

## Chair's Report – January 2017

Welcome to 2017 everyone. Thank you for your commitment to the group last year and all your support. I sincerely hope this is a good year for everyone.

You will by now have put in your proposals for MAs and Employability Fund and may be considering Foundation Apprenticeship bidding again. This will be a busy year with many changes and demands but I am sure that with the strength of the WBL Steering Group in sharing ideas and good practice and with the support of our partners, the college sector will do well.

### Scottish Government Response to the UK Government Apprenticeship Levy

From the £221.40 million raised by the levy, £93.5 million will go towards Scottish Apprenticeships. Workforce Development and Pre-Employment Support will make up the rest. As you can see below, colleges will be allocated £10 million for the Flexible Workforce Development Fund and £36.3 million for Employment focused college provision. (Point for discussion – has the ring-fenced money from the Employability Fund been subsumed into these? It is interesting to note that ILAs and Employability Programmes will also be funded from the levy).

The levy will support the following:

- The creation of a new £10 million Workforce Development Fund which will help employers work in partnership with colleges to up-skill and re-skill their existing workforce and address skills gaps
- Continue to expand the number of Modern Apprenticeships to reach the Scottish Government target of 30,000 new starts per year by 2020
- Increase the number of Graduate Level and Foundation Apprenticeships in 2017–18
- Partnerships between employers, local authorities and the third sector to tackle unemployment and under-representation in the labour market
- The continued implementation of the Youth Employment Strategy and delivery of employment focused college provision for young people
- Skills support for priority sectors including digital, care and early years.

### The Apprenticeship Levy Breakdown

Activity	Estimated Expenditure in 2017–18
	£m
<i>MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS</i>	
Our continued commitment to delivery 30,000 new Modern Apprenticeship starts each year by 2020.	81.5
National Occupation Standards	0.5
Sub-total	82.0

<i>GRADUATE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS</i>	
Graduate Level Apprenticeships	4.7
Sub-total	4.7
<i>FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS</i>	
Foundation Apprenticeships	6.8
Sub-total	6.8
<i>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</i>	
Support to employers to help disadvantaged young people to access and sustain employment	9.3
Developing the Young Workforce Regional Groups	4.1
Flexible Workforce Development Fund	10.0
Digital Economy Skills & Business Support	1.9
Care Sector Skills - Voluntary Sector Development Fund	0.9
Early Years Recruitment & Training	25.0
Energy Sector – Transition Training Fund	6.0
Teacher Training	2.5
Individual Learning Accounts	3.9
Sub-total	63.6
<i>PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT</i>	
Employability Programmes	25.0
Employment focussed college provision	36.3
Inspiring Scotland	3.0
Sub-total	64.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>221.40</i>

For the full press release: <http://news.gov.scot/news/boost-for-apprenticeships>

For more information on the new £10million Workforce Development Fund and the prominent role colleges are set to have to support up-skilling the workforce,

please see: <http://news.gov.scot/news/gbp-10-million-to-support-workforce-development>

### **SDS Employability Service**

Work Able Scotland and Work First Scotland will support around 1,500 people with health conditions and 3,300 with disabilities into work respectively.

Please see: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2017/january/work-able-scotland-programme-to-offer-support-into-employment/>

### **SDS BEMIS Event**

Maria Roushias  
25/01/2017

The Glasgow BEMIS event to attract ethnic minorities to apprenticeships was held on Monday 23 January at the City Chambers. Four colleges as well as training providers, employers and the Armed Forces supported this successful event which schools and communities attended. It is intended to hold a similar event in Edinburgh.

### **SDS Scottish Apprenticeship Week**

The Scottish Apprenticeship Week is from the 6–10 March 2017. For more info go to:

<https://www.apprenticeships.scot/scottish-apprenticeship-week/>

### **SCQF Event**

Recognising European Skills and Qualifications and the opportunities of mobility to apprentices and students will be discussed at a free event hosted by SCQF on 31 January 2017 at their premises.

Please see: <http://scqf.org.uk/event/eu-vocational-education-training-tools-information-event/>

### **MA Frameworks**

The following frameworks have been approved/updated.

Construction Technical, Building and Specialist at SCQF level 5/6

Digital Marketing

Active Leisure SCQF Level 5

Business Administration SCQF Level 5/6

Automotive – new qualification codes, additional units, Levels 2 and Level 3

Water Industries Level 2 and Level 3

Business Administration-re-accreditation of C+Guilds qualifications

Construction Amendment – new qualification codes and removal of some qualifications

Engineering SCQF Levels 6, 8/9

Design Support SCQF Level 5

Design SCQF Level 7

The following Framework has been de-approved:

Power Distribution at SCQF 6, Wind Turbine Installation and Commissioning at SCQF Level 6, Network Construction( gas) at SCQF Level 5 and level 6.

## **Colleges Scotland 'Think Piece'**

This publication is the college sector's initial thoughts on what a coordinated learning and skills framework would look like. Some key thoughts are for the college sector to deliver the Scottish Government's target for the extra 5,000 apprenticeship places targeted in the increase to 30,000 by 2020 and for SDS careers to be based in colleges.

For discussion.

Please see: <http://collegesscotland.ac.uk/briefings-and-publications/851-think-piece-the-learning-and-skills-journey/file>