

**Thursday 28 September 2017**

**Colleges Scotland's comment on the Scottish Funding Council's College Region Outcome Agreements**

Commenting on the Scottish Funding Council's College Region Outcome Agreements, Colleges Scotland's Chief Executive, Shona Struthers, said:

"The Scottish Funding Council's College Region Outcome Agreements report demonstrates that colleges are making good progress in the delivery of their commitments to improving opportunities and outcomes for learners, breaking down barriers to the achievement of qualifications, and equipping learners with the professional, technical and vocational skills they will need to progress successfully into employment, further education or training.

"The report highlights that the college sector is not only continuing to exceed activity targets, it is also providing learning that is accessible and diverse, attracting and providing more equal opportunities for people of all ages, and from all communities and backgrounds.

"We are also seeing improvements in the outcomes for learners. Course completion rates are up again this year and so are the number of students going on to positive destinations, with the overall percentage of leavers entering a positive destination six months after graduating sitting at over 95% for both further and higher education.

"The report also looks ahead at the ongoing commitments of colleges and gives examples of the work that they are already progressing in relation to addressing gender imbalances and improving representation from those with care experience.

"Scotland's colleges continue to make a crucial contribution to Scotland's economy, communities and individuals. They are uniquely positioned within the communities to enable access to the development of professional, technical and vocational skills and knowledge that are required for successful careers, delivered in a way that emphasises fairness and equality."

**ENDS**

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