

Wednesday 13 December 2017

Comment on the Commissioner for Fair Access Annual Report

Commenting on the publication of the first Annual Report by the Commissioner for Fair Access, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“We welcome the Annual Report and are pleased to see the focus on educational inequality in the Commissioner’s work. The college sector serves the education and skills needs of students within local communities across Scotland, which is helping to realise the Scottish Government’s ambitions on widening access and inclusive growth.

“Colleges have always supported and facilitated alternative pathways to university, helping individuals overcome disadvantage and ensuring fair and equal access to education. Since 2006, 90% of all growth in entry into universities by the most disadvantaged students has been through colleges. We look forward to continuing this important work over the coming year and contributing to the development of a more efficient and integrated educational landscape.”

ENDS

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Notes:

- The *Laying the Foundations for Fair Access: Annual Report 2017* can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529104.pdf>
- Research by The Sutton Trust in May 2016, found that 90 per cent of all the growth in entry into Scottish higher education by disadvantaged students has been through sub-degree courses in colleges. View the report at http://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Access-in-Scotland_May2016.pdf