

Monday 9 January 2017

Colleges Scotland's Statement on IPPR Scotland '*Equipping Scotland for the Future*' Report

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"The IPPR Scotland report has quite rightly highlighted the many challenges we are facing in Scotland's current skills system.

"Colleges Scotland has already published a Think Piece, setting out the college sector's vision for a new coherent and equitable learning framework for learners aged 16 and over.

"Currently the landscape for learners over the age of 16 is complex and confusing with a plethora of potential routes and providers which can be unclear and unhelpful. It is essential that we address these challenges by making the learner journey as efficient and effective as possible.

"The college sector is advocating a review of the 'learner journey' that would involve a more co-ordinated approach across schools, colleges, universities and employers that puts learners and industry at the heart of the process.

"As the Scottish Government looks to announce its own review of the 'learner journey', we look forward to working with key stakeholders to shape the future of the skills system in Scotland."

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

NOTES:

The 'Think Piece' document entitled *The Learning and Skills Journey* was published in November 2016 and is available to view on the Colleges Scotland website at www.collegesscotland.ac.uk/thinkpieces.

In summary, the vision would deliver:

- personalised journeys for learners
- an appropriately skilled workforce which meets the needs of industry and communities
- equality, access and fairness
- positive destinations
- economic growth and prosperity for Scotland.