

18 August 2017

STF NEWS

Welcome to new members

STF is delighted to welcome the following new members who have joined the federation in the last two weeks:

- [Dumfries and Galloway College](#)
- [Stramash Social Enterprise](#)
- [Paisley and Johnstone Training Group](#)
- [Remit Food](#)

STF membership currently stands at 138.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

SAAB Structure and remit

An updated document which outlines the structure and remit of the Scottish Apprenticeship Advisory Board – SAAB – has been published by Skills Development Scotland. The document also contains a list of members of the four groups which comprise SAAB. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Disability Confident Event

Skills Development Scotland has arranged a 'Disability Confident Event' in Aberdeen on 30 August 2017.

The event is designed to provide employers and training providers with the opportunity to find out more about Disability Confident, Access to Work funding, the ASN Access Fund, Scottish Employer Recruitment Incentive and further information on equality and diversity. [Click here for more details.](#)

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.

STF NEWS

FIPS survey analysis published

An analysis of the recent STF member survey on the FIPS (Funding Information and Processing System) has been published.

The main findings of the survey are:

- Many users feel that FIPS has increased functionality and is easier to use than CTS
- The main dissatisfaction with FIPS stems from the introduction of the candidate validation process
- The overwhelming majority of users have to prompt candidates because they have not responded to texts or emails from SDS. This results in (1) increased administration and (2) disruption to cash flow
- Faster communication from SDS is required. A telephone helpline and user guide would be helpful.

The STF Board has discussed the findings of the survey and will raise a range of issues with SDS officers at the next scheduled joint meeting being held on 12 September.

The full report can be viewed in the member section of the STF website (Consultations & Survey Responses section), or by emailing [Stuart McKenna](#)

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.](#)

EUROPEAN FUNDING

ECVET workshop in Glasgow

The ECVET (European Credit transfer system for Vocational Education and Training) Expert team is holding a workshop in Glasgow on 7 September 2017 providing an introduction to ECVET and an opportunity to hear from experienced Erasmus+ mobility practitioners who will share their experiences. [Click here for more details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Seven things about Scottish Apprenticeships

The Scottish Government has published a new leaflet 'Seven things you need to know about Scottish Apprenticeships' which provides information about Apprenticeships and the Apprenticeship Levy in Scotland. The two-page document will be helpful to training providers in explaining the apprenticeship system to their employers. [Click here for more details.](#)

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

21 August 2017

[STF Workshop: Early Learning and
Childcare Expansion](#)

Mercure Hotel, Glasgow

24 August 2017

[STF Workshop: Key Principles of
Apprenticeships: SAAB
Consultation](#)

Mercure Hotel, Glasgow

26 & 27 September 2017

[STF Annual Conference 2017](#)
Crieff Hydro

MEMBER NEWS

Sibbald is Finalist in Business Awards

STF Member, Sibbald Training, has been selected as finalists in two business categories for the VIBES Scottish Environmental Business Awards 2017.

The VIBES – Scottish Environmental Business Awards encourages businesses across Scotland to increase their sustainability and reduce impact on the environment. [Click here for more details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

SCQF celebrates Living Wage commitment

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership has announced that the organisation has been accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative. [Click here for more details.](#)

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

www.stf.org.uk