Our Annual Impact Review for 2025 to 2026



Easy Read



This has been created from a previous document made by Disability Equality Scotland.

About this document



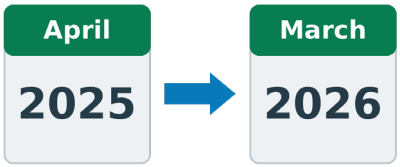
This is an Easy Read document.



It is a **review**.



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



This review tells us about Lead Scotland's work from April 2025 to March 2026.

About Lead Scotland



Lead Scotland is a charity in Scotland.

We help disabled people and carers.

We help people to

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

Introduction



Robert McKay joined as our new Chief Executive in June 2025. We thank Emma Whitelock for leading Lead Scotland for 10 years.



We had less **funding** this year. Funding is money we get to do our work.



Some people told us it was hard to pay for a device or to get online.



People asked our Disabled Students' Helpline about getting support at college or university.



We used what people told us to ask for better support for disabled students.



Thank you to everyone who helped us or gave us money.

Our work in 2025 to 2026



We recorded 2,359 times when people used our services or took part in our activities.

Some people used our services more than once.



We helped people learn at home, in groups and online.

People could learn at a pace that suited them.



In Dundee, people learnt in small groups or on their own with a worker.

They practised reading, using numbers and staying safe online.



20 disabled people helped us ask for changes in Scotland.

Some shared their ideas with the Scottish Government.



We checked learners' work for 103 qualifications.

A **qualification** shows what someone knows or can do.

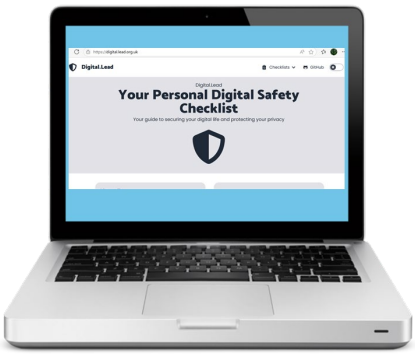


This included 28 awards for learning how to stay safe online.



We helped 132 people work towards getting a job.

One person got a paid job in gardening.



We recorded 1,047 users of our 2 websites, my.Lead and digital.Lead.

You can try our checklist on the digital.Lead website.

Our aims and how we did



Our plan had 4 aims for our services.

An **aim** is something we want to achieve.

Here is what we did for each aim.

Aim 1



We wanted more disabled people and carers to learn new skills in their local area.



We supported 295 adults to learn.

A learner in Fife gained their first qualification at the age of 52.

Aim 2



We wanted more disabled people and carers to learn from home.

Staff and **volunteers** could learn from home too.



Volunteers give their time to help without being paid.



We ran 34 online sessions about staying safe online. We recorded 285 attendances.



We helped one learner get back into an online account they had been unable to use for years.

They felt more confident about staying safe online.

Aim 3



We wanted more people to get **befriending** support.



Befriending means meeting regularly with a volunteer.

- You can spend time with someone who listens.
- You can build confidence and get to know people.



In Fife, we offered befriending to adults and young carers.



Ben and his volunteer met for walks and played snooker. Ben felt less lonely and more confident.

Aim 4



We wanted our helpline and information service to reach more people.



We run Scotland's only national helpline for disabled students. People contacted us 298 times.

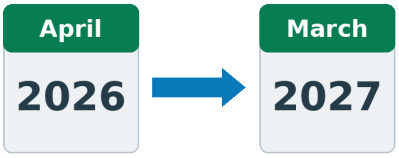


We helped people understand their rights and what support they could ask for at college or university.



We looked at ways to give students more help to speak up if they have a problem.

Looking ahead

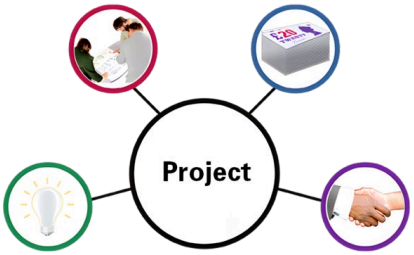


Here is what we want to do from April 2026 to March 2027.



- make a new plan for the next few years

- look for more funding



- help more people use the internet and stay safe online



- listen to disabled people and use what they tell us to ask for changes



- work with other organisations



- improve our helpline and look at ways to give students more support



- help more people go from learning new skills to getting a job