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A new devolution settlement should benefit learners

Colleges Scotland calls on the Smith Commission to ensure that a new devolution settlement tackles the 'benefits trap' that prevents potential students from coming to college.

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“Some potential students find themselves in a ‘Benefits Trap’ because they lose all (or part) of their current Housing Benefits if they come to College. The loss of income is so great that they can’t come to College to increase their skills and employment opportunities.

Devolution of Housing Benefit in particular would enable the Scottish Government to review the relationship between the benefits system and student funding and create a fairer and more accessible solution. Removing the barriers would enable more learners to enter college.”

ENDS