

Investing in Volunteers



SSERC manages the STEM Ambassador programme in Scotland via the STEM Ambassador in Scotland hub based at our HQ.

The STEM Ambassadors in Scotland Hub has been awarded **Investing in Volunteers Accreditation** by Volunteer Scotland. Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management and recognises organisations making outstanding contributions within the voluntary sector.



The Hub began working towards this accreditation in 2020, self-evaluating against the Investing in Volunteers Indicators such as processes, policies, diversity, recruitment, safety, recognition and support. Working with STEM Learning, an in-depth analysis was carried out to examine the UK-wide policies, processes, and documentation and those local to the Scottish Hub. Where required, new policies and amendments were developed in consultation with STEM Learning to ensure improvements would be implemented for all the STEM Ambassador Hubs, ultimately for the benefit of all STEM Ambassadors.

Progressing to the Accreditation stage, the STEM Ambassadors in Scotland Hub team and additional members of the wider SSERC team were interviewed by an external Assessor as part of the in-depth review. In September 2021, 77 STEM Ambassadors were interviewed by the Assessor, with additional Ambassadors completing online questionnaires. Volunteers interviewed were from a wide age range and socioeconomic backgrounds. The Assessor saw evidence of diversity in relation to



age, ethnicity, and geographical inclusion with volunteers from Scotland. 98% of survey respondents agreed that the organisation is open to involving volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds. Volunteers interviewed said they felt well supported and were clear about how to access support, saying, "I find it very rewarding to get the support, very positive, gives me confidence".

The Assessor's report recommending full accreditation was received at the end of October and highlighted that "volunteers clearly understood why they were integral to the organisation, stating their reasons for getting involved, which closely aligned with the aims of the organisation."

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive Officer, SSERC, said: "Receiving this recognition affirms our commitment to providing a positive and

supportive volunteer experience for STEM Ambassadors. Our volunteers are crucial to bringing STEM subjects to life through real-life experiences. It is vital that they enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding experience in return. We are immensely proud of this achievement and is a testament to the hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm of the STEM Ambassador in Scotland Hub team." <<

