an excellent and exciting opportunity for structuring workload to fit with demand. Support is provided by the Befriending Services Manager and other Befriending Coordinators. Regular meetings of the full, national team further enhance the opportunities for continuing professional development.

**Closing Date: Noon Monday 29th May 2023. Shortlisted applicants can expect an online panel interview with questions based on the criteria for the post, week beginning 5th June 2023.**