

**Our Annual Impact Review for 2024 to 2025**



**Easy Read**



## About this document

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| A woman sat in an armchair reading an Easy Read document. | This is an Easy Read document. |
| A spiralbound review document. | It is a **review**. |
| 2 people using a magnifying glass and a clipboard to look closely at something. | A **review** looks back at work that has happened. |
| Calendar pages showing April 2024 to March 2025. | This review tells us about Lead Scotland’s work from April 2024 to March 2025. |

## About Lead Scotland

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| People meeting and supporting each other. | **Lead Scotland** is a charity which helps disabled people and carers in Scotland to:   * learn new skills * make friends * get advice and information |

## Introduction

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| A group of people cheering and celebrating. Their poster says Lead Scotland. | We are proud to celebrate 45 years of Lead Scotland. |
| 4 people looking worried. | But there are challenges now, like less funding and more **poverty**. |
| A person with their arms crossed, frowning. In their thought bubbles are a radiator, money, grocery basket and a bus ticket. | **Poverty** means not having enough money to pay for basic needs like food, clothes or heating. |
| 3 outlined people. 1 is orange and the other 2 are faded out in black. Below a young woman chats by phone with a man at a desk. | 1 in every 3 people who called our National Disabled Students Helpline this year were having difficulties with their school or college. |
| A woman with her hands out a little as if she is explaining something. Her speech bubble says 'this student needs...' | We have spoken up for them to make their learning better. |
| **A woman saying thank you.** | We thank everyone who supports us and gives us money. |

## Work Lead Scotland has done in 2024 to 2025

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| Groups of people and individuals. They are surrounded by purple speech bubbles. | We have reached more people.  Our services have helped nearly 1 thousand 6 hundred people. |
| A man wearing a lanyard shaking hands over a welcome mat with a man on his doorstep. | Half our learners got a home visit from a Lead Scotland worker.  Home visits are very important. |
| A woman with a microphone chatting with tables of people listening. | 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. |
| Young people in a learning session and a clipboard with a tick. | 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. |
| Radiating lines surrounding a certificate. | But this year we have made more than 1 hundred and 50 new qualifications. |
| 4 people raising their arms in celebration. | 94 new people signed up to learn.  Learners finished 1 hundred and 55 courses. |
| A computer showing the grey page for Lead Scotland's Digital webpage. | 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](https://sdefalloa.sharepoint.com/sites/Files/Company/EASY%20READ/Lead%20Scotland/LEAD%20Annual%20Impact%20Report/2024-2025/digital.lead.org.uk). |

## Our aims and how we did

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| A team of people working together on the same document. 4 squares show numbers 1 to 4. | There were 4 aims we wanted to work hard to make happen. |
| 4 blue squares, numbered in white 1 to 4. | Here are the 4 aims and the work we did on them.  These 4 aims are also called our strategic objectives. |

## Aim 1

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| A number 1 and 3 people gardening at a raised flower bed. | Aim 1 was to get more disabled people and carers across Scotland learning new skills. |
| A crowd of smiling people. | 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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| A number 2 and the outline of a home with a woman chatting to people on a Zoom type meeting. | 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**. |
| 3 relaxed looking adults smiling. Beside them a wages envelope with money is crossed out with a diagonal red line. | **Volunteers** are people who give their time to work for free. |
|  | We helped 4 hundred learners from 27 local council areas across Scotland. |
| A blue and grey shield behind a young person online. | 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

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| A number 3 and thumbs up around a map of Scotland. | Aim 3 was to start new **befriending** services reaching more of Scotland. |
| A young man stood with a supportive man behind him. | At Lead Scotland, **befriending** means:   * supporting someone to build their confidence * supporting someone to learn new skills |
| A circle of 6 people's heads and shoulders. 2 are smiling people, 4 are grey silhouettes with small crosses to one side. | Less people are volunteering as befrienders at the moment. |
| A man using his computer to meet others. | We are looking at new ways to train volunteers online. |

## Aim 4

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| A number 4 and a woman using a helpline to chat to a man at a desk. | Aim 4 was to reach more people with our helpline and our information services. |
| A person wearing a headset and a map highlighting Scotland. | We run the only helpline for disabled students in Scotland. |
| A woman with her hands to her head and zig zag red lines to show she feels frustrated or stressed. | There needs to be more support for disabled students to have their say, when there are problems with their college or university. |
| A woman with her hands out a little as if she is explaining something. Her speech bubble says 'this student needs...' | We are looking for more funding so that our staff can speak up for disabled students to help solve problems. |

## Next year

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| Calendar pages showing April 2025 and a blue arrow to March 2026. | Between April 2025 and March 2026 we want to: |
| Calendar pages showing 2026 and an arrow to 2029. | * begin our new 3 year plan from 2026 to 2029 |
| A sack with bank notes inside. | * look for more funding |
| A project mind map with branches out to a light bulb, a meeting, money and a handshake. | * do more Digital Health and Wellbeing Projects |
| A magnifying glass and a woman with her hand to her ear. | * find out what everyone needs Lead Scotland to do more of |
| 2 groups of people meeting and shaking hands. | * work together with more organisations |
| A woman and a man shaking hands and the words 'thank you'. | * thank Emma Whitelock who is leaving Lead Scotland after being our Chief Executive Officer for 10 years |
| A man looking downwards with his arms folded. | * help more people to learn so that fewer people feel left out |

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