

**Monday 22 August 2016**

**Colleges Scotland's Comment on the SFC Merger Evaluation Report**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“The Scottish Funding Council’s report on the impact of college mergers, shows that overall colleges planned and implemented the mergers well, have made good progress and that mergers can be regarded as successful, against a backdrop of significant wide-ranging changes to the sector.

“Post-merger colleges are delivering benefits – significantly in driving positive and improved outcomes for students, integrating curriculum, and a better landscape for the delivery of skills. We’re pleased the report reflects this. It is particularly encouraging that it highlights progress such as much more effective engagement with employers and schools by colleges since the reorganisation of the sector.”

“The context within which the mergers were implemented was complex. The college sector however, is not complacent and we acknowledge that there are still areas where further work is required. We are committed to working with the SFC, Scottish Government and other key stakeholders to continue progress.”

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact Joanne Buchan, Public Affairs and Communications Officer:**

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: [joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk)

**Notes to Editor:**

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/reportspublications.aspx>