

Bio



Name: Liz Thomson BEM

**Current Role & Organisation:
Deputy Head Teacher
Alloa Academy, Clackmannanshire**

ScIL Cohort: 8 Date: 2019

Completing ScIL

The focus of my ScIL project was Improving Positive Destinations for our leavers at Alloa Academy. I began ScIL feeling super excited. I absolutely love data and a cheeky 'wee' graph and thought this will be a great opportunity to improve my understanding of analysis and have a real impact on our pupils' lives.

It was an amazing experience and I met a fantastic group of like-minded individuals. We were all from different areas of education and health and it was fascinating to hear everyone's ideas to support change in our systems. Collaborating with professionals from different sectors fostered creativity in me that I never knew I had!

QI Tools & Techniques

The QI tool I use a lot is force field analysis to look at some of the root causes of a problem and get some change ideas. This then leads well onto PDSA cycles to measure the impact of my change ideas. I then like to run control charts as I find this very useful to see changes and monitor a process over time. I look for variation, trends and test different change ideas to look for positive impact.

Advice

My advice for anyone taking on the ScIL programme is to embrace your learning journey. It is an amazing opportunity to connect with new people from different professions and build lifelong friendships. It will take your learning on a journey of highs and lows; however, the impact is worth it! Remember to think big, start small and take time to reflect on your learning and how you can apply it to others parts of your work.

Post ScIL

I have the privilege to be a Deputy Head at Alloa Academy. We have amazing staff, pupils and families who want to do well and be successful. We have now embedded a number of interventions that we used to improve our positive destinations across the school. We use many of the tools in Pupil Support and with our partners in Skills Development Scotland to enable us to meet the needs of all our learners and remove the barriers for our young people.

We have built great partnerships with our school community, the Local Authority and a network of professionals to find new and innovative ways to remove barriers. Understanding the psychology of our system and what is required to enable equity is key to our success. We set up collaborative networks within our schools and continue to build improvement across Clackmannanshire. We aim to further embed our continuous and quality improvement approach by protecting time for improvement teams to meet, test new ideas and foster the development of new interventions which drive improvement and continue to build capacity across the system.