

Increasing Family Engagement in STEM

Case Study— Angus STEM Festival

This case study will be of interest to staff considering running a Science/STEM Festival.

Rationale

To raise aspirations and interest in STEM in Angus with young people and their families.

The event

This free, family event, which has now run for two years, has included STEM shows from Aberdeen and Dundee Science Centres, and Generation Science.

Interactive workshops have explored microscopes, hand hygiene, plastic pollution, human body, pollution in rainwater, Ooblek, as well as a CSI-style scene set up in a bus.

A local secondary school worked well as a free venue. There was ample space for a number of stations and for the public to roam. Because of the cluster focus, the secondary's network was also important.

Schools showcased STEM learning to boost pupil confidence and share learning with parents.

The regional Developing Young Workforce (DYW) Group led with the development of relationships for business and higher education involvement.



What does it cost?

- The Science Centres charged around £500 + VAT each.
- Sponsorship was obtained from DYW Dundee and Angus Regional Group and Skills Development Scotland to cover these costs.
- Hall and other contributors were no cost.

Where can I find out more?

- **Russell Brown**
Team Leader Developing Young Workforce with Angus Council
Brownr2@angus.gov.uk
- **Marthe Hastie**
Employer Liaison Advisor, Developing the Young Workforce Dundee & Angus
Marthe@dywda.co.uk
- **Mei Richards**
Primary Science Development Officer with Angus Council
richardsm@angus.gov.uk

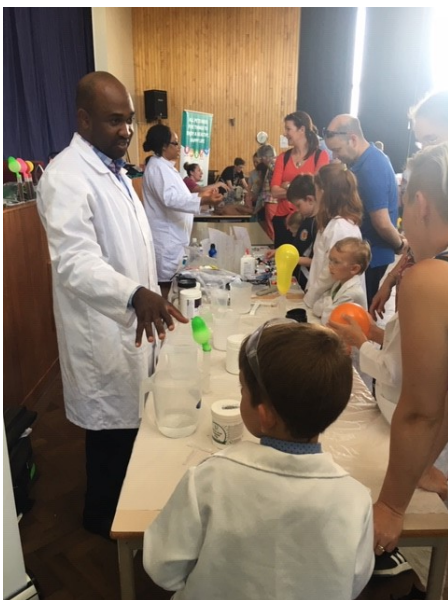


The second event focussed on Learning for Sustainability. A potential theme being explored for the third event is aligning the context with the [Skills Development Scotland Regional Skills Analysis](#) and associated employment sectors.

All facilitators were contacted in the weeks before the event to confirm attendance and to ensure that risk assessments were in place. It also helped them with the understanding of the format, as well as providing key messages about the event.

STEM careers, skills and opportunities available within the land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation industries were profiled.

Having no entry fee ensured there were no financial barriers for the local community to visit. The host school Parent Council ran a café selling teas and coffees to the visitors.



Impact

700 people attended the event over the two years. There was increase of 33% between years one and two.

- 90% of pupils said it made them more interested in a future career in STEM
- 93% of pupils said it had increased their interest in STEM subjects
- 98% of pupils said they would return the following year
- 100% of pupils rated the Festival as Good or Very Good.

