

Monday 13 November 2017

Comment on the Universities Scotland report, “*Working to Widen Access*” published today

Commenting on the Universities Scotland report, “*Working to Widen Access*” Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“Colleges Scotland, and the college sector, welcomes this report, produced from diligent work undertaken by Universities Scotland with partners and stakeholders. This groundbreaking and ambitious range of proposals has been produced after a collegiate and collective approach to reviewing access, articulation, and bridging programmes in Scotland.

“For academic year 2014/15, 21.7% of students articulating into university from college were from SIMD20 backgrounds, proving that a learner journey starting in a college is a proven way to successfully widen access. The National Articulation Forum, which Colleges Scotland will co-own with Universities Scotland, will be an innovative platform to expand articulation pathways and support efficient and effective journeys through education. It is this whole-system approach across schools, colleges and universities that will be required in order to meet the ambition of the 2016 “*Blueprint for Fairness*” report.

“Colleges are looking forward to working with universities to continue to progress the work that both are already doing to help individuals overcome any barriers to learning and promote fair access and social inclusion, support future career goals and help reduce poverty.”

ENDS

For further information, please contact Joanne Buchan, Public Affairs and Communications Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk

Notes:

- The Universities Scotland report, “*Working to Widen Access*” is available on the Universities Scotland website