

Wednesday, 29 May 2019

Comment on the SFC Report on Widening Access

Commenting on the Widening Access 2017-18 report published by the Scottish Funding Council today (Wednesday), Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“Colleges are intrinsic in helping create a fairer society as they continue to provide a route to education for learners of all ages and from all environments. The commitment to fair access and social inclusion by the sector is also helping to reduce poverty and increase inclusive economic growth.

“We welcome this report which shows how fundamental colleges are in providing opportunities for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds through access to further and higher education.

“This report highlights many positives for the college sector, including that the number of students from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds successfully completing their full-time further education courses has increased to 63.2%.

“The number of full-time and part-time college students in both further and higher education from the 20% lowest socio-economic backgrounds has increased, with the proportion of full-time students in further education now at 33.9% and in higher education at 28.2%.

“The report also highlights the growing diversity of college students as, proportionately, there have been increases in the numbers of BME students, care experienced students, and those with a registered disability studying at both further and higher education levels.”

ENDS

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Notes:

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/2019/SFCST072019.aspx>

