

STF NEWS

FIPS problems continue

STF members are continuing to report issues with FIPS, specifically with the validation process. In addition, the increased time required to administer FIPS – in comparison to CTS – is also being highlighted as an area of concern. And the cost of the mandatory Microsoft license fee has also caused irritation.

The Chief Executive and Board will raise these concerns with SDS at their next scheduled joint meeting in mid-May. A member survey will be undertaken in the next few weeks to seek feedback from all members on their experiences in using FIPS.

MEMBER NEWS

Regulatory Services MA

A new Modern Apprenticeship in Regulatory Services and Trading Standards is currently being developed. It is expected that at least ten councils will offer the apprenticeship in the short term.

The new MA will create a demand for training providers with occupationally competent assessors and verifiers in regulatory services and trading standards.

STF members who currently offer this service – or who would like to develop this service – are asked to contact Deirdre Joy on email: DJoy@pkc.gov.uk

STF NEWS

STF Care Forum

The next meeting of the STF Care Forum will be held in Glasgow on Thursday 25 May 2017, from 1.00-3.00pm, in the offices of L&G Learning, The Hatrack, 144 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5LQ. All STF members are welcome to attend. To register your attendance, please email Lorna Trainer: ltrainer@landglearning.co.uk

[Click here for more details](#)

STF NEWS

Marketing and Awards Workshops

Two free member workshops focussing on SDS Marketing and Awards will be held in Glasgow on Thursday 4 May 2017 – and in Edinburgh on Thursday 11 May 2017. Both workshops will include:

- Marketing support available to STF members to promote apprenticeships to employers and potential candidates
- Tips and tricks in submitting entries to the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards – including input from previous training providers who have won awards
- An update on new developments with apprenticeships.scot.

In addition, STF Chief Executive, Stuart McKenna, will provide members with an update on apprenticeship and training policy developments over the last six months. Members will also have the opportunity to discuss contractual issues of concern. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

2,000 Foundation Apprenticeships this year

The number of Foundation Apprenticeship places continues to expand with nearly 2,000 on offer this year to school pupils in over 110 schools.

SDS has recently awarded contracts to delivery partners across Scotland and over 1,900 places will be available after the summer holidays in all local authority areas and in 10 frameworks. [Click here for more details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

SCQF Impact Report Published

To mark its 15th birthday, the SCQF Partnership undertook a research project in partnership with the University of Glasgow Training and Employment Research Unit, to understand how the SCQF is used and the impact it is having in Scotland. The final report has now been published and findings have been shared with partners and stakeholders. [Click here for more details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Changes to Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)

The Scottish Government is making changes to the current system of Individual Learning Accounts – by refocusing them as Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) – to better meet the demands of the job market.

ITAs will be provided by Skills Development Scotland and will continue to give people access to up to £200 per year for training and skills development. However, for the first time each course will now result in an industry recognised qualification. [Click here for more details.](#)

Forthcoming meetings and events

4 May 2017

STF Workshop – Apprenticeship Awards & SDS Marketing
SCQF, Glasgow

11 May 2017

STF Workshop – Apprenticeship Awards & SDS Marketing
Novotel, Edinburgh

31 May 2017

STF Workshop – Update on ILA/ITAs
Tbc, Glasgow

14 June 2017

STF Workshop – Equalities and the business bottom line
City & Guilds, 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

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND Successful NOS bids

The successful bidders for NOS standards and frameworks has been published. [Click here for more details.](#)

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](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

New updates to apprenticeships website

SDS has worked with training providers to help shape developments to dedicated website apprenticeships.scot. The site now includes a step-by-step guide to the process of taking on a Modern Apprentice, from application and tendering right through to completion.

Soon it will be possible to search for publications which currently exist on the Provider Area of skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk. Plans are also underway to migrate Modern Apprenticeship publications to apprenticeships.scot to ensure all apprenticeships information and documentation is together in one place. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Scottish Apprenticeship Challenge

The Scottish Apprenticeship Challenge, supported by Skills Development Scotland, will see groups of apprentices take on projects to benefit their local community.

Training providers are being encouraged to participate. [Click here for more details.](#)

APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

Five Levy facts for employers

SDS has published an article 'five basic things you should know about the apprenticeship levy as an employer in Scotland.'

[Click here for more details.](#)

www.stf.org.uk