

Tuesday 4, September 2018

Comment on Scottish Government's Programme for Government

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"The college sector is intrinsic to the Scottish Government's ambition to increase inclusive economic growth through widening access, closing the educational attainment gap, and providing a skilled workforce for Scotland's employers.

"The First Minister has announced a legislative Programme for Government which has many touchpoints for colleges and we look forward to working with the Scottish Government to help deliver those objectives.

"We welcome the extension of a further 1,500 college training places to help produce the early learning and childcare workforce expansion, £5.2 million being invested to increase bursaries for care experienced further and higher education students as well as £16 million being made available in bursaries to expand and increase support for students from the lowest income families.

"Colleges also have significant roles to play in mental illness prevention, signposting, and counselling for staff and students and in making improvements in cyber security for children and young people. The college sector will also actively engage with stakeholders to capitalise on the opportunity provided by the establishment of a new skills action plan, which has a focus on ensuring a skilled and productive workforce."

ENDS

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