

The Young STEM Leader (YSL) Programme: Inspiring and developing young people through STEM

Excitement, interest and positivity around the YSL Programme continues to grow across Scotland.

The pilot phase is now underway with hundreds of young people all over the country preparing to create and lead inspirational STEM activities, events and interactions in their schools, community and youth groups.

The YSL Project Team at SSERC have completed the development of the CfE Second Level and SCQF Level 6 versions of the programme. These two levels will now be piloted across Scotland with 59 centres taking part. Of the centres involved, 19 are primary schools, 32 are secondary and 8 are from community groups or existing STEM initiatives. Being able to pilot the programme across such a broad range of young people and centres is certain to yield excellent results, case study material and valuable feedback.

YSL Project Manager, Graeme Rough said “We are delighted to have reached this stage, piloting with two levels so soon after the team has been formed. We’d like to thank our project partners, the working group and of course the many young people who have helped shape this incredibly exciting STEM programme - this has the potential to make a huge impact in STEM engagement on a national scale”.

Many pilot centres have already shared their plans on how young people will work towards their digital badges or certificates (CfE Second Level) or their formal accredited award (SCQF Level 6). With such a wide and unusual range of ideas, it is expected that participants will realise that STEM is everywhere and can be appreciated by anyone.

There are many supporting documents now available to centres such as support notes, activity

packs, YSL logs and a handbook which serves as an informative guide for both Young Stem Leaders and centres. A training programme is being rolled out across the country to support the centres in delivering the programme.

More details can be found on the YSL website www.yslpilot.scot. <<

