

## North Ayrshire – Legacy from the RAiSE Investment



North Ayrshire embarked upon the RAiSE investment in 2019, appointing Tim Dreyer as its Primary Science Development Officer.

As a legacy to this funding, the authority has appointed Tim as STEM Officer role and widened the remit to cover the 3-18 curriculum, as well as incorporating Learning for Sustainability and Outdoor Learning.

Tim now manages a team of two colleagues. The expanded team drives strategic developments, creating impactful opportunities for teachers, families, and learners.

Tim said:

“During my time as a PSDO, we were able to prove the value of having a dedicated person focussed on professional learning and opportunities around STEM, acting as a central person to develop professional learning and resources, facilitate external opportunities, and foster networks.

“We as an authority, and myself as a practitioner, learned more about the National STEM Strategy, as well as the opportunities to work with partners to bring STEM learning to life through RAiSE.

“The work I continue to lead on now has been made possible because of the RAiSE investment period. It is clear that practitioner confidence has increased and there are many opportunities for young people now to become inspired by STEM from a young age.

“The growth of my role and the team has been incredibly exciting. We have the opportunity to focus on real-life contexts and rich interdisciplinary learning. These efforts are further enhancing the quality of learning experiences available to our local practitioners.”

While in post as a PSDO, Tim developed key networks throughout the council, STEM partners, practitioners, and community which have extended into his current role. He also created a second-level primary framework for STEM which is widely used and now being expanded to include early years opportunities. He created a network of STEM Leaders who are cascading learning across their settings, and delivered professional learning to teachers, community learning and development teams, and early years practitioners.

Tim and his colleagues remain engaged with the RAiSE network, collaborating on sharing best practice and attending professional learning events.

The STEM team has developed trails in local parks. It has led upon a school garden project which has seen £120,000 be granted to 36 schools to address Sustainable Development Goals including Zero Hunger and Climate Action, linked to the council’s Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Strategy.