

2 June 2017

STF NEWS

Equalities and the business bottom line workshop

A free member workshop focussing on the use of data and analytics to support the business case for a more diverse workforce will be held in Glasgow on **Wednesday 14 June 2017**.

The workshop will also include an update on recent equalities activities within Skills Development Scotland, including the review of quality standards for training providers.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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

GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS

Tender for GLAs

Skills Development Scotland has published tender details for Graduate Level Apprenticeships: Pathfinder Delivery 2017/18-2019/20 on the PCS web site. [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.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

MA and EF procurement details 2017-18 published

Skills Development Scotland has published details of successful bidders and volumes contracted for in 2017-2018 for Modern Apprenticeships and the Employability Fund.

For the Employability Fund, 8788 places have been allocated to a total of 110 organisations. Twenty-six organisations have residual contracts with no volumes allocated.

For Modern Apprenticeships, 27,710 places have been allocated to a total of 254 organisations. Seventeen organisations have residual contracts with no new starts for 2017-18.

[Click here for more details.](#)

STF NEWS

FIPS problems raised at SDS meeting

STF raised member unhappiness with aspects of FIPS at a recent meeting with SDS officers. The major area of complaint from members relates to text and email validations which are being made by candidates and employers, but are not being received by SDS. Members are reporting that SDS is requesting proof that replies have been sent - and securing this evidence is resulting in significant additional work for members.

SDS has confirmed that a technical issue with FIPS over the last few weeks had resulted in validations not being accepted. It says the issue has now been resolved.

STF will be sending out an online questionnaire to members next week to establish the main areas of complaint. SDS has agreed to use the survey results to make improvements to the system where possible.

APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

Levy web links updated

The latest information from Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland on the Apprenticeship Levy in Scotland can be accessed via links on the [STF web site](#).

A link to information on the Apprenticeship Levy in England is also available on this page.

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](#).

Forthcoming meetings and events

14 June 2017

STF Workshop – Equalities and the business bottom line
City & Guilds, Glasgow

23 June 2017

STF Workshop – ILA changes and Levy opportunities (repeat)
tbc, 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

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](mailto:Stuart.McKenna@stf.org.uk)

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@muislicer.com

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

New updates to apprenticeships website

SDS has worked with training providers to help shape developments to dedicated website apprenticeships.scot. The site now includes a step-by-step guide to the process of taking on a Modern Apprentice, from application and tendering right through to completion.

Soon it will be possible to search for publications which currently exist on the Provider Area of skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk. Plans are also underway to migrate Modern Apprenticeship publications to apprenticeships.scot to ensure all apprenticeships information and documentation is together in one place. [Click here for more details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Graduate Apprenticeship expansion

The Scottish Government has announced an expansion to the Graduate Apprenticeship programme. A total of 379 places will be made available for individuals to study for a degree, up to Masters level, while in work in 2017/18. This builds on the investment that delivered a successful pilot of 27 places in 2016/17. [Click here for Scottish Government press release.](#)

www.stf.org.uk