

Tuesday 24 January 2017

Colleges Scotland's Comment on SFC reports:

- **Performance Indicators**
- **Student satisfaction & Engagement**
- **College statistics 2015-16** (overview of college sector statistics from 2005-06 to 2015-16)

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"The latest figures from the Scottish Funding Council reveal that Scotland's colleges are not only continuing to meet but are exceeding our targets. There is much more work to do to keep the figures going in the right direction, but these are solid achievements, particularly during what has been a time of significant change and reform in the college sector.

"We are delivering courses that improve employability and support the economic needs of the country, with an increasing number of full-time students achieving recognised qualifications.

"It is about delivering quality courses that lead to recognised qualifications relevant to industry. The success of this approach is underlined by the fact that the number of students successfully completing their FE courses has increased by 17% since 2008.

"We are also proud of the fact that more people are undertaking college courses as a pathway to higher education qualifications with the number of HE students at colleges increasing by almost a quarter (23.6%) since 2008. This has contributed to the achievement of a record number of students (24,317) succeeding in gaining their qualifications.

"The ongoing improvement in delivering industry-relevant skills is reflected in the first ever student satisfaction and engagement statistics which sees college learners overall (encompassing full-time, part-time and distance) giving their college experience a satisfaction of around 90%. Colleges are clearly doing something right but we are not resting on our laurels. The drive for improvement never ends. Indeed, as a sector we are leading the charge on enhancing and simplifying the learner journey.

"The gender balance of student enrolment - with nearly 51% female in 2015/16 and 49% male - is just one illustration of how our colleges reflect and serve wider Scottish society.

"One issue, however, is that colleges in Scotland delivered nearly 4,000 more places thanks to European Social Fund resources, which is one reason why we are extremely concerned about the implications of Brexit."

ENDS

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Notes:

- College Statistics 2015-16 (previously Scotland's Colleges: Baseline Report) is available to view at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Statisticalpublications/2017/SFCST032017.aspx>

- College Performance Indicators 2015-16 is available to view at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Statisticalpublications/2017/SFCST012017.aspx>
- Student Satisfaction and Engagement 2015-16 is available to view at <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Statisticalpublications/2017/SFCST022017.aspx>