

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

Comment on additional investment for college sector from Programme for Government

In the Scottish Parliament today (Wednesday), the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, Fiona Hyslop MSP, provided further details on the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, which was announced yesterday (Tuesday).

From the £60million Youth Guarantee, £10 million will be invested on expanding opportunities in colleges, a further £10 million on supporting pre-apprenticeship pathways with Skills Development Scotland and colleges, and an additional £10 million to build on the Developing the Young Workforce infrastructure, which comprises a collaborative approach including the college sector.

Commenting on this additional college sector investment, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"This additional investment from the Scottish Government's Programme for Government is extremely welcome and will help enhance the college sector's positive impact to get Scotland back working and in training. The college sector will have a key role in implementing the £60 million Youth Guarantee, which ensures access to a job, education, training or development programme for every 16-24-year-old.

"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. As a sector, we are committed to working even closer with schools, universities, businesses, and key stakeholders to ensure that Scotland's people and economy can successfully emerge from COVID-19 and thrive.

"Even before the pandemic, colleges were facing significant financial challenges, which have been exacerbated by COVID-19, but this additional investment from the Youth Guarantee is a very positive development for the sector."

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Note to editor:

The Scottish Government media release can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-the-youth-guarantee/>

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