

Chair's Report

3rd May, 2018.

SDS News and Events

A useful link to all SDS activity

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/#events>

SDS Proposal for College Involvement in the new Quality Framework.

A meeting was hosted in Clyde College on the 18th April 2018 at the request of SDS, with Karen Murray and Julie Gray attending from SDS, Jim Anderson and Anne Thornton from Clyde College, and myself

Karen summed it up in a following email to us:

A framework in which to focus self-evaluation on SDS funded provision aligned to the Education Scotland MA review framework, therefore preparing colleges better for Education Scotland apprenticeship reviews

- The potential to negate the requirement to complete the RoPC part 2 for SDS compliance requirements (this is built into the SA process)
- The potential to negate the requirement to complete and monitor against an equality action plan (this is also built into the SA process)

Please see the link below for information. The proposal will be discussed at our Steering group meeting on the 11th May 2018.

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/for-training-providers/quality-assurance-framework/>

In the meantime, there will be a requirement for colleges to complete the RoPC part 2 for their apprenticeship provision and for the completion of an Equality Action Plan.

SDS MA and EF Performance

The direct link below is useful for matters pertaining to MAs, including on P.1 the MAG Minutes, on p.5 the contract values allocated in 2017-18 under the title “ 15th May 2017 Programme Rules Modern Apprenticeships 2017-18 contract detail by value”, and from pages 6-12 all the MA Frameworks.

[https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/publications/?page=1&area\[\]=8&order=date-desc](https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/publications/?page=1&area[]=8&order=date-desc)

For a direct link to EF, please see

[https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/publications/?page=1&area\[\]=10&order=date-desc](https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/publications/?page=1&area[]=10&order=date-desc)

Scottish Government(SG)

Please see the link below for information, where you can then search/focus on specific issues:

<https://news.gov.scot/news/>

Regarding the FWDF, I have been told by Janice Alexander, Senior Policy Manager, Skills Unit, that there is a commitment to provide a Year 2 of the FWDF, and that the Fund policy for Year 2 is currently being developed in line with the findings received from an independent evaluation of its functionality.

SG’s Workplace Equality Fund

A reminder that the £500,000 fund is now operational; this will offer grants to reduce employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers for minority ethnic people, women, disabled people and older workers. Please see the direct link below:

<https://news.gov.scot/news/supporting-workplace-equality>

The Centre for Work based Learning

David Coyne is the Director for the SDS Centre for Work-based Learning, and it is planned to invite him to meet with our group next session. See the link below for news:

<https://www.centreforworkbasedlearning.co.uk/news-events/>

CDN EXPO 18

This will take place on the 6th and 7th of June at Queen Margaret University Edinburgh.

Our part of these events is under the ‘**Innovation, Creativity and Learning**’ **strand** on the 6th of June from 11-12.30 pm. The speakers I have arranged and been confirmed are Janice Alexander, SG, Diane Greenlees SDS, Jim Brown ESP and a replacement for Ann McIness(who has now left) from BEMIS, Please see *Work-based learning, Policy into Practice* in the link below, and then follow ‘Programme’

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/309119&t=c3f5b2370f93a38bd3838bbe83393678>

MAG Report

The last meeting was solely on revised instructions for MA documents, so no Frameworks were presented.

BEMIS

The training on the Race Equalities pilot has now begun. Candidates will work towards a module on improving sustainable outcomes for ethnic minority communities

People 1st News

For the majority of you who offer MAs in Hospitality, I sent out information on the acquisition of People 1st. through JISC. The email sent out by David Allen on the 30th April is as below, for more information:

“As I am sure you are all now aware, People 1st sadly went into administration last Monday morning. Whilst a number of media channels picked up the story towards the end of last week, what they were understandably not privy to at that time were the advanced talks that we were holding to secure a takeover deal.

With this in mind, I am delighted to say that we have now secured a deal that involves The Workforce Development Trust (WDT) legally acquiring a number of People 1st’s key strategic activities, namely; Apprenticeship Registration & Certification, Qualifications & NOS reviews, External Quality Assurance

(EQA), Accreditation Services, International business and perhaps most notable for those I've copied into this e-mail, our work across the devolved nations.

This acquisition has protected a number of jobs across the UK, including Lorraine and myself in Scotland, and will allow People 1st to continue operating as a standalone organisation. WDT have made a clear commitment to continue investing in our work, protect the legacy of what we have built over many many years in Scotland and other parts of the UK, and allow us to become a much stronger and more resilient organisation over the long term. What is less clear at this stage is what will happen to the training arm of People 1st, including the WorldHost brand which we currently operate under license from Canada. This will take a few more weeks for us to work through with WDT and I will provide a further update to you, and our network of licensed / associate trainers across Scotland, when in a further position to do so.

Lastly, whilst the People 1st operation in Scotland was viewed upon very positively throughout the acquisition process as a well-run, profitable and well-engaged operation, this will be of small consolation to Stefanie who was sadly placed into the pool of employees whom we were not able to retain through the WDT acquisition. Stefanie has been a huge asset to the Scottish operation over the last 3 years and I trust that she will look back on her time with People 1st with immense pride. Stefanie has played a key role in many of the successes we have had in Scotland over the last few years, including of course the WorldHost Destination Initiative, and I will personally miss the enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment she brought to her work at People 1st. With this in mind if you, or someone you know in your network, is in the market for a hardworking, talented and professional senior administrator, project co-coordinator and / or business development lead then please do let me know – she comes highly recommended!!.

I will provide a further update as and when I am in a position to do so. In the meantime, I seek your continued support and understanding during this difficult transition period and ask that if you do have any immediate questions, concerns and / or issues that you please direct these, by e-mail in the first instance, to either myself or Lorraine.

Kind regards

David Allen

Director – Scotland

People 1st
