

## **Chair's Report – 16 March 2017**

### **SDS Contracts 2017–2018**

The MA and EF contracts should be posted any day now. With the FA and GLA contracts already published, colleges will be at the forefront of development with the range of programmes to be delivered. The Work Based Learning Steering Group, with the invaluable support of our Partners, will continue to keep everyone abreast of new developments as they arise.

### **CDN Event 2 June 2017**

Our next event on Friday 2 June 2017 will again bring key speakers to share news, ideas and good practice. The plan to date is to invite the Scottish Government for news on developments with the Apprenticeship Levy and Employability, Education Scotland on the latest Review results and their plan going forward, Skills Development Scotland/University on Graduate Level Apprenticeships and a representative from ECVET on the new Erasmus Pro programme for apprenticeship mobility, as we still haven't made real progress here compared to our European neighbours.

Presentations from our 10 February 2017 event:

['Vocational Education and Skills Training – Change and Consolidation'](#)

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

From the £221.40 million raised by the levy, colleges will be allocated £10 million for the Flexible Workforce Development Fund and £36.3 million for Employment focused college provision. There is little further information on this. STF made a representation to Scottish Government as to why only colleges are privy to this.

The full breakdown of the monies from the fund are in the [January 2017 Chair's Report](#).

### **BEMIS**

I met with BEMIS on 3 March to further discuss joint collaboration. In the short term there is a definite need for vocational language skills to enhance job prospects for their target groups. Is this something we can explore?

### **SDS Scottish Apprenticeship Week**

Colleges all contributed to this successful week from 6–10 March 2017. An excellent eight page feature on 'Scottish Apprenticeships' in the Evening Times amongst others on 17 February kick-started the SAW.

An STF event on 7 March: 'Progressing Equality and Diversity in Modern Apprenticeships' also contributed to the week's promotions. There were two presentations, one by Dr. Lesley Sawers, General Analytics and one by Rathbone, followed by workshops. I have attached these to this report for information.

## **MA Frameworks**

No new Frameworks have been approved since my last report. Some are going to MAG on 16 March for consideration.

## **End of Financial Year March 2017**

You will all be involved in processing achievements, claims and starts before the cut-off period. Hopefully all will go smoothly and you do not have FIPS issues but if you do, it is especially important that you contact SDS immediately. Most results will be going through CTS. I wish you all well regardless.