

23 January 2018

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Increase in Hospitality Core Skills levels

Core Skills levels in two Hospitality Apprenticeships are set to increase following the approval of new Frameworks by MAG (Modern Apprenticeship Group).

In the SCQF Level 5 Framework, Communication and Numeracy will rise from 3 to 4; in the SCQF Level 7 Framework, four of the five core skills levels will be increased. [More details](#). Some STF members have expressed concern at the changes, stating that they will not be welcomed by employers. Members who share these concerns are asked to contact [Stuart McKenna](#)

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. [Click here for more details](#).

MEMBER NEWS

SCQF Conference 2018

Limited places are still available for the SCQF Conference 2018, Linking the Learning Journey, taking place on 22 February 2018 in Glasgow. Speakers include John Swinney MSP and Audrey Cumberford, Principal of West College Scotland. [More details](#).

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Changes to Management MA

Changes to Management Modern Apprenticeship Frameworks are being considered by MAG. Proposals include replacing core skills with career skills in higher level Frameworks. MAG will discuss the changes at its next meeting on 8 February.

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

Mixed response to new MA funding rates

STF members have given a mixed response to the 2018-19 MA Contribution Rates published by Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

Increases in rates for Management, Social Services (Children & Young People), Dental Nursing, Automotive and Engineering have been welcomed. The increase for Management Frameworks is particularly welcome as the STF Board has lobbied for such an increase for some time.

However, some members have been dismayed by the significant cuts made to the Glass and Equine Frameworks, which have reduced from £4,500 to £3,200 and £4,000 to £2,700 respectively. Members delivering these Frameworks will be considering whether or not it is financially viable to continue with these apprenticeships in the short and medium term.

Smaller cuts have also been introduced in specific age bands in Business & Administration, Customer Service and Hospitality. The rate for Hospitality, SCQF Level 5, 25 plus, is reduced from £350 to £300. With the cost of SVQ registration, core skills registration and MA Online charges adding up to £150 per candidate, training providers are left with £150 for programme delivery.

The STF Board will discuss the funding changes with SDS next month. Ahead of this, a short survey will be sent to all members to gather data on the impact of the changes – and the results of the survey will be discussed with SDS.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

New SIP to help grow Childcare sector by 11,000

Skills Development Scotland has published a new national Early Learning and Childcare Skills Investment Plan (SIP) for the sector.

The plan was created with a sector-led Steering Group made up of 15 organisations including employers and partners such as Scottish Government, the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Social Service Council and STF. The new SIP will help the Early Learning and Childcare sector to attract a more diverse workforce to create an additional 11,000 jobs by 2020 to meet expected demand. [More details](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Apprenticeship expansion announced

The Scottish Government has confirmed that 28,000 new Modern Apprenticeship starts will be delivered in 2018-19. In addition, funding has been made available to support 2,600 Foundation Apprenticeships and 887 Graduate Apprenticeships. [More details](#).

The branding 'Graduate Level Apprenticeship' has now been replaced by 'Graduate Apprenticeship' to better align it to the existing apprenticeship family. The new brand can now be found on the SCQF levelling table [here](#).

MEMBER NEWS
SQA/STF Forum

The next meeting of the SQA/STF Forum will be held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 in Glasgow.

All STF members are welcome to attend this forum. Documents from previous meetings are available in the Member section of the STF web site. [More details.](#)

EVENTS
SCoD Conference

The Scottish Council on Deafness annual conference will be held in Glasgow on Thursday 8th March 2018. [More details.](#)

MEMBER FEEDBACK
Watch out for the spam!

Several members have reported receiving spam email recently which appears to come from 'SDS macontracts' and asks for recipients to click on a hyperlink. Separate messages offer recipients the chance to purchase the STF Conference database! Both are bogus, so please ignore and delete.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
£10 million boost for South of Scotland

The Scottish Government has revealed the public and private sector partners who will make up the South of Scotland Economic Partnership, which will pave the way for a dedicated enterprise agency for the region, supported by a £10million injection for enterprise in the area. [More details.](#)

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS
Core Skills in Business & Administration MA

A change in the minimum level of core skills required in the Business & Administration Modern Apprenticeship Framework at SCQF 6 (Level 3) – introduced earlier this year – is causing concern for some STF members.

Core Skills in Communication, Numeracy and ICT – previously set at SCQF 4 – are now required at a minimum of SCQF 5. For some apprentices – particularly those in the 16-19 age group – the higher levels required do not reflect their job roles and this is making the delivery difficult.

Skills CfA undertook a consultation on these changes last November and reported that there was significant support for their implementation. However, now that the changes have taken place, STF is keen to hear from members about their experiences. Please email [Stuart McKenna](mailto:Stuart.McKenna@stf.org.uk) with your feedback

MEMBER NEWS
Job Vacancy – Tennent's Training Academy – Sales & Business Development Executive

Tennent's Training Academy is looking to recruit a Sales & Business Development Executive. [Click here for a full job description.](#)

Applications should be made to Lisa Smith, email: lisasmith@tennentstrainingacademy.co.uk

MEMBER NEWS
Job vacancy – SQA – Senior Regulation Manager

The Scottish Qualifications Authority is looking to recruit a Senior Regulation Manager to work within its Accreditation team to independently accredit, quality assure and regulate approved Awarding Bodies and qualifications thereby safeguarding the interests of learners, employers, parents, funding bodies, providers and the Scottish Government. [Click here for more details on S1 Jobs.com](#)

MEMBER NEWS
Job vacancy – RT Resources – SVQ Assessor

SVQ Assessor Required: Social Services & Healthcare (Adults and/or C&YP) SVQ Level 4 and Care Services Leadership & Management SVQ Level 4

Full time experienced Assessor required to deliver Social Services & Healthcare and Social Services & Healthcare (C&YP) at Level 4 and Care Services Leadership & Management SVQs at Level 4. The role will involve travel throughout West and Central Scotland. The successful candidate will have a background in a Nursing/Health or Social Care setting working with adults and/or children and young people. They will have an SVQ Level 4 or equivalent qualification.

Applications in writing including CV should be addressed to: Claire McCallum, Director, R T Resources Ltd 56 Churchill Tower Ayr KA7 1JT Closing date for applications **Friday 26th January 2018.**