

13 October 2017

ANNUAL CONFERENCE STF Annual Conference & Awards

Pictures from the STF Annual Conference and Award Ceremony are now available to view on the [STF Facebook page](#).

Videos produced for the finalists in some of the award categories will be posted to the STF You Tube channel in the coming weeks.

STF NEWS STF AGM 2017

The STF AGM 2017 will be held in Glasgow on 22 November 2017. More details will be published shortly

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DYW Regional Contacts

A Speed Networking session about DYW engagement for training providers proved popular at the STF Conference. A handout from the session – which includes a list of DYW regional contacts – is now available to download from the [STF web site](#).

ENGINEERING Semta Skills Awards 2018

Applications for the Semta Skills Awards 2018 are now welcomed. [More details](#).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Diversity & Economic Growth

Several members have asked for a copy of the presentation – *The Power of Diversity to Drive Economic Growth* - delivered by Jane Gotts, Director, GenAnalytics, at the STF Conference. This is now available in the member section of the STF website in the *Workshop Documents and Presentations* section.

EMPLOYABILITY FUND

Minister replies to EF letter from STF

STF wrote to Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, in early September to ask if the Employability Fund will continue beyond the current year and when a decision will be made.

In his response, the Minister says: *'As I outlined at the (STF) conference, discussions are currently on-going in relation to the budget process for 2018-19, with the Scottish Government due outline our budget later in the year. I recognise your members' concerns about future funding so it is important I reaffirm the Scottish Government's commitment to the EF, but as you will appreciate as is the case with all Government commitments, this remains subject to those budget discussions.'*

Members can view the full letter in the member section (*Member Publications*) of the [STF web site](#).

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

New SDS Equalities module – can you help?

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is developing a new module - *Engaging Ethnic Minority Communities in work based and employability provision* – which is designed to give candidates the knowledge and skills to engage individuals from ethnic minority communities in relation to work based learning and employability.

The module has been specifically designed for SDS contracted training providers who wish to take proactive measures to improve the diversity of participation in their SDS funded training provision - but it may be suitable for other audiences including SDS staff, school staff, education managers, DWP staff.

SDS is seeking STF member assistance in two ways: (1) to comment on the content and approach taken in the draft module; (2) to volunteer to participate in piloting the module in early 2018. For more details, please contact: [Stuart McKenna](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Youth employment target met ahead of schedule

The Scottish Government has fulfilled its commitment to reduce youth unemployment by 40%, four years ahead of schedule. Analysis of the latest ONS Labour Force Survey dataset from January to March shows the level of youth unemployment excluding full-time education has fallen to 27,000 in 2017, from 52,000 in 2014, a decrease of 48.3%.

The headline target in the Scottish Government's Developing the Young Workforce strategy was to reduce youth unemployment excluding those in full-time education by 40% between 2014 and 2021. [Click here for more details](#).

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

26 October 2017

[STF Workshop: Assistive Technology Awareness \(Glasgow\)](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

1 November 2017

[STF Workshop: Beyond Religion and Belief \(Glasgow\)](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

7 November 2017

[SQA/STF Forum](#)
SQA, Glasgow

9 November 2017

[STF Workshop: Assistive Technology Awareness \(East Kilbride\)](#)
Concept Northern, East Kilbride

22 November 2017

[STF Annual General Meeting](#)
Tbc, Glasgow

MEMBER NEWS

SCQF Conference 2018

The SCQF Partnership has announced that registration for its 2018 Conference is now open. The conference, entitled, The SCQF: Linking the Learning Journey, takes place on Thursday 22 February 2018 in Glasgow. [More details.](#)

ENGINEERING

Quality of Engineering Apprenticeships

The 2017 Industry Apprentice Council annual report has launched with a warning that formal qualifications and continuous assessment are essential to maintain the quality of apprenticeships in engineering and related sectors. [More details.](#)

EVENTS

Economic Development Conference

Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, will be a keynote speaker at Scotland's Economic Development Conference being held on 2 November 2017 at Perth Concert Hall. The event is co-produced by EDAS and SLAED and will focus on delivering economic development in a time of radical uncertainty. [Click here for more details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Fair Start Scotland contracts issued

Contracts worth up to £96 million have been awarded to organisations across Scotland to help people find and stay in work. From April 2018 the new Fair Start Scotland service will aim to help at least 38,000 people, to find employment, including those facing barriers to entering the labour market. [Click here for more details.](#)

ENGINEERING

Semta employer survey – can you help?

Semta is undertaking research with Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Employers regarding future recruitment, Skills Commitments and the importance of qualifications.

It would be grateful for STF member support in either completing the survey as an employer or forwarding on to employer partner networks. The survey can be accessed from the link below and should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=150583520343>

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Businesses voice Brexit fears

Business leaders across Scotland believe Brexit may hinder recruitment, hit the bottom line, and curtail future growth prospects, according to new report published by the Scottish Government. 'Brexit: What's at Stake for Businesses', looks at the key issues from the point of view of businesses, in their own words. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Equalities Workshops for Training Providers

Skills Development Scotland is teaming up with equality groups on a series of apprenticeship workshops for training providers. The sessions aim to help providers to recruit and support apprentices from underrepresented groups.

It's part of SDS's plan to ensure apprenticeships are accessible and inclusive for all. The workshops will take place between October and December. [Click here for more details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Free SCQF workshops - My Skills, My Future

The SCQF Partnership is running a series of free workshops designed to introduce practitioners to the My Skills, My Future resource. My Skills, My Future aims to support individuals by identifying the skills they have gained through informal learning such as a hobby or part time job and benchmark these to the SCQF so they can see the level of their learning and start to make a plan of action for the future with the help of a facilitator.

Bookings are now being taken for **Wednesday 15 November** in Glasgow. The SCQFP is also hosting a half day refresher course on **Thursday 23 November**, also in Glasgow, for those who have previously used the old resource to bring them up to date with latest developments and to enable them to obtain the updated resource [Click here for more details.](#)

STF NEWS

Stuart to speak at seminar

STF Chief Executive, Stuart McKenna, is one of the speakers at the Scotland Policy Conferences seminar '[Next steps for apprenticeships and skills development in Scotland](#)' being held in Edinburgh on 6 December 2017.

ERASMUS

Erasmus+ Info Sessions

Erasmus+ Information Sessions will be held across the country in October and November. These events provide an overview of the funding opportunities available under Erasmus+ in 2018, and are primarily intended for newcomers to the programme. There is no charge to attend but places are limited.

The sessions are for any organisation in the UK working in the sectors of education, training, youth or sport. They are aimed at organisations new to Erasmus+, including anyone who has not yet applied for funding but would like to know more about the range of possibilities under the programme.

[Click here for more details.](#)

EMPLOYABILITY

SUSE Annual Conference 2017

The SUSE Annual Conference will take place in Edinburgh on 5 December 2017.

SUSE (The Scottish Union of Supported Employment) is an umbrella organisation for public, private and voluntary bodies interested in supported employment, social inclusion and the changeover from traditional resource centre based day services to programmes in the community.

Conference Themes:

- SUSE: Welcome Back and Looking Forward
- How can supported employment thrive in a Fair Start future?
- The integration & alignment agenda: What are the opportunities for supported employment?
- Delivering quality, achieving excellence in Supported Employment.
- The Disability Employment Gap: meeting the challenge.

[Click her for more details and to book tickets.](#)

[Click here for the SUSE Scotland web site.](#)

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www.stf.org.uk