

**Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar:
Next steps for apprenticeships and skills development in Scotland**
Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 6th December 2017
Venue: The Principal Edinburgh, 38 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ



**SCOTLAND POLICY
CONFERENCES**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Iain Gray MSP, Education Spokesperson, Scottish Labour Party
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Priorities for youth training and employability**
Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.45 **Next steps for apprenticeships and skills development in Scotland**
Diane Greenlees, Head, Foundation and Graduate Level Apprenticeships, Skills Development Scotland
- 9.45 - 10.25 **Promoting uptake of vocational education: encouraging participation, qualifications and improving diversity**
How should schools and local authorities work together to promote vocational education as a positive destination for young people in Scotland, for instance through earlier provision of careers advice? What should be the next steps for the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland in working effectively with the SCQF Partnership to ensure that vocational and academic qualifications are seen as equally valuable amongst parents, pupils and businesses? What are the key policy priorities needed to improve diversity in uptake of vocational education, for instance in encouraging women into STEM subjects?
Aileen Ponton, Chief Executive, SCQF Partnership
Cheryl McCreadie, Project Officer, Student Engagement, Equate Scotland
Pam Crawford, Project Associate, Scotland, Career Development Institute
Zoe Thomson, Depute Headteacher, Woodmill High School, Fife
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 11.00 **Case study: foundation apprenticeships in practice**
With foundation apprenticeships now expected to be on offer in every local authority area, what lessons can be learnt from previous pilot programmes about the qualifications' ability to foster greater collaboration and partnership working between education and industry? What do the experiences of young people previously enrolled in foundation apprenticeships tell us about the benefits of the qualification, such as gaining work experience at a younger age, as well as potential areas for improvement?
Helen Young, Depute Head, Engineering, West Lothian College
Connor Waldron, former Foundation Apprentice in Manufacturing and Engineering
Greig Anderson, Milling Supervisor, Ritchie Precision
Questions and comments from the floor with **Diane Greenlees**, Head, Foundation and Graduate Level Apprenticeships, Skills Development Scotland
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Iain Gray MSP, Education Spokesperson, Scottish Labour Party
- 11.05 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP, Spokesperson for Jobs, Employability and Training, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 11.40 - 12.05 **Graduate apprenticeships and addressing the mid-career skills gap**
With graduate apprenticeship pathfinders covering ICT, construction and engineering having been introduced this year, what are initial impressions of their performance? As development of the graduate apprenticeship qualification continues following the pathfinder programme, what more can be done to ensure that the qualification is capable of addressing Scotland's mid-career skills gap, whilst meeting the needs of individual workers and the wider business community?
Dr Sally Smith, Dean, School of Computing, Edinburgh Napier University
Maggie Morrison, Vice President, Scotland, CGI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Assessing the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy: employer engagement and the Workforce Development Fund**
With many SMEs still unaware of the full implications for them of the Apprenticeship Levy, how can the Scottish Government work to improve understanding of the Levy and help manage any impact on apprenticeship numbers and on businesses? How will the Workforce Development Fund work in practice, in terms of eligibility and distribution of funds between apprenticeships and other training programmes? What more can be done to streamline the Levy process for cross-border businesses, in terms of reducing the administrative burden of engaging with the UK's four distinct skills system, and allow them to focus instead on raising the skills of their employees?
Gregor Scotland, Senior Policy Executive, CBI Scotland
Ian Hughes, Partnerships Director Scotland, CITB
Vonnie Sandlan, Senior Policy Officer, Colleges Scotland
Stuart McKenna, Chief Executive, The Scottish Training Federation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP, Spokesperson for Jobs, Employability and Training, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences