

## OVERVIEW

Raising Aspirations in Science Education is a programme of Education Scotland, The Wood Foundation, Scottish Government, and participating local authorities which empowers primary teachers to develop and deliver motivating and engaging STEM learning experiences. This is achieved through the appointment of local Primary Science Development Officers for a period of 23 months who lead upon STEM strategy, professional learning, network and partnership development, and bespoke support within their local authorities.

Midlothian and East Renfrewshire joined the network in 2022/23 bringing the total number of Scotland's local authorities engaged to 22.

## PROGRAMME IMPACT

Research undertaken with authorities exiting the investment in 22/23 proved that the programme and approach is highly effective in terms of improving the STEM learning experiences of primary pupils.

*"The support has been invaluable in allowing pupils to have a quality experience of STEM."*

*"I now feel so much more confident in delivering engineering and computer science outcomes with my own class, and when supporting other teachers in their delivery. This was achieved through the support and sharing of good practice by the RAiSE network."*

*"It has given my children confidence and belief in their abilities. It has particularly engaged my girls and made them look further at careers within STEM."*

### 78% practitioners



improved confidence, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for teaching STEM

### 74% practitioners



believe pupil aspirations for STEM careers has improved

### 78% practitioners



believe pupils have developed skills for learning, life, and work through STEM.

2022/23 figures

**5388**

hours of professional learning

**371**

professional learning events

**4221**

practitioner engagements

## EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITY

Practitioners respond to surveys which inform PSDOs' action plans, alongside their understanding of local need and context aligned with national drivers and priorities.

In 2022/23, activity included:

Stornoway Science Festival which welcomed more than 1000 members of the community to a weekend event with a range of local STEM partners in hands-on activities.



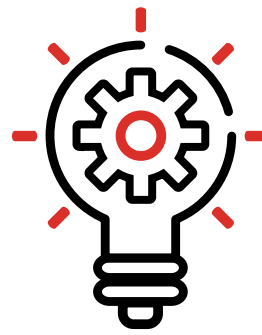
The development of Technology Planners by the national RAiSE network which provide lesson plans aligned to all early to second level Experiences & Outcomes.



Findings from national surveys identified a lack of practitioner confidence with the technology curriculum. West Lothian and North Lanarkshire created an engineering toolkit and Aberdeenshire developed learning opportunities around Rosie Revere Engineer.



The Renfrewshire PSDO worked with the Scottish Book Trust for a second year identifying the STEM links with its Read, Write, Count resource and running a joint professional learning event.



A series of family engagement activities which the West Lothian PSDO developed and delivered to improve the confidence and aspirations related to STEM with a target group.



Partnership engagement through funding, resource development, and delivery combining engineering, loose parts play, tools, and Makerspaces in Dundee.



In Renfrewshire, professional learning was devised and delivered for Classroom Assistants. This approach has inspired other local authorities to introduce similar programmes of support.



***More information on these initiatives and more can be found at <https://education.gov.scot/resources/raise/>.***

## 2023/24

The final cohort of authorities is embarking upon the investment in 2023/24: East Dunbartonshire, Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, Inverclyde, and Scottish Borders Councils.

Midlothian, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Aberdeenshire, and East Renfrewshire Councils will exit the RAiSE programme.

Local authorities that have previously been involved with RAiSE are continuing to liaise with Education Scotland's STEM team to build on the legacy of RAiSE.