



# Essential Skills in Colleges

# Event Aims

- Share practices and explore thinking about essential skills development, recognition, utilisation and evidencing .
- Discuss with learners, through a variety of workshops, their awareness of their essential skills and how this assists their progression beyond their college experience.
- To identify practices which could enhance awareness and achievement of essential skills throughout colleges.

# What are Essential Skills?

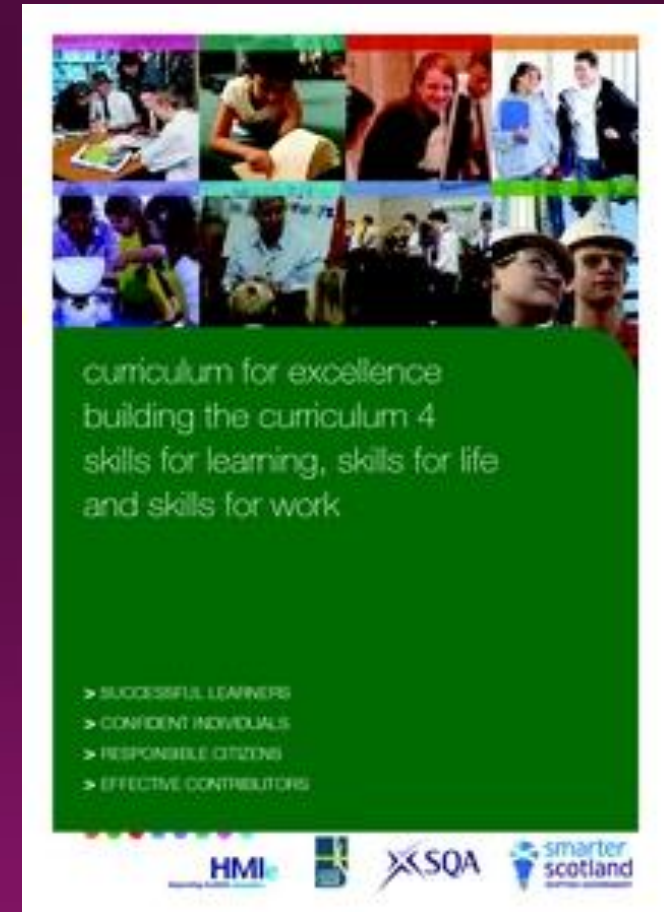
Overlapping clusters of skills:

- personal and learning skills that enable individuals to become effective lifelong learners
- literacy and numeracy
- the five core skills of communication, numeracy, problem solving, information technology and working with others
- employability skills that prepare individuals for employment rather than for a specific occupation
- vocational skills that are specific to a particular occupation or sector.



# Skills for Learning, Life and Work

- “To meet the aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence, there will need to be changes in the way people think about curriculum, shifting the focus from a view of curriculum content as either ‘academic’ or ‘vocational’, towards curriculum as encompassing the whole range of knowledge, skills and attributes that contribute to the four capacities”.
- “All children and young people need to be flexible and adaptable, with the capacity to continue developing the new skills which they will need for the rapidly changing challenges of life, learning and work in the modern world”.



# Employers

- Research – Employability, Skills and Lifelong Learning Analysis Education Analytical Services Division Scottish Government Social Research
- This research identified skills gaps (where employers have judged that their employees are not fully proficient) as affecting 6% of all employees in 2010, and skills shortages which refer to applicants for a job. The most commonly cited skills lacking (as stated by over 50% of employers) in both employees and applicants were:
  - planning and organising
  - problem solving
  - customer handling
  - team working skills
  - oral and written communication skills.



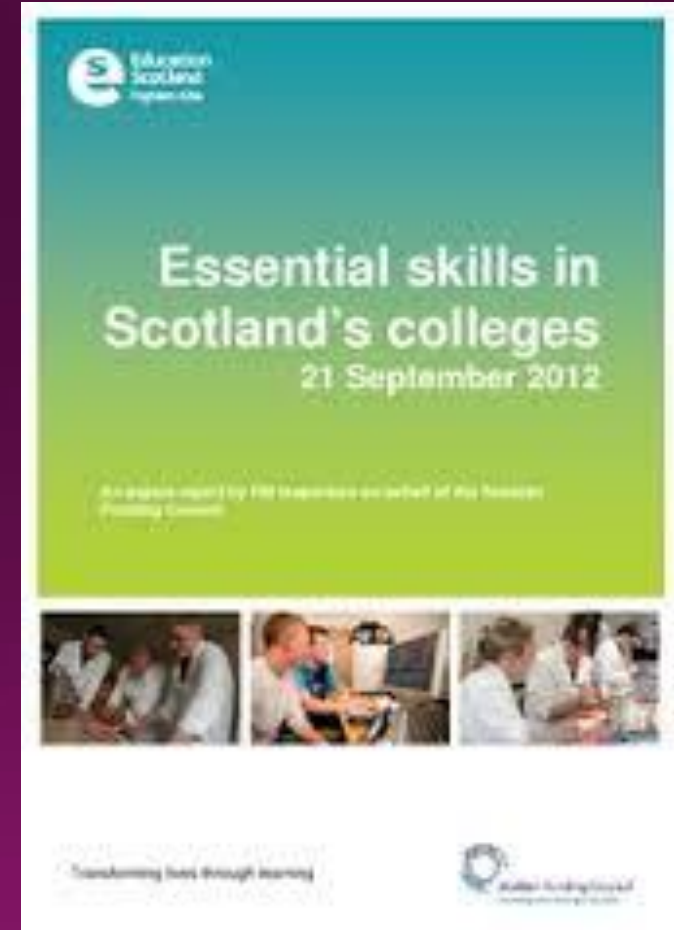
# Skills for Scotland (2010)

- Clear progress but challenges remain.
- “Scotland’s most critical skill shortage areas across many sectors of the economy are likely to be at skilled technician and associate professional level (intermediate level skills at SVQ Levels 3-4, SCQF Levels 6-8 equivalent) together with essential skills”.
- “renewed focus on the skills needed to accelerate recovery and to deliver sustainable economic growth with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish over the long term”.



# Education Scotland –Aspect Task

- Many examples of good practice identified in schools and colleges across Scotland.
- Recommendations for improvement.
- Skills for Progression event organised to:
  - promote essential skills
  - improve understanding and develop clarity of essential skills.



# Going Beyond...

- Develop
- Recognise
- Utilise



Please Wear Shoes