

1 September 2017

EMPLOYABILITY FUND

STF writes to Employability Minister

STF has written to Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, to seek clarification on the future of the current Employability Fund (EF). It is not clear at this stage if the fund will continue after March next year. Members have expressed their disappointment at the late notification about EF in recent years – which many say has impeded effective business planning and investment.

STF NEWS

Workshop Presentations

Presentations from recent STF Workshops are now available in the Member Section of the STF web site. Other documents – including Board and SDS Meeting papers – are also available.

STF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FIPS Tips and Tricks

SDS will be running a workshop at the STF Annual Conference which will focus on providing useful tips on making the best use of the system. Delegates are encouraged to submit suggestions for areas that they would like covered at the workshop. Please email [Lynsay Bryce](mailto:Lynsay.Bryce@stf.org.uk) with questions and suggestions.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Workforce Development Fund

Information about the new £10 million Workforce Development Fund is expected to be published in early September 2017.

STF CONFERENCE 2017

Online Booking available

Details of the delegate packages available for the STF Annual Conference are now available on the [STF web site](http://www.stf.org.uk). For the first time, members are now able to book online.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Tenders for Foundation Apprenticeships 2018-20

Skills Development Scotland is inviting proposals for Foundation Apprenticeship Projects for participants commencing in academic year 2018-2020. As in previous years, proposals will only be accepted from Colleges or Local Authorities.

However, in a significant shift of emphasis, delivery of each framework will now require a partnership approach, and as a minimum, bring together Colleges, Local Authorities, schools, private training providers and employers. The closing date for tenders is 29 September 2017. [Click here for more details](#) on the PCS web site.

To encourage partnership activity, SDS has supplied a list of current FA contract holders. This is available within the PCS suite of tender documents - and can also be downloaded via the [STF web site](#).

A copy of the presentation delivered at the recent STF Foundation Apprenticeship Workshop – which provides an overview of the programme – is available in the member section of the STF web site.

STF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

All speakers confirmed for STF Conference

All speakers have now been confirmed for the STF Annual Conference & Awards which will be held at Crieff Hydro on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 September 2017. Included in the line-up are:

- Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training
- Liz Smith MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
- Dr Ken Thomson, Principal, Forth Valley College
- Katie Hutton, Director, Skills Development Scotland.

Top television and radio broadcaster, Stephen Jardine, will host the event. And he will be joined by BBC weather presenter, Judith Ralston, for the Award Ceremony on Day 1.

Details of the workshops and speed networking sessions are being finalised and will be published on the STF web site early next week. [Click here for more details](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

SDS Letter of Guidance published

Scottish Government has issued Skills Development Scotland (SDS) with its Letter of Guidance for 2017-18. The correspondence outlines the government's expectations of SDS in the current year.

A summary of the letter will be published in next week's Update, but for those who can't wait, a copy is available in the member section of the STF web site (in the Member Publications section).

STF NEWS

SAAB Workshops

More than 70 members have now attended workshops providing information about the forthcoming SAAB (Scottish Apprenticeship Advisory Board) online consultation on Apprenticeships in Scotland. A copy of the presentation used at the workshops is available in the member section of the STF web site. Members will be alerted when the SAAB consultation is launched in early September 2017.

STF NEWS

FIPS survey analysis

An analysis of the STF member survey on FIPS (Funding Information and Processing System) has been published. The full report can be viewed in the member section of the STF website (Consultations & Survey Responses section), or by emailing [Stuart McKenna](mailto:Stuart.McKenna@stf.org.uk)

STF NEWS

STF Awards 2017 – Finalists announced

The finalists in each category of the STF Awards 2017 have been announced. Nine awards are up for grabs, including Apprentice of the Year and STF Provider of the Year. The winners will be announced at a ceremony during the STF Annual Conference on 26 September 2017 at Crieff Hydro. [Click here for a full list of finalists.](#)

STF NEWS

Member issues – are you affected?

The following two issues have been raised with the Chief Executive in the last few weeks – and it would be helpful to hear member feedback on these:

1. New ITA Verification Process: Now that training providers must assume responsibility for verifying income, some members have expressed concern at the additional administrative time it will take to secure the evidence required to meet SDS audit requirements. In addition, members have highlighted that it will be difficult to secure evidence from some client groups.
2. ESF Tagging: Some MA providers have recently learnt that some of their candidates have been 'tagged' as being partly funded by ESF. This requires additional evidence to be supplied to SDS – and members have expressed concern at the increased administration this will cause.

If you have views or comments on either of these issues, please contact [Stuart McKenna](mailto:Stuart.McKenna@stf.org.uk)

STF NEWS

Join the STF Care Forum

The next meeting of the STF Care Forum will be held in Glasgow on **Monday 11 September**, from 1.00-3.00pm.

The Forum discusses issues relating to the delivery of both MA and EF in early learning and adult care; it also provides updates on proposed policy changes within the care sector.

All STF members are welcome to attend this meeting and to join the group. For more details, contact: [Stuart McKenna](mailto:Stuart.McKenna@stf.org.uk)

MEMBER JOB VACANCIES

Job Vacancies – Quest

STF Member, Quest, is currently recruiting Associate Assessors and Associate Trainers throughout Scotland in a range of occupational areas including Business Administration and Management. [Click here for more details.](#)

Email your news stories to: stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk

www.stf.org.uk