

EMPLOYABILITY

Workshop to discuss Employability Review

A workshop aimed at seeking member feedback on the current Scottish Government Review of Employability Services will be held in Glasgow on Thursday 28 June 2018, from 2.00-4.00pm.

Research on the Employability Fund, commissioned by STF, will be discussed at the event. Representatives from the Scottish Government Employability team undertaking the review will be in attendance. [More details.](#)

STF NEWS

STF Awards 2018

Nominations for the STF Awards 2018 are now being welcomed. The closing date for entries is Friday 3 August 2018.

[Click here for more details.](#)

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

FA Procurement coming soon

Procurement for Foundation Apprenticeships 2019-21 is expected to commence in July. SDS webinars to assist in the procurement process will be made available.

Because of time constraints over the summer period, plans to hold a workshop for STF members have been shelved. However, STF will provide members with links and updates.

STF NEWS

Repeat for GDPR workshop

More than 50 members have now attended the SDS workshop on GDPR. The workshop will be repeated once more on Friday 29 June in Glasgow.

[Click here for more details.](#)

EMPLOYABILITY

We need your EF thumbnail case studies!

STF is currently gathering information from members to help support the case for the continuation of the Employability Fund (EF) beyond the current financial year. Initial research has indicated that policy makers may be unaware of the rich diversity of provision of the programme – and the range of employers engaged.

To address this, STF Members who currently deliver the EF are asked to provide short, thumbnail, case studies of a typical participant journey - based on real people - which highlights the diversity of provision and links to employers. Case studies need only be 2-3 paragraphs long. Please send to stuart.mckenna@stf.org.uk by Thursday 28 June 2018.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Digital Development Loan launched

A £2 million Digital Development Loan has been launched to provide companies who wish to improve their digital capabilities and processes in areas such as cyber security, data analytics and software engineering as well as to develop the digital skills of their staff as part of our drive to improve digital economic productivity across Scotland. [More details.](#)

STF NEWS

FIPS developments

Minutes from the latest meeting of the FIPS Focus Group have now been published. This group – which brings together training provider staff using FIPS with SDS staff who manage the system – has helped to highlight the main areas where problems arise and has an ongoing role in improving the system by sharing knowledge and best practice. The minute includes information on CTS migration, SCQF & VQ reporting, NTP Hub requests and Undoing Claims. [More details.](#)

At the latest SDS/STF Quarterly Meeting, statistics on the Validation system were discussed. In March 2018, 78% of starts and milestones were validated within one day of receipt of either text or email – and overall 96% were validated within the 30 day period. More recent statistics will be available shortly. A minute of the SDS/STF Quarterly Meeting held on 15 March 2018 is available in the Member Section of the STF web site.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

School leaver destination statistics

Scotland's Chief Statistician has published summary statistics for school leaver destinations. Results show that 92.9% of 2016-17 school leavers were in a positive destination in March 2018; the highest rate since 2009/10. Compared to the previous school leaver cohort (2015/16) there was an increase in the proportion of leavers in HE, from 37.3% to 38.3%, and in FE, from 22.4% to 23.0%. [More details.](#)

Forthcoming workshops, meetings and events

28 June 2018

Workshop: [Scottish Government Employability Review](#)
SCQF, Glasgow

29 June 2018

Workshop: [GDPR for Training Providers \(Repeat\)](#)
City & Guilds, Glasgow

16 August 2018

[STF Care Forum](#)
City & Guilds, Glasgow

21 August 2018

SQA Focus Group
SQA, Glasgow

25 & 26 September 2018

[STF Annual Conference & Awards 2018](#)
Crieff Hydro, Crieff

MEMBER NEWS

SCQFP Operational Plan

SCQF Partnership has published its Operational Plan for 2018-19. The plan outlines the key activities the organisation will undertake in the 2018-19 period. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

SQA Star Awards 2018

SQA has extended the deadline for submitting entries for the 2018 SQA Star Awards by one week to Friday 6 July. More details at: www.sqa.org.uk/star

STF NEWS

SDS/STF Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the SDS/STF Quarterly Meeting held in March 2018 are now available to view in the Member Section (SDS Meeting Papers) of the STF web site.

SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIPS

Deadline for Apprenticeships Awards

Nominations for the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards close on Wednesday, 27 June. The awards, organised by Skills Development Scotland, recognise the best apprentices and apprentice employers from the length and breadth of the country. Find out more about this year's categories and nominate online at apprenticeships.scot

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

FA Commemorative certificates

SQA will shortly be issuing the first Foundation Apprenticeship commemorative certificates to candidates who have successfully completed their apprenticeships.

Certificates will be issued after centres have entered candidates and their corresponding results for both the individual qualifications and units within the Foundation Apprenticeship framework, and for the Foundation Apprenticeship itself. [More details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

SDS publishes Annual Review 2017-18

Skills Development Scotland has published an Annual Review covering the period 2017-18. The ten-page document highlights the progress the agency has made in a range of areas in the last year, including with Apprenticeships and Employability. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Job vacancy – SCQF Partnership

The SCQF Partnership is currently recruiting for a full time permanent post which will support the organisation's office management function. [Click here for more details.](#)

COLLEGE SECTOR

Audit Scotland reports on Scotland's colleges

Audit Scotland has published a report on the financial position of Scotland's colleges. It noted that the sector had a small financial surplus last year, compared to an £8m deficit the previous year. However, the recent pay harmonisation deal would add £50m a year to staff costs and colleges are facing an estimated £360m bill for repair work. [More details.](#)

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

www.stf.org.uk