

22 September 2017

ANNUAL CONFERENCE **STF Annual Conference**

Final preparations are being made for the STF Annual Conference and Awards 2017. All delegates will have received joining instructions now – anyone who has not should contact [Lynsay Bryce](#) [Click here for more details about the Programme.](#)

STF NEWS **Disappointment at Flexible Workforce Development Fund**

Many members have contacted STF to register their disappointment that the new Flexible Workforce Development Fund will be administered via colleges only.

A member survey will be conducted in the next few weeks to collect more detailed feedback which will be discussed by the Board. More details about the fund are on the [Scottish Funding Council web site.](#)

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS **Registration as ITA provider**

Members are reminded that the closing date for training providers to register as ITA providers is 30 September. [More details.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT **SDS Letter of Guidance**

The Scottish Government has issued Skills Development Scotland with its Letter of Guidance for 2017-18. The letter outlines the government's expectations of SDS in the current year. [More details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS **Funding announced for IiYP**

Scottish Government has awarded Remarkable (formerly Investors in People Scotland) £200k grant funding to support 300 eligible businesses through the Investors in Young People (IiYP) Good Practice Framework by 31st March, 2018. [Click here for more details.](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS **Apprenticeship Rural Supplement Consultation**

Skills Development Scotland is seeking feedback from training providers and key stakeholders on what eligibility criteria should be applied for the Modern Apprenticeship Rural Supplement during the 2018/19 operational year. Feedback from this consultation will help inform and shape the Rural Supplement funding for 2018/19.

This consultation will close on Wednesday 27th of September at 3pm. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS **Early Learning and Childcare MAs**

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) has been asked by Scottish Government to review the financial contributions and eligibility criteria for Early Learning and Childcare related apprenticeships for those over 25. A meeting will be held in early October 2017 to discuss and review the cost of provision – and to further investigate and reflect elements of reflective practice and learning within the VQ provision for ELC related frameworks.

SDS is looking for four or five STF members to attend the meeting and share their knowledge of the ELC sector. To register your interest, please email: [Stuart McKenna](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT **Concessionary Travel Scheme consultation**

The Scottish Government is consulting on the future of the National Concessionary Travel Scheme. It is seeking the views of people across Scotland on how best to ensure the longer term sustainability of the existing free bus travel scheme and on providing free bus travel to young modern apprentices.

It is particularly keen to have as many Modern Apprentices or those with a shared interest in the success of apprenticeships contribute to the consultation. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND **Equalities Workshops for Training Providers**

Skills Development Scotland is teaming up with equality groups on a series of apprenticeship workshops for training providers. The sessions aim to help providers to recruit and support apprentices from underrepresented groups.

It's part of SDS's plan to ensure apprenticeships are accessible and inclusive for all. The workshops will take place between October and December. [Click here for more details.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

SUSE seeks Board Members

The Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE) is a membership organisation representing organisations and practitioners who deliver supported employment across Scotland.

SUSE is now seeking new Board Members who share its passion for equality and diversity in the workplace and will uphold its commitment to best practice and partnership. [Click here for more details.](#)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Latest Participation Measure statistics published

The latest data on the learning, training or work status of Scotland's young people aged between 16 and 19 has been published by Skills Development Scotland.

The Participation Measure is the primary means of monitoring the impact of Opportunities for All – the Scottish Government's commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19-year-old who is not currently in employment, education or training.

The figures show proportion of young people in Scotland in education, training or employment has increased by 0.7 percentage points over the last year to 91.1%.

The highest participation rate is amongst 16-year-olds (98.8%), with the vast majority at school (91.5%). The participation rate for 19-year-olds witnessed the greatest increase – up 1.7 percentage points – over the last year.

[Click here for more details.](#)

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

www.stf.org.uk