



Our Annual Impact Review for 2024 to 2025



Easy Read



About this document



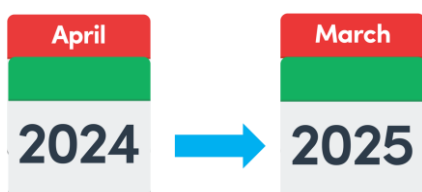
This is an Easy Read document.



It is a **review**.



A **review** looks back at work that has happened.



This review tells us about Lead Scotland's work from April 2024 to March 2025.

About Lead Scotland



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

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

Introduction



We are proud to celebrate 45 years of Lead Scotland.



But there are challenges now, like less funding and more **poverty**.



Poverty means not having enough money to pay for basic needs like food, clothes or heating.



1 in every 3 people who called our National Disabled Students Helpline this year were having difficulties with their school or college.



We have spoken up for them to make their learning better.



We thank everyone who supports us and gives us money.

Work Lead Scotland has done in 2024 to 2025



We have reached more people.

Our services have helped nearly 1 thousand 6 hundred people.



Half our learners got a home visit from a Lead Scotland worker.

Home visits are very important.



Lead Scotland ran 74 learning events in different areas across Scotland.

These learning events were a chance for people to try a bit of course and see if they liked it.



We have worked hard for 6 years to change how disabled people are supported to join a university.

Now it is fairer for disabled people.



Last year we made nearly 70 new **qualifications**.

Qualifications are certificates someone can earn by learning skills or knowledge at a certain level.

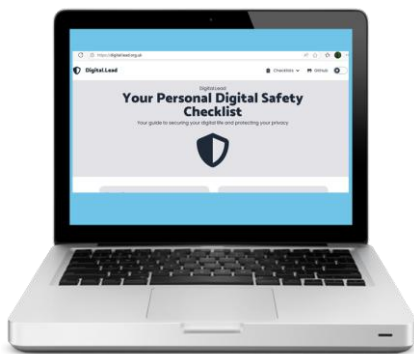


But this year we have made more than 1 hundred and 50 new qualifications.



94 new people signed up to learn.

Learners finished 1 hundred and 55 courses.



4 hundred and 24 people started our new digital checklist in the first 3 months.

You can see the checklist tool by clicking on [this blue link to reach our Digital Lead webpage](#).

Our aims and how we did



There were 4 aims we wanted to work hard to make happen.



Here are the 4 aims and the work we did on them.

These 4 aims are also called our strategic objectives.

Aim 1



Aim 1 was to get more disabled people and carers across Scotland learning new skills.



This year we supported 7 hundred and 30 local learners.

This is almost 1 hundred and 50 more learners than we supported last year.

Aim 2

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Aim 2 was to get more disabled people and carers learning from home to give them more confidence and more skills.

This also includes staff and **volunteers**.



Volunteers are people who give their time to work for free.



We helped 4 hundred learners from 27 local council areas across Scotland.



They joined our Cyber Scotland project.

Almost everyone we asked said the project had made them feel more confident about staying safe online.

Aim 3



Aim 3 was to start new **befriending** services reaching more of Scotland.



At Lead Scotland, **befriending** means:

- supporting someone to build their confidence
- supporting someone to learn new skills



Less people are volunteering as befrienders at the moment.



We are looking at new ways to train volunteers online.

Aim 4

4



Aim 4 was to reach more people with our helpline and our information services.



We run the only helpline for disabled students in Scotland.

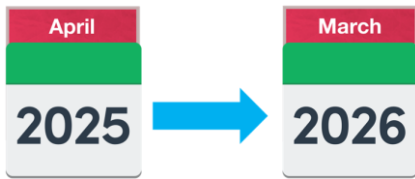


There needs to be more support for disabled students to have their say, when there are problems with their college or university.

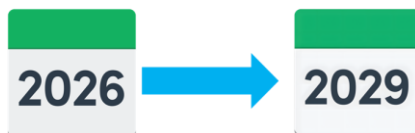


We are looking for more funding so that our staff can speak up for disabled students to help solve problems.

Next year



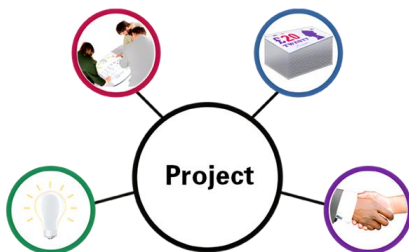
Between April 2025 and March 2026 we want to:



- begin our new 3 year plan from 2026 to 2029



- look for more funding



- do more Digital Health and Wellbeing Projects



- find out what everyone needs Lead Scotland to do more of



- work together with more organisations



- thank Emma Whitelock who is leaving Lead Scotland after being our Chief Executive Officer for 10 years



- help more people to learn so that fewer people feel left out

