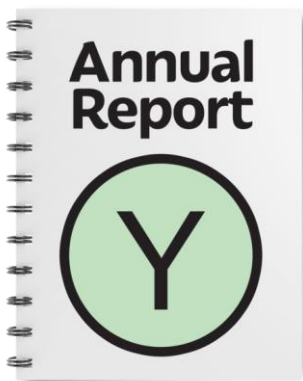


Lead Scotland



Annual Report



Easy Read



What this document is about

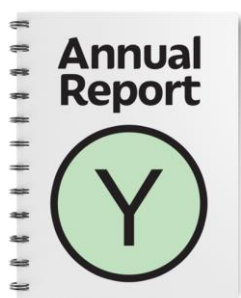


This is an Easy Read report.



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 2022 and 2023.

It is also called an Annual Report.

Our aims



Aims mean things we will try to do.

In 2022 and 2023 we had these aims:



1. We wanted to get more people learning and joining our:

- learning services
- **befriending** services



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



This year we did get lots more people joining these services.

But not quite as many as we hoped.



2. We wanted to help more disabled people and carers to take part in their **communities**.

Communities are groups of people who belong to the same group, or live in the same area.



This year we helped 160 people take part in their communities.



3. We wanted to offer our services to 32 council areas across Scotland.



We are now helping people in 29 council areas across Scotland.



4. We wanted to get more money.



In some parts of Lead Scotland more money has come in this year.

In some parts less money has come in this year.

Some of our work this year



We now have nearly 900 people learning or befriending with us.



We have answered the phone to help nearly 4 hundred and 50 people.



We have more than 1 hundred and 30 **volunteers**.

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



We have organised more than 1 hundred **webinars**.

Webinars are events that happen online.

Our Learning Services

We offer learning across Scotland.

The courses are things like:



- getting jobs
- using computers and other devices
- reading and writing
- feeling more confident



In Moray, some people joined us and got awards called Adult Achievement Awards.

Our befriending services



We have befriending services in Fife.



1 is for adults and 1 is for **young carers**.

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



We offer chats or activities once a week.

We kept this going through the COVID-10 pandemic.



1 of our young carers is called Annie.

She was matched with a volunteer called Lucy in March 2022.



She and Lucy built a good friendship.

They went horse riding together.



Annie is now more confident.

She is happier in more parts of her life now.

Our Volunteers



Our volunteers are very important to us.

1 of our volunteers is Vera.

She has been with Lead Scotland for 13 years.



Vera has helped lots of learners with things like:

- travelling by bus
- speaking and listening skills
- being organised



Vera told us that volunteering gives her:

- a good feeling
- something to do
- new skills



We thank Vera for her time and hard work.

Our online learning called My Lead



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

We have been given money by JP Morgan Chase.



The money is to help us make a new online space for learning called My Lead.

This means that more people can do learning courses online now.

You can find it at <https://my.lead.org.uk>

Our Policy work



Policies are the written rules of how something happens.

Lead Scotland helps to write new policies for the whole of Scotland.



We have given information to the Scottish Parliament.



The information will help them write a new **bill** about Disabled Children and Young People as they grow up.

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

Members of Scottish Parliament decide if a bill should become law or not.



We have also worked to make education fairer for disabled people after they have left school.

Our Guides



We have written a new factsheet – also called a guide.

Our new factsheet tells people how to get ready for a **needs assessment** at college or university.



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.



4 disabled students wrote the new factsheet.



We have put the factsheet into different formats – like British Sign Language and Easy Read.



We have lots of factsheets now.

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

Our future work

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



- write a new plan
- get more staff in our Awards centre
- tell more people about our My Lead website <https://my.lead.org.uk>
- get more disabled people leading courses