

Tuesday 3 September 2019

Comment on Programme for Government

Commenting on the Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"I am pleased to see that colleges continue to be highlighted as integral to a number of key priorities within this year's programme for government. It shows that the college sector in Scotland is responsive, flexible and resilient and able to deal with both the opportunities and challenges of the future including innovation, digital skills and new technologies.

"We welcome the announcement that a medium-term estates strategy for the college sector will be developed to help prioritise investment and we look forward to contributing to this fully. Modern, state-of-the-art facilities will be key to enhancing the student experience and delivering a skilled workforce that is fit for the future.

"The new Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan is one such area that the sector is ready to step up and contribute to. Colleges are already leading the way in this area, working with the renewables industry to deliver the technical skills and apprenticeship programmes required to meet demand.

"We are also looking forward to working with the Scottish Government to take forward its Future Skills Action Plan to ensure that the skills system is enhanced and can provide more opportunities for individuals and businesses which will increase productivity and deliver inclusive economic growth in Scotland.

"The continued focus on widening access, delivering apprenticeships programmes and increasing the early learning and childcare workforce is also welcome and colleges will continue to successfully deliver on these priorities."

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Joanne Buchan, Communications and Public Affairs Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk