

**Tuesday, 30 April 2019**

**Comment on SFC Articulation Report**

Commenting on the Scottish Funding Council's Articulation from Scottish Colleges to Scottish Universities 2017-18 report, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"There are many encouraging aspects within this report for the college sector in Scotland. Colleges have an intrinsic role in widening access and this report confirms that an increase to over 26% of First Degree entrants in 2017-18 had obtained a college qualification before enrolling at a university, and the overall figures show an increase of more than 10% in the past four years in the number of college students moving directly to second or third year at university.

"Colleges also improve life opportunities for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds by significantly contributing to fairer access, and the sector can be especially proud that almost 42% of First Degree entrants from the most deprived SIMD quintile (MD20) arrived via the college route.

"Colleges Scotland and Universities Scotland are co-conveners on the National Articulation Forum and the sectors have worked hard to establish articulation pathways which make the transition from college to university as smooth as possible and to remove any duplication that might hamper a student's progress.

"It is also encouraging to see an increase in articulation by students with black and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as those who are care-experienced and disabled. There is more to do on articulation, but the work currently being done on the implementation of the 16-24 Learner Journey Review will target further improvements in fairer access and diversity in Scotland's tertiary education system."

Here is a link to the SFC report:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/2019/SFCST062019.aspx>

**ENDS**

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