

Chair's Report: 6 September 2017

The seven things you need to know

On 17 August 2017, 'The seven things you need to know about [Scottish Apprenticeships](#)' was published by Scottish Government outlining how employers can develop their workforce.

The Flexible Workforce Development Fund

Related to this, news on The Flexible Workforce Development Fund by Scottish Government on eligibility, delivery and what the training will look like is imminent.

Letter of Guidance

A letter of Guidance was sent by John Swinney, Scottish Government to SDS on 23 August, with the following strategic priorities:

'Workforce Development: Ensure that the provision of skills and training is geared towards the current and future needs of individuals and employers
Strengthening inclusive growth and Fair Work: Support employers to grow, through the promotion of management practices that encourage the creation of sustainable and productive jobs.

Employability Support: Delivering on employment support to provide an integrated system, which provides equality of opportunity to access work to ensure everyone is able to maximise their potential.

Equalities – Place equality and diversity at the very heart of SDS activity to drive forward change that will make an enduring difference.

Collaborative Working: An enhanced culture of collaborative working with enterprise and skills agencies and other stakeholders.

High performing public body: SDS operates as a highly effective public body working collaboratively with others to maximise its impact on individuals, society and the economy.'

Guidance on the Family of Apprenticeships and target numbers is highlighted as is the role of SAAB and the Standards and Frameworks Group; the latter to recommend a key set of principles and a definition of apprenticeships in a Scottish context, including a future standards architecture with SQA to underpin work based learning in Scotland.

SAAB Consultation on Apprenticeships

The Consultation will include questions on the overarching principles, content and design, delivery, quality assurance and additional questions on employer and apprentice roles and responsibilities. Key points are the possibility of off-the-job learning, minimum apprenticeship delivery time to compare with other countries, and end testing.

We could aim to have feedback from the WBL Steering Group, as we did for the Apprenticeship Levy.

Foundation Apprenticeship Proposals

Partnership proposals are being encouraged for FA proposals by SDS, with a deadline date of 29 September for submission. I have asked for further clarification on this but none has been received to date.

FIPS

Administration time and validation issues continue. Would it be helpful to ask for written instructions as opposed to videos for administration and the reports that can be accessed? As a group, is it time to propose possible solutions for SDS consideration for validation?

Employability Fund

The Government's future plans for this activity is still to be shared. SFC monies for the college sector and the direction of delivery and support should be announced shortly. Some colleges from the WBLG have had communication with Scottish Government.

Impact Report

The SCQF launched its ['Impact Report'](#) in April 2017 on its 15th anniversary

BEMIS

BEMIS has been successful in changing ethnic mind-sets and encouraging employers and young people to look at apprenticeships as a positive career path.

SDS is looking for a couple of colleges involved in the Apprenticeship/Employability programmes to pilot their new module on Engaging Ethnic Minority Communities that is being produced by BEMIS. The aim is to raise awareness of how to engage and work better with ethnic minorities and the target for the module participation is the training arm of the college. Karen Murray who leads on Equality is looking for feedback on the module by mid-October.

The intention is that this should be a 10-hour module so the feedback sought is whether the outcomes are right and whether the assessment is okay. As discussed at the BEMIS meeting yesterday, it would be very much for those involved in MA delivery and management and not the general college practitioner.

Please see embedded for more information on the modules.

MAG

Changes for noting:

- The Construction MA now has the End Test in it and will be approved by SQA
- The Graduate Apprenticeship will mean this
- SCQF level 8 will be named Higher Apprenticeships, as opposed to Graduate level, as the SCQF Board said there cannot be a Graduate Level 8. We will still have Technical and Professional Apprenticeships, which will be seen as CPD.

MAG Meeting of 15 June 2017, MA Frameworks for noting:

- Smart Meter Installation Withdrawal – Qualification withdrawn by C&G Diploma in Smart Metering – Dual Fuel R253 04
- Gas Heating and Energy Efficiency at SCQF Level 6 Amendment – Removal of Gas Utilisation pathway: Technical Maintenance Engineer at SCQF level 6 (R383 04)
- Engineering Construction at SCQF Level 6/7 Withdrawn pathways. Removal of pathways: Erecting Engineering Construction Capital Plant Steel Structures at SCQF Level 6 – Ref R139 04, Fabricating Engineering Construction Steel Structures – Plating at SCQF Level 7 – Ref R144 04, Installing Engineering Construction Plant and Systems – Pipefitting at SCQF Level 6 – Ref R135 04, Installing Engineering Construction Plant and Systems – Electrical at SCQF Level 7 – Ref R134 04, Project Control at SCQF Level 6 – Ref R148 04
- Fashion and Textiles at SCQF Level 5 Amendment Laundry services and dry-cleaning pathways combined to create new Textile Care pathway
- Customer Service at SCQF Level 5 Amendment Contact Centre pathway withdrawn due to no uptake
- Customer Service at SCQF Level 5 Amendment Contact Centre pathway withdrawn due to no uptake
- Glass industry operations at SCQF Level 5 Amendment New group award code for Automotive Glass GL6V 22
- Hospitality L2 Amendment New codes
- Hospitality L3 Amendment New codes
- Hospitality, Supervision and Management. Amendment New codes
- Paralegal Withdrawal Withdrawal by AB – low uptake
- Management SCQF Level 7 Amendment SVQ updated as part of S&F activity 2016/17 – new code now added
- Management SCQF Level 9 Amendment SVQ updated as part of S&F activity 2016/17 – new code now added
- Management SCQF Level 11 Amendment SVQ updated as part of S&F activity 2016/17 – new code now added.

Updates of Frameworks from the MAG meeting of 25 August 2017 will be sent to the group when the Minutes are approved.

I wish you all a good 2017–18 session. If there are particular topics or guest speakers you would like included at our meetings or events please let me know.