

STF NEWS

Meeting with Training Minister

The Chief Executive and Members of the STF Board will meet with Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, on 17 April. The meeting will focus on cuts to MA Contribution Rates, procurement arrangements for the Flexible Workforce Development Fund / Foundation Apprenticeships and the future of the Employability Fund. Members with any specific questions they would like raised should contact [Stuart McKenna](#)

STF NEWS

Completion of contracts

Members have reported being very busy completing their MA and EF contracts for this financial year. With the deadline approaching, members are encouraged to complete contracts as SDS has confirmed that failure to do so may affect future contract allocations. STF and SDS will hold an event in April to look a range of issues relating to MA and EF procurement. More details to follow.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Devolved Employment Services statistics

Scotland's Chief Statistician has published the second in a new series of [experimental statistics](#) about Scotland's Devolved Employment Services. The statistics cover the first nine months of Work First Scotland and Work Able Scotland, both launched, April 2017.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new members

STF is delighted to welcome two new members:

- [Semta](#)
- The Training Team.

Membership of STF currently stands at 136.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

£1.8 billion for universities & colleges 2018-19

The allocation of £1.8 billion of public funding to individual universities and colleges has been announced for the next academic year.

Universities will share over £1.1 billion of funding while the revenue budget for colleges will increase by 8.3% to nearly £600 million, with the college capital budget also increasing by nearly £30 million to a total of £76.7 million.

The indicative allocations, published by the Scottish Funding Council, also show core student support funding increasing by £3.6 million, with an extra £5.2 million set aside for the implementation of the Independent Review of Student Support. [Scottish Government press release.](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Increase in Hospitality Core Skills levels

Core Skills levels in two Hospitality Apprenticeships have been increased following the approval of new Frameworks by MAG (Modern Apprenticeship Group). In the SCQF Level 5 Framework, Communication and Numeracy have risen from 3 to 4; in the SCQF Level 7 Framework, four of the five core skills levels have been increased. [More details.](#)

A number of STF members have expressed concern at the changes, stating that they will not be welcomed by employers. Members who share these concerns are asked to contact [Stuart McKenna](#)

APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

BBC feature on Apprenticeship Levy

BBC news has published a feature about the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy across the UK. The feature notes that the number of apprentices in England has fallen by 30% this year – and that many employers are unsure if they need to pay the Levy.

[Click here for BBC website feature.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

WorldSkills UK Engineering

WorldSkills UK is a set of dynamic skills competitions for young people and adults, designed and delivered by industry experts. They run each year in over 55 skills across the UK.

Top scorers from across the regional heats and selection events will be invited to compete at National Finals at WorldSkills UK, The Skills Show. Semta is encouraging applications for a range of Engineering categories. [Click here for more details.](#)

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

4 April 2018

Workshop: [Apprenticeships North and South of the border](#)
City & Guilds, Glasgow

12 April 2018

[STF Care Forum](#)
tbc, Glasgow

tbc April 2018

Workshop: GDPR for Training Providers
Glasgow

22 May 2018

[SQA/STF Focus Group](#)
SQA, Glasgow

31 May 2018

Workshop: [Foundation Apprenticeship Procurement](#)
Tbc, Glasgow

1 June 2018

Workshop: [Dealing with disability in the workplace](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

STF NEWS

SDS and STF Board minutes

Members are reminded that minutes of past meetings of the STF Board are available in the Member Section of the web site.

In addition, minutes of past SDS/STF Quarterly Meetings are also available in the Member section.

Members who have lost or forgotten their login details should contact [Stuart McKenna](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

South of Scotland Enterprise Agency consultation

A Scottish Government consultation will seek the views of the local community and beyond on the shape of the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. The new agency is tasked with reinvigorating the area's economy. [Click here for Scottish Government press release.](#)

MEMBER EVENTS

City & Guilds Networking Events

City and Guilds is running a series of free network events in Glasgow across the following sectors: Hair and Beauty, Automotive, Construction, Hospitality and Catering. These events will give you the opportunity to discuss our qualifications, our resources and our digital products as well as network with our Industry Managers, Technical Advisors and Digital Solutions Team. [Click here for more details.](#)

EQUALITIES

Diversity Conference 2018

The Herald and GenAnalytics Diversity Conference in association with Standard Life Aberdeen will take place on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow. Speakers include Jamie Hepburn MSP. [Click here for more details.](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Early Years apprenticeships increase

A record number of early years apprenticeships are expected to start this year as part of the expansion of free nursery and childcare. The Scottish Government is almost doubling funded childcare from 600 to 1,140 hours by 2020, backed by £243 million in the 2018-19 draft budget alone.

The number of early learning and childcare Modern Apprenticeships has already increased by 22% over the past five years. That figure is set to rise even further following a £1,000 increase in the contribution offered to employers. The number of Foundation Apprenticeships is expected to more than double to more than 700. [More details.](#)

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

www.stf.org.uk