

## MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS 'Diversity is vital to business success'

"Diversity can no longer be a "nice to do" but rather we need to recognise that it is vital to the ongoing success and sustainability of all businesses." That's the message from Dr Lesley Sawers, Executive Chair, GenAnalytics, who will present a keynote speech at the STF/SDS joint equalities and diversity event being held on **Tuesday 7 March 2017** in Glasgow.

The half-day event will also feature workshops, exhibition stands and an update on SDS equalities activities. An agenda and workshop details are available on the [STF web site](#).

## MEMBER NEWS

### New Directors for SCQF

SCQF has appointed two new Directors to its Partnership Board – Liz Cameron OBE and Jim Metcalfe. [More details](#).

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND Core skills research survey

SDS is undertaking research to clarify what the challenges are in relation to apprentices with learning disabilities/difficulties and the Core Skills element of apprenticeships. STF members are requested to participate in the research by completing a [short survey](#).

The closing date for responses is **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** (5.00pm). More details are available from [francesthom@yahoo.com](mailto:francesthom@yahoo.com).

## MEMBER NEWS

### SQA skills consultation

SQA is seeking feedback on its skills frameworks to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. To have your say, [complete the short online survey](#). The closing date for the survey is **Friday 17 March 2017**.

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Update on Employability Support Service 2018

The Scottish Government has provided updated details on the reservation of part of the Employability Support Service 2018 for Supported Businesses.

Earlier this month it was announced that in procuring the new devolved employment services in 2018, one Service delivery area would be reserved for supported businesses. It has now been confirmed that the area to be reserved will be the West delivery area which encompasses East and West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire. [Click here for more details](#).

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### £6.1 million for Community Jobs Scotland fund

The Scottish Government has confirmed continued funding for the Community Jobs Scotland fund. £6.1 million is being made available to support up to 700 new job opportunities for 16 – 29 year olds. The support will be targeted at groups who face significant difficulties finding employment – including carers, young people with experience of care, those with disabilities, and young people with past criminal convictions. [Click here for more details](#).

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### New group to review Labour Market Strategy

A new group has been set up by the Scottish Government to support its ambitions to create more, better paid, quality jobs. The Strategic Labour Market Group will look at ways of developing:

- Low unemployment and high employment
- A skilled, productive, engaged workforce that meets the needs of employers;
- Equal opportunities to access work and progress in employment.

The group will be chaired by Minister for Employability and Training Jamie Hepburn. [Click here for more details](#).

## DYW GLASGOW

### DYW Glasgow Marketplace launch event

DYW Glasgow is working with Skills Development Scotland to roll out [Marketplace](#) - an online tool designed to help employers connect with schools and colleges across Scotland. A free launch event will be held on **Tuesday 28 March 2017**, 5.00pm - 6.30pm at the Glasgow Science Centre. STF members are invited to attend [My World of Work Live!](#) and hear from businesses and schools about the value in working together. Click on the links below for more details.

[Event Registration](#) [Marketplace for Employers](#) [Marketplace for Education](#)

#### STF NEWS

#### **Forthcoming meetings and events**

*28 February 2017*

DYW Glasgow breakfast  
Clydesdale Bank, Glasgow

*7 March 2017*

STF/SDS Equalities Conference  
Radisson Blu, Glasgow

*29 March 2017*

STF Board  
City & Guilds, Glasgow

*4 April 2017*

STF Workshop – Workplace  
Discrimination  
SCQF, Glasgow

*26 & 27 September 2017*

STF Annual Conference  
Crieff Hydro

A full Calendar of Events is  
available on the STF web site at:  
[www.stf.org.uk](http://www.stf.org.uk)

#### STF UPDATE

#### **What's the story?**

If you have any news articles or job  
vacancies that you would like  
included in next week's issue of  
STF Update, please contact [Stuart  
McKenna](#)

#### MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

### **Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2017**

Scottish Apprenticeship Week – from 6 to 10 March – is the annual campaign to show that apprenticeships work for businesses, individuals and the economy. The campaign theme for 2017 is 'Apprenticeships are Changing'. More details about this year's campaign – including a Digital Toolkit and Events Listing – are available at: [SAW 2017 Campaign Homepage](#)

#### STF NEWS

### **Stephen and Judith are the dream team!**

Two top BBC broadcasters have been confirmed as the hosts for this year's STF Awards Ceremony being held on Tuesday 26 September in the Crieff Hydro.

Stephen Jardine – who hosts a three hour discussion programme on BBC Radio Scotland each Friday – and weather presenter Judith Ralston – who is a regular contributor to Reporting Scotland – will join forces to reveal the finalists and winners in each of the award categories.

Stephen Jardine last hosted the STF Awards in 2013. And Judith Ralston was a popular host in 2016.

**[www.stf.org.uk](http://www.stf.org.uk)**