

Tuesday, 27 November 2018

Comment on the Education and Skills Committee Report

Commenting on the Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee report, *Young People's Pathways: a progress report on Developing the Young Workforce*, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"Colleges support young people to gain the technical, professional and vocational skills and training which sets them on the path to successful careers. Colleges work in partnership with schools, universities and employers to build pathways that enable individuals to access education at the right time, in the right way for them, providing a first choice and second chance for many.

"The college sector's ambition is for a quality careers information, advice and guidance service to be available to all students so that young people have access to the whole range of options available to them. The work that colleges are doing to support the implementation of the Scottish Government's 15-24 Learner Journey Review should also provide opportunities to enhance the offer to young people and returners to education alike.

"Colleges are committed to a culture of continuous improvement and this report reinforces the same anecdotal evidence which we have fed back to the Scottish Government through the process of reviewing the learner journey.

"The college sector is striving to expand relationships with a range of employers to support inclusive economic growth, to deliver a skilled workforce and to ensure that our students have the opportunity to experience quality work placements as part of their courses. The introduction of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund is allowing colleges to develop new partnerships with employers and the college sector looks forward to building on this to provide more opportunities for people to gain skills and increase their career prospects."

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Will McLeish, Head of Communications and Public Affairs:

Tel: 01786 892063

Mobile: 07712 404 397

Email: will.mcleish@collegesscotland.ac.uk

Joanne Buchan, Communications and Public Affairs Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk