

**15 December 2014**

**Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, commented on the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy published today:

"We welcome the publication of Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy and its recognition of the college sector as a valued and valuable element in its implementation plans.

Colleges will continue to play a fundamental and pivotal role by building on existing best practice in engaging with local and regional employers, and working in partnerships with local authorities and schools and key bodies such as Skills Development Scotland. Colleges will make a major contribution to the targeted improvements in positive outcomes for young people, including those from minority and ethnic backgrounds.

This expansion of college activity in relation to school-age young people cannot be at the expense of the sector's commitment to developing Scotland's existing workforce and offering highly regarded vocational qualifications. Therefore we welcome and require the funding that the government proposes in support of the implementation of this strategy. This investment will help to ensure that college staff are fully engaged with the changes taking place and continue to deliver high quality learning."

**ENDS**