

# Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAISE)

## Programme information

### Background

The Wood Foundation is a proactive venture philanthropy funder, focusing on creating economic activity to help people help themselves, providing business development and capacity support, in addition to funding. The Foundation invests in a range of economic, community and enterprise activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the UK, this includes a strong portfolio focusing on youth philanthropy, global citizenship, developing Scotland's young workforce and childhood poverty. The aim of The Wood Foundation is to develop and support individuals to become independent, contributing and caring members of society.

In partnership with Education Scotland and Scottish Government, The Wood Foundation has launched a new programme to provide strategic support to secure improvements in primary science education in Scottish schools. The ambition of this programme is to ensure all learners experience highly-engaging and motivating learning experiences in the sciences that will enable them to contribute effectively to society as scientifically literate citizens. The programme will also seek to equip learners with skills for learning, life and work thus enabling them to access a wide range of stimulating and rewarding careers, including those within science and STEM sectors.

Angus Council is one of ten local authorities currently participating in the Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAISE) programme. This pilot programme commenced in 2017 and will run until June 2019. Following a period of review, the programme may be extended for up to a further five years so as to benefit **all** local authorities in Scotland.

The successful candidate, appointed to the post of Primary Science Development Officer, will be responsible for raising aspirations in science education within Angus Council for a period of 11 months (August 2018 – July 2019). The secondee will work closely with other partner organisations including Education Scotland, Scottish Government, Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC) and other local authorities, to achieve the aims of the programme and ensure it aligns to national priorities and policies. This includes alignment to the National STEM Education and Training Strategy, the Developing Young Workforce programme, National Improvement Framework, Scottish Attainment Challenge, Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy and promoting gender balance in STEM.

### Aims of the programme

- To build capacity at local authority level to coordinate support for science, and to support sustainable and long-term improvements in science education
- To build the confidence, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of primary school practitioners in relation to the teaching of the sciences (both in terms of content and pedagogy) by providing high-quality professional learning. This includes the provision of experiential learning to build capacity for the effective delivery of practical investigations.

- To raise attainment and achievement in primary science, with a particular emphasis on supporting those learners most in need
- To support the authority in their efforts to raise levels of engagement in primary science education, including providing opportunities to sustain and extend the impact of past participation in the SSERC Primary Cluster Programme
- To ensure that learning and teaching in the sciences reflects the principles of curriculum design and improves outcomes for learners by ensuring they are sufficiently challenged, motivated and understand the relevance of science both to them and to society as a whole
- To ensure that learners develop skills for learning, life and work and that progress and achievement is assessed, monitored, tracked and reported on effectively
- To promote effective cross-sector progression in the sciences, from early years to primary and from primary to secondary school
- To create effective opportunities for practitioners to network, share, collaborate, mentor and co-create with their peers.