

RAISING A LEGACY

Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) is a programme of The Wood Foundation, Education Scotland, Scottish Government, and participating local authorities.

RAiSE empowers primary practitioners with the skills, networks, and confidence to deliver engaging and motivating STEM experiences. Participating local authorities appoint a Primary Science Development Officer to lead upon professional learning, partnerships, and events.

Local authorities engage in a two-year funding model.

The Wood Foundation has produced a legacy report which examines the ongoing impact of the RAiSE investment in eight authorities which exited the formal funding model at least one year previously.

Through data capture, interviews, and case studies with a range of stakeholders, the legacy report evidences the ongoing, positive impact of the RAiSE investment, empowered by strategic visioning, upskilled practitioners, and sustainable partnerships.

A programme of:

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Local authorities' strategic STEM approaches

- Funding period has allowed local authorities to better understand the role and potential of STEM within their local context, embedding systemic change which is impacting STEM throughout the curriculum, as well as partnership working and interdisciplinary learning approaches.
- PSDO has been critical to the success of developing meaningful, sustainable opportunities. Half of exited authorities retain a dedicated STEM team member in post.
- All authorities continue to engage with the programme, National Education Officer, and Education Scotland STEM Team.

Growth of practitioner confidence

- RAiSE programmes which foster empowered, connected networks of STEM Leaders have cascaded learning and developed ongoing innovative pedagogical approaches.
- Professional learning opportunities continue to play an important role.
- Sustainable, established connections to a range of resources and networks continue providing vital complementarity to STEM approaches.
- Ongoing use of monitoring and evaluation methods deployed during the RAiSE period to ensure STEM offering continues to evolve in line with need.

Improved and enriched pupil experiences

- Continued collaboration and innovative mindsets impact directly upon the ultimate stakeholder of the RAiSE investment – pupils – empowering the critical thinkers, problem solvers, and STEM talent of the future.
- Quality-assured external, as well as RAiSE-developed, resources support motivating, contextualised lessons.
- Increased alignment with other curricular drivers.
- Support to realise the potential in utilising STEM as a vehicle to engage families and hard-to-reach young people.

Sustainability of networks and partnerships

- Enduring relationships offer sustainable development opportunities to best realise the long-term value and evolve offerings.
- Increased cluster and transition relationships and activities to support pupils and practitioners.
- Focus on the opportunities of the Regional Improvement Collaborative structure.
- The RAiSE intervention in ensuring partnership opportunities are designed for age and stage contribute to their ongoing impact.

There are additional opportunities for local authorities to continue to build upon the legacy of the two-year funding model. Learning from the pilot phase is being implemented with current authorities, while the programme continues to engage exited authorities within its network.

It is clear empowered practitioners are leading change and, by investing in their development, RAiSE is nurturing a new generation of young people excited about the opportunities of STEM.

For the full legacy report, visit:

www.thewoodfoundation.org.uk/developing-young-people-in-scotland/raise

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