

STEM STRATEGY HIGHLIGHT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019

Summary

1. The Scottish Government committed to providing the Curriculum and Assessment Board with updates on the implementation of the STEM Strategy following the Board's January 2019 meeting.
2. This paper provides a highlight report of progress on the STEM Strategy since the publication of the first annual report in February 2019.

Actions Completed to Date:

- **MG1** – Governance Groups have been put in place to oversee the delivery of the Strategy.
- **MG2** – KPIs were published in December 2017 and will be kept under review.
- **E3** – Education Scotland's self-evaluation framework for ITE programmes was finalised and published in June 2018.
- **E11** – The STEM self-evaluation framework for ELC settings and schools was published in December 2017.
- **E12** – The STEM specialist advisors team became operational from February 2019.
- **Q9** – Analysis of deprivation and rurality was completed in March 2018 and is being used to inform Public Science Engagement funding moving forward.

Progress highlights since first annual report:

3. *Excellence:*
 - Round 2 of Education Scotland's STEM Professional Learning Grants was launched in May 2019. A total of £1.36m is supporting STEM professional learning across two funding streams: a Regional and National Partner Fund and a Leadership and Collegiate Professional Learning Fund. A total of 140 new bids are being supported across both streams benefitting an estimated 716 establishments and 13,733 practitioners in financial year 2019-20. Projects that were started last financial year are also receiving support again this year. (E4)
 - £500k of additional funding was also issued to over twenty of the Round 1 recipients in FY19/20 to extend the reach and development of these programmes through a second year of support. (E4)
 - The final evaluation of the RAiSE pilot programme was published in April 2019 and demonstrates the very positive impact of the programme. The programme is now being offered to all local authorities on a rolling basis and recruitment of a third cohort of authorities has begun. (E8)
 - Regional STEM Advisers are in place and have had significant engagement with settings, local authorities and regional partners. (E12)

4. *Equity:*

- The Improving Gender Balance and Equalities Officers are now in post and embedded within Education Scotland's Regional Teams. A key focus for their work has been to become established in their regions and building their networks through speaking at events, visiting ELC settings, schools and clusters and rolling out their training offer. Many authorities have included IGBE workshops in their probationer programmes for 2019/20. The IGBE officers have engaged with 45 school clusters, involving 465 education practitioners and 470 learners. (Q1)

5. *Inspiration:*

- SSERC will start delivering their pilot of the Young STEM Leaders programme at the start of the new school term across across 80 centres in early years, school and community settings. (I5)
- An initial pilot campaign now called 'Aye For Ideas' developed during financial year 2018-19 was launched by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Richard Lochhead in June 2019. The campaign will run for the life of the STEM strategy, and will be monitored to review social media and wider impact. (I6)
- College and University Outcome Agreements have been finalised for 2019-20. The Scottish Funding Council is currently in the process of analysing achievement and progression rates of STEM subjects ahead of setting future targets. (I8)
- Draft guidance materials have been developed for the new STEM Awards. A pilot will commence in August 2019 and run through to March 2020. (I11)

6. *Connection:*

- Development of the online directory of STEM inspiration activities is underway but timescales for delivery of an initial phase are now likely to be October. (C2)
- Regional Steering Groups for the STEM Hubs are now in place, incorporating college, local authority, university, DYW and Science Centre representatives. A separate model is being developed for UHI region, with additional SFC Credit guidance incentivising STEM engagement activity with primary and secondary school pupils. (C4)

Embedding Equality considerations throughout the actions.

7. The Scottish Government has received very helpful feedback from the Equality sub-group about how equality considerations across a wide range of characteristics are being embedded throughout the actions under the Strategy and these will continue to be monitored.

Revisions to Actions

8. Changes to the following actions were approved at the last Implementation group meeting on 4 September to reflect changes since the Strategy was published in October 2017.

Action E13

9. As the Digital Schools Programme is no longer being delivered, Action E13 had been revised whilst still continuing with the commitment to provide support for digital skills development.
10. E13 – We will provide dedicated support to digital skills development in early learning settings and schools, including primary schools, through the Digital Schools Programme.
11. Amended to E13r - We will provide dedicated support to digital skills development in early learning settings and schools, including primary schools.

Action C9

12. Following the Learner Journey Review conclusion in May 2018, a recommendation (Recommendation 3) was made that a coherent approach to careers information, advice and guidance delivery to college learners was required. This resulted in the planned development of all age careers strategy which is expected to be published by Dec 2019 and Action C9 has been amended to reflect this position.
13. C9 – We will enhance the focus on STEM careers by college and university careers advice services. This will involve forging closer links between advisory services and STEM industries, in order to best present current and emerging employment opportunities across STEM disciplines. This will be supported by the 15-24 Learner Journey Review, which will provide evidence and views on the approach to careers advice and guidance within colleges and universities, and how this may be enhanced to meet the needs of learners and of STEM sectors of the economy.
14. Amended to C9r - To support STEM, we will forge closer links between advisory services and industries, in order to best present current and emerging employment opportunities across disciplines and support quality and coherence in career advice services. This will allow individuals to continue to consider emerging employment opportunities, including STEM opportunities, that meet the needs and ambitions of individuals and of the economy.