



# MEMBERSHIP PACK

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# Foreword from our Chair

Thank you for joining Lead Scotland!

We are a charity that provides learning, befriending and helpline services for disabled people and carers in Scotland.

As a Member, you are joining others who believe in widening access to learning. We want you to feel proud to be a member and are here to support you to do so.

This pack is here to give you all of the information you need to feel confident when talking about your membership of Lead Scotland. Your support helps us to increase awareness of Lead Scotland, enabling us to continue transforming lives through learning.

A huge thank you for supporting Lead Scotland.

Paul Smith  
Chair, Lead Scotland

## Welcome from the Team

Welcome to Lead Scotland!

We are delighted that you have made the decision to join us. We hope this quote from Margaret Mead provides some inspiration as we work together to take forward our strategic goals, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world". Welcome aboard!

The Team at Lead Scotland

# About Lead Scotland



## **Who we are**

Lead Scotland was founded in 1979 and is a leading charity enabling people to transform their lives through learning. We support disabled people and carers to access educational opportunities.

We have services in nine local authority areas, we run Scotland's national helpline for disabled students and we strive to influence policy and practice.

## **Why we are needed**

Lead Scotland is very much needed today in the education sector as a charity that has the time to give a unique, personal and bespoke service to each individual we work with. We have a great track record of supporting disabled people and carers to achieve positive outcomes.

**We support learners through their learning journey in a way which is most effective to them.**

**Our services** are free to learners. We have a person centred approach, which means we listen to what learners want and we work with other agencies to find the best way of offering a service.

We support learners one-to-one and in groups depending on the needs of each learner. We ask people why and what they want to learn, for example, to gain skills for work, to feel more confident helping with their child's homework, to become a volunteer, to learn digital skills to access services online, or perhaps to fulfil a lifetime ambition.

### **Our Vital Volunteers**

Lead Scotland is supported each year by volunteers who add value. Volunteers are essential to our service delivery and our work at head office. Every volunteer receives role specific training on topics such as disability equality, risk assessment, boundaries etc. Volunteers also receive out of pocket expenses.

### **Our 3 year 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.

**We love learning, simple as that.  
It's our mission to work with a learner to  
find a way they can learn.**

# What we ask of our members.


- **Talk about us!** Whether it's to your family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, or just someone you met at the bus stop, please tell people about Lead Scotland and the work we do.
- Help us **influence change** by getting involved in policy consultations and having a say.
- **Explain** why our work is so important and why we are needed as a charity.
- If you **shop online**, why not visit our page on Easy Fundraising – donate while you shop and it won't cost you a penny!
- Share our **volunteer** opportunities and encourage people to get involved – that includes you too!
- **Get social!** Follow our pages on social media. Share our posts.

# What can you expect from your membership?

- **Influence** the direction, priorities and areas of activity of Lead Scotland.
- **Have a vote** at our Annual General Meeting.
- Have the option to **stand for election** to our Board of Directors
- **Be consulted** directly on policy initiatives, responses and developments.
- Stay up to date through our quarterly **newsletter**.
- Be part of of a movement for **social change**.



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