

# **Cross Party Group on Skills**

Minutes (Draft) of the meeting held at 12.30 p.m. Thursday 17 September 2015

Committee Room 2

The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh

## **Present**

- Gavin Brown MSP (Co-Convener)
- Margaret McCulloch MSP (Co-Convener)
- Joanne Buchan (Secretary)
- Laura Peacock, Investors in People
- Sophie Dawes, Investors In People
- Rebecca Chad, Education Scotland
- Callum Macdonald, Skills Development Scotland
- Stephen Young, Civil Engineering Contractors Association
- Kate Sankey, Loch Lomond & Trossachs Community Partnership
- George Brown, Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Anne Meikle, Economic Development Association/Women's Enterprise Scotland
- Robert Bruce, SEMTA
- Christine Powell, Essential Skills Plus Ltd
- Simon Williams, NHS Education for Scotland
- Eoin Welsh, West College Scotland
- Michael de la Haye, PLMR Scotland
- Ian Stirrat, SELECT
- Ian McCulloch, ITC Academy
- Jay Smith, Employment Enterprise
- Kirsty Briggs, LifeSkills
- Jonathan Ellenor, Holyrood Communications

## **Apologies**

- Emma McGregor, Raploch URC
- Kate Still, Rathbone
- Kelvin Thomson, Pinnacle Food and Drink Services
- Helen Brown, Barnardo's Works
- Aileen Ponton, SCQF Partnership
- Kenny Stewart, The Open University of Scotland
- John McKinney, Build UK
- Anne Galbraith, SECTT
- Newell McGuinness, SELECT
- Baljinder Birdi, Pearson Work Based Learning for Colleges
- Robert Girvin, CIBT
- Helena Ward, Creative Scotland
- Joe Wilson, College Development Network

### **1. Welcome**

Margaret McCulloch MSP as Co-Convenor opened the meeting and welcomed members.

### **2. Apologies & matters arising**

Ms McCulloch noted that there were a number of apologies from Members. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

### **3. Presentations**

Rebecca Chad and Laura Peacock presented on Education-led Skills Development and Employer-led Skills Development respectively.

Rebecca provided an overview of Education Scotland's role and activity in undertaking Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), including developing a Standard for Career Education and Work Placements while Laura explained how Investors In Young People (IIYP) is working with employers to encourage them to recruit and develop young people.

The main message was that collaboration and partnership working is vital to the success of DYW and providing the broadest range of opportunities for young people.

Stephen Young from the Civil Engineering Contractors Association reported that it was difficult to get young people into construction and engineering. Laura Peacock commented that for IIYP this was an area with the most uptake, however there was a need for more role models and employers going into schools so that young people find out more about the opportunities that exist.

Kate Sankey from Loch Lomond & Trossachs Community Partnership requested that rural areas are also considered on these initiatives. Rebecca Chad reported that there will now be more DYW regional groups and that the Highlands and Island would have several.

A question was asked on what is being done to attract more women and BME groups into apprenticeships and employment. Laura Peacock reported that other organisations such as Skills Development Scotland were leading on this area however IIYP were encouraging employers to widen the pool of talent and ensure that recruitment processes were not a hindrance.

#### **4. Dates of future meetings and presenters**

Dates of future meetings were confirmed as follows:

19 Nov 2015 CR2	EDAS (Irene Bell)	Routemap for Common Ambition
4 Feb 2016 CR2	Colleges Scotland & CDN	Joint presentation with employers on Energy Skills Partnership – to be confirmed

While the above dates and locations are confirmed, presenters have yet to be confirmed.

#### **6. Any other business**

It was requested that all presentations are circulated.

With no further business to conduct Mr Gavin Brown MSP as Co-Convenor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.