

Tuesday, 1 September 2020

Comment on Scottish Government's Programme for Government

Commenting on the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, outlined today (Tuesday) by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"The Programme for Government contains positive announcements and initiatives on job creation, upskilling and reskilling that the college sector welcomes. It is also encouraging to see packages put in place around supporting young people and apprentices, who are hit the hardest during economic downturns.

"Colleges will be heavily involved in delivering the £60 million Youth Guarantee, which ensures access to a job, education, training or development programme for every 16-24-year-old, the National Transition Training Programme, which provides opportunities for older workers facing redundancy, and the Green Jobs Fund.

"As in previous recessions, the college sector will be at the heart of the social and economic recovery by providing people with employability skills, as well as reskilling and upskilling the workforce to deliver what employers specifically require across Scotland's regions, and, whilst we look forward to receiving further information on these initiatives, the sector stands ready to support these programmes to get Scotland working and increase levels of economic activity.

"The college sector will also have a vital role to play in supporting the National Infrastructure Investment Plan, as large users of infrastructure, in terms of the college learning estate and the wider digital infrastructure underpinning wider learning on digital and virtual platforms. Colleges are a key delivery partner for the workforce who construct and maintain infrastructure across Scotland, delivering high-quality technical education courses to provide workers with the skills that are required for them to hold successful careers in infrastructure related roles.

"Colleges will continue to help Scotland keep pace with technological, environmental and labour market changes and to increase workforce and business resilience to future disruption as the economy both recovers from the impact of COVID-19 and transitions to a net-zero, low-carbon inclusive format in response to the Climate Emergency and in anticipation of a net-zero Scotland by 2045."

ENDS

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