

20 December 2017

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND MA and EF Tenders 2018-19

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has confirmed that contracting documents for the Modern Apprenticeship and Employability Fund programmes for 2018-19 will be posted to the PCS website tomorrow (Thursday 21 December 2017).

The closing dates for completed tenders are:

- Employability Fund - 24 January 2018
- Modern Apprenticeships - 29 January 2018.

SDS has acknowledged that these are tight timescales, particularly for EF providers. However, it has confirmed that no extensions to these deadlines are possible.

## STF NEWS

### Welcome to new member

STF is delighted to welcome a new member to the federation:

[Thermal Insulation Contractors Association](#)

Membership of STF currently stands at 143.

Invoices for 2018 membership will be issued in early January. Membership rates will be unchanged at £370 (or £350 if paid within 4 weeks).

## YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018 YOYP 2018

The Year of Young People 2018 aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.

[Click here for more details.](#)

## SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIPS

### Last chance to respond to Apprenticeship Consultation

The Scottish Apprenticeship Advisory Board's *Defining an Apprenticeship* Consultation will close at **midnight tonight** (20 December 2017). The consultation results will be used to inform the development of future policy with Apprenticeships in Scotland so it is vital that STF members respond. [Click here for survey and supporting information.](#)

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Draft Budget 2018-19

The Scottish Government published its Draft Budget 2018-19 on 14 December 2017, which included details of the proposed spending for Skills and Training.

The Budget allocation for Skills Development Scotland (SDS) – which includes Modern Apprenticeships and Employability Fund - will increase from £179.9 million to £193.3 million. However, the overall Skills and Training budget will remain static at £232 million. [More details.](#)

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

### Updated Regional Skills Assessments published

The latest editions of Regional Skills Assessments (RSAs) have now been published. The RSAs provide regional and local demand statements to inform investment in skills, including strategic investment by SDS, the SFC and other partners.

The latest RSAs feature: (1) 14 regional insight reports with accompanying slide packs and infographics; (2) Four City Deal Reports with accompanying slide packs; (3) Summary reports for every local authority in Scotland.

[Click here for more details.](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### New Vocational Pathway Fund

STF members may be interested in a new fund aimed at promoting vocational training in the Scottish Museum sector. The *Vocational Pathway Fund* – run by Museums Galleries Scotland – will fund projects in two main areas: (1) Building the infrastructure of the sector to increase its capacity to facilitate work-based learning; (2) Pilot ways of addressing gaps in current provision.

Funding of up to £20,000 for each project is available. The closing date for applications is Monday 19 February 2018. Detailed information about the fund is available at: [Museums Galleries Scotland web site.](#)

#### MEMBER NEWS

##### **Denise is new C&G contact**

Denise Smith is the new contact for City & Guilds Scotland. She will also continue in her current role with ILM. She can be contacted at [Denise.Smith@cityandguilds.com](mailto:Denise.Smith@cityandguilds.com) or 07768 323606.

#### STF NEWS

##### **Back to Crieff for the Annual Conference!**

Following much debate by the Board of Directors, sponsors and members, it has been agreed that the STF Annual Conference 2018 will be held – again – at Crieff Hydro!

The dates for your diary are:  
Tuesday 25 September &  
Wednesday 26 September 2018.

#### STF NEWS

##### **Workshop programme 2018**

Workshops for members are currently being arranged covering the following topics:

- GDPR for training providers
- Foundation Apprenticeship Procurement
- SQA Verification Process.

Members with suggestions for future workshops are encouraged to contact [Stuart McKenna](mailto:Stuart McKenna)

#### MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

### **Extra Apprenticeship funding via Open Doors**

The Open Doors In-Work Support Package aims to support people with disabilities, mental health problems and other barriers such care leavers, ex-offenders and young carers into work and over a duration enable them to sustain employment on a long-term basis.

This year, an Enhanced Support Modern Apprenticeship package is being offered which includes additional resources for training providers, including:

- Help with recruitment
- Support to make reasonable adjustments at recruitment process
- FREE bespoke awareness training for training providers
- Ongoing support from a qualified Supported Employment Coordinator
- Support to make reasonable adjustments training material
- £1000.00 to cover the costs of any adaptations and support to apply for any adaptive materials/equipment

More details are available on a Fact Sheet on the [STF Web Site](#) or from Lucy Pearson at Enable Scotland on: [lucy.pearson@enable.org.uk](mailto:lucy.pearson@enable.org.uk)

#### MEMBER NEWS

### **CDN and SCQF Partnership Joint Offer to the College Sector**

College Development Network and the SCQF Partnership have come together to provide a joint offer, reflecting key development areas of the college sector. The offer will run from November 2017 to July 2018.

The organisations are offering joint bespoke support, consultancy and advice to the college sector as well as a range of specific events.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Email your news stories to: [stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk](mailto:stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk)

**[www.stf.org.uk](http://www.stf.org.uk)**