

STEM Strategy – CLD related Actions

The STEM (Sciences Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics) Strategy was launched in the Scottish Parliament in November 2017 by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science. The strategy, together with a STEM Evidence Base Report, is available to download from: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/1386/downloads>

The strategy sets out the vision for STEM Education and Training for the next five years around the themes of Excellence, Equity, Inspiration and Connection.

Key commitments within the strategy that have a CLD focus include:

- Delivering an enhanced programme of career-long professional learning for practitioners and technicians to improve STEM learning and teaching
- *Education Scotland will work with partners and, in particular, practitioners, to develop a coherent national approach to STEM professional learning from early 2018. This will include the development of a new national online resource for STEM and an online professional learning offer for early learning practitioners, primary and secondary teachers, technicians and community learning and development practitioners. New opportunities will become available during academic year 2018-19.*
 - Launching a new on-line STEM resource and directory for practitioners
 - Embedding best practice from the successful Improving Gender Balance project to improve participation by under-represented groups in STEM learning, courses and training, particularly for women and girls
- *Supporting STEM Ambassadors to engage with sectors which require more support, such as ELC, parents and families, and community learning and development with evidence of increases in this engagement by the end of 2018*
 - Establishing a new Young STEM leaders programme to grow and spread inspiration and enthusiasm for STEM, starting in the early and primary years of education
 - Launching STEM Awards for ELC settings, schools and CLD settings
- *Introduce new STEM Awards for ELC settings, schools and CLD settings to promote, recognise and build on activities in these sectors, based on the success of the Digital Schools Award with the first round of awards taking place during academic year 2018-19. We will also explore with partners how the Digital Schools Award may be extended out to early learning and community development settings.*
 - Growing successful STEM partnerships between schools and employers through the Developing the Young Workforce Programme
 - Helping science centres and festivals to attract under-served people of all ages and backgrounds
- *conduct an in-depth analysis of deprivation and rurality to understand how best to reach under-served audiences. This will inform the use of our Public Science Engagement funding in 2018-19 and beyond.*
- *support the Science Centres to continue to target activities at particular groups currently under-served by science engagement activities, through use of our Community Subsidy. This will include close working with communities and other groups to make sure that activities meet their needs whether through events in Centres or delivered through outreach to community venues.*

- *Require Science Centres and larger Science Festivals to work the CLD sector to develop Community STEM Plans from 2018-19 onwards as a condition of Scottish Government funding for public engagement activities.*
- *Education Scotland will work with the Science Centres and Science Festivals in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee on a pilot basis to extend the reach of their programmes to parents and families in designated SIMD areas, starting in 2018.*
 - *Creating a STEM hub network to strengthen regional-level collaboration between partners, including universities, science centres and employers.*
- *Hold an annual learning conference each year of the STEM strategy from 2018-2022 for CLD practitioners. These events will be organised in collaboration with partners and showcase inspirational lifelong learning STEM practice*
- *From June 2018, support ELC settings to promote positive engagement with STEM and tackle gender stereotypes through their parental and family engagement activities*
- *From August 2018, extend the resources available for parents through Parentzone and through collaboration with partners, including parent representative organisations and community learning and development partners, support parents and carers in informing and inspiring their children on the opportunities which STEM can offer*