Summary of Learning:
There is activity in the college trying to encourage young women into STEM subjects however identifying what is happening and its impact on attracting and retaining these women into the subject is still unclear. One of the barriers is obtaining relevant, complete and up-to-date information from different stakeholders.

Project Mission Statement:
Forth Valley College’s project mission is to ensure that our specialist science and engineering provision and enhanced school/college activity in STEM subjects is actively promoted to women and girls who are currently under-represented in these subject areas. We aim to build on our STEM assured status and strong partnership links to tackle stereotypical vocational choices in relation to gender.

Research Conducted
100 female pupils were surveyed from the S4-S6 Schools Links group.
- 64% of those surveyed stated they would go to their mum/carer to help choose subjects at school and 39% would go to their dad.
- 75% stated that they would go to mum for advice about jobs and 42% would ask their dad.

It seems that the overwhelming majority of this group would see parents as the main influencers in terms of both subject and career choice.
- 79% of all respondents would not think about Engineering as a career option.
- 69% would not think about Science as a career choice.

Consequently the majority were not interested in a workshop in this area.

Activity Conducted
- STEM Conference Summer 2016 - included a number of workshops with females from the industry/former graduates including a stereotyping workshop.
- Foundation Apprenticeship Pathfinder in Engineering (pilot in two schools).
- Proactively encourage girls on to specific college provision from school links programme of activity.

Proposed
- Unconscious bias training for staff especially in relation to interviews.
- Plan programme of engagement with schools, including pupil and parent information events; CPD for teachers and pupil support staff and visits to college campuses.
- Add a parent guidance section to the college website to help with course selection.
- Rewrite course descriptions to be more reader-friendly by avoiding overly technical language and including a list of related careers. By creating a clearer picture of course activity and future career links, we are appealing to a more diverse audience.
- Create stalls in the Edinburgh and Glasgow Science Festivals highlighting careers to be pursued at college level.

Extension to GAP
- Identify a course to target for the pilot project (NC level).
- LDW pastoral support with pilot project students.
- Core Skills research project to focus on women in STEM.
- Track pilot project through the levels of development. Ensure continued support throughout learning journey as they rise through to HNC/D levels.
- Incorporate interpersonal skills SQA unit in level 6 pilot course.