

16 June 2017

STF NEWS STF Awards 2017

The STF Awards 2017 will be launched next week. Ten categories are available. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 4 August 2017. The winners will be announced at a ceremony during the STF Annual Conference on 26 September 2017.

STF NEWS FIPS concerns continue

Many STF members are reporting ongoing and significant problems with the validation process in FIPS.

SDS has confirmed that a technical fault with the system several weeks ago has been resolved, but some STF members are still experiencing problems which are resulting in milestone payments being reclaimed – in some cases for as much as £8,000.

STF has raised member concerns with SDS on several occasions and the Chief Executive will be meeting with SDS officers next week to raise specific member issues.

Anecdotal evidence would suggest that some providers are being affected more than others with problems in the validation process. Some STF members appear to have ongoing problems – whilst others have reported no problems at all.

STF is undertaking an online survey to seek feedback on member experience of FIPS to date. The results of the survey will be shared with SDS with a view to resolving problem areas.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND ITA eligibility criteria

Skills Development Scotland has published eligibility criteria for the new Individual Training Accounts. [Click here for more details.](#)

STF NEWS FIPS online survey

An online survey aimed at collecting feedback on member experience in using FIPS is being finalised. All members will be sent an email next Monday – which will include a link to the survey – requesting their participation.

The survey aims to capture member experience – both positive and negative – in using the FIPS system.

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS Increase in Modern Apprenticeships

The number of Modern Apprenticeship starts increased to 26,262 and exceeded the 2016/17 annual target, new statistics have confirmed. Skills Development Scotland's Modern Apprenticeship statistics for the fourth quarter of 2016/17 revealed that over the year:

- The number of Modern Apprenticeships starts exceeded the 2016/17 target of 26,000
- 76% (19,847) of new starts were aged between 16 and 24
- The largest proportion of new starts (23%) were in the construction industry.

[Click here for more details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT New fund to improve and align support services

The Scottish Government has announced the introduction of a new £2.5 million fund aimed at improving the help delivered to people looking to access employment and training.

The Employability Innovation and Integration Fund will look to join up employment support with health and social care, justice and housing services, making sure people receive the level of support they need to find sustainable employment.

[Click here for Scottish Government press release.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT Programme to improve college student retention

The first national improvement programme to raise attainment and improve retention in Scotland's colleges has been launched by Further Education Minister Shirley-Anne Somerville. The new improvement programme will explore what is already working well and what more the FE sector can do to ensure college students stay on and gain the full benefits of attending college. [Click here for Scottish Government press release.](#)

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](#). For the first time, members are now able to book online.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND Volunteers required to help improve apprenticeships.scot

SDS is looking for training providers to help with the re-design of some sections of the apprenticeships.scot web site. Improvements to the way in which employers can search for training providers who are approved to deliver each MA Framework are being investigated.

Members interested in attending a workshop to help with this review should contact Laura Kerr at SDS on email: Laura.Kerr@sds.co.uk

Forthcoming meetings and events

23 June 2017
STF Workshop – Changes to ILAITAs
Mercure Hotel, Glasgow

16 August 2017
STF Board Meeting
Glasgow

5 September 2017
SQA/STF Forum
SQA, 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

APPRENTICESHIPS Scottish Apprenticeship Show

The Scottish Apprenticeship Show will take place at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on September 3-5, Edinburgh's EICC on October 1-2 and the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Aberdeen Treetops on October 10th.

More details at: www.scottishapprenticeshipshow.co.uk

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND Digital Xtra Fund now open

Projects that teach digital technologies skills to young people could be in line for a financial boost as the Digital Xtra Fund announces its first funding round since becoming a charity.

A total of £50,000 will be available for projects that inspire young people by taking digital skills out of the classroom and teaching concepts like computational thinking, coding, digital making, or data science in a fun environment. Applications open on 16 June and each project can apply for up to £5000. [Click here for more details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS SQA Star Awards 2017

The closing date for applications for the SQA Star Awards 2017 is Friday 30 June 2017. The SQA Star Awards recognise the achievements of individuals working towards SQA qualifications as well as the schools, colleges, training providers and employers who help to deliver SQA qualifications - that enable learners to achieve their ambitions.

More details are available at: www.sqa.org.uk/star

DYW RESEARCH Volunteers needed for DYW research

The School of Education at the University of Glasgow is seeking help with a research project focussing on the role of training providers in DYW - and is looking to speak with project managers and young people who are engaged on DYW projects. More details are available on the [STF web site](#).

MEMBER NEWS Job Vacancy – Tennent's Training Academy

Tennent's Training Academy is currently recruiting for a Finance Administrator. The Finance Administrator is responsible for all finance in the day to day running for the academy including trade, leisure and awarding body administration including exam security and covering reception duties.

This person reports to and is supported by the Head of Operations and together will ensure all tasks relating to awarding body administration are completed to the standard set and within the timescales set by the awarding bodies. Working in line with head office requirements for deadlines and times scales for financial information required for the business.

Interested parties should email their CV to Lisa Smith on email: LisaSmith@TennentsTrainingAcademy.co.uk

MEMBER NEWS Job Vacancy – Experiential Play

Experiential Play is currently recruiting an experienced SVQ Assessor – Social Services (Children and Young People). All applicants must be eligible to register with the SSSC, have previous experience working in childcare and relevant qualifications.

Applicants will be required to assess candidates across levels 2, 3 and 4 and deliver teaching classes at the company training centre in Springburn. All candidates are required to have their own car. The salary for this post is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications; please send your CV to carol@experientialplay.com More details are available on the [STF web site](#).

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](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Job Vacancy – Muir Slicer Associates

Muir Slicer Associates is looking for Assessor to join its team. Candidates should be able to assess Retail at Levels 2 and 3 and Management at Level 3. The ability to assess Business and Administration would be a bonus. The ability to do Internal Verification would be of benefit but training in this can be given. More details are available on the [STF web site](#) or from Marie Muir on email mariemuir@muirslicer.com

MEMBER OFFER

Exclusive offer for STF members: Free setup of the communications module for orders placed before 31 December 2017

STF members who currently offer Modern Apprenticeships, or who would like to develop this service, can benefit from an exclusive offer from CogniSoft, developer of the leading skills case management YETI system.

[Click here for more details on the STF web site.](#)

www.stf.org.uk