

**Tuesday 24 January 2017**

**Comment on Gender Balance**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“We are pleased that there has been an overall improvement in gender balance of students in colleges. However, we do recognise that there is more work to be done to close the gender gap in some subjects.

“Colleges are working with the Scottish Funding Council to implement its Gender Action Plan and with other agencies such as the Equality Challenge Unit to increase the diversity of the student body on key courses. For example, colleges are running girls only energy courses and encouraging men into care subjects.

“The benefits of a truly diverse workforce are increasingly recognised. The challenge is to affect changes that will result in a real shift in the balance of people with the appropriate skills going into Scotland’s key sectors. It is essential that we build on existing good practice and work with others to achieve gender balance.”

**ENDS**

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