



To: Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board

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Report by:

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Heading:

Regional Partnership Foundation Apprenticeships Pathfinder Delivery 2016-18

1. Summary

- 1.1 West College Scotland has submitted a bid to deliver number of Regional Partnership Foundation Apprenticeship Pathfinders in 2016-18 in partnership with Renfrewshire Schools, Renfrewshire Council and Employers
- 1.2 The contract will be awarded in late January /early February 2016 and if successful delivery will commence in August 2016

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Jobs & the Economy Thematic Board notes the report and a progress update report will be submitted to the Board in 12 months.

3. Background

- 3.1 Foundation Apprenticeships are part of Skills Development Scotland's response to the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy. Foundation Apprenticeships provide the opportunity for pupils in the senior phase of secondary school, S4 to S6, to combine industry recognised vocational qualifications alongside academic qualifications.

Foundation Apprenticeships are part financed via the European Social Fund as part of Scotland's 2014-20 European Structural Funds and Investment Fund Programmes.

- 3.2 The 2 year Foundation Apprenticeship programme is designed to meet the needs of employers and young people with an interest in pursuing a vocational career. Throughout the programme both the knowledge and skills elements will be inextricably linked – it is intended that candidates' knowledge will always be contextualised to real work based situations. National units at SCQF Level 6 will be studied to complement vocational skills elements at levels 4 and 5.
- 3.3 There are 8 Foundation Apprenticeship Frameworks currently available for 2016/17 delivery:
- Social Services and Healthcare
 - Social Services Children and Young People
 - Civil Engineering
 - Engineering (Engineering) Technician
 - Engineering (Energy) Technician
 - Financial Services
 - Software Development
 - Hardware/System Support
- 3.4 Delivery of the key knowledge, skills and competence components of the Foundation Apprenticeship model will be supported through core funding within the College system and be funded via College Credits.

4. Proposed Delivery 2016-18

- 4.1 West College Scotland in partnership with Renfrewshire Schools, Renfrewshire Council and Employers has proposed to deliver the following frameworks to pupils in the Senior Phase at Renfrewshire Schools
- Social Services and Healthcare
 - Social Services Children and Young People
 - Civil Engineering

A further Engineering proposal will be submitted at a later date.

- 4.2 Successful partnerships will be awarded contracts in late January /early February 2016 and delivery will commence in August 2016

- 4.3 Employer partners have agreed to support a placement opportunity for Foundation Apprenticeship students. Employer work placements have been designed to support the Foundation Apprenticeship and allow students to achieve all elements of the SVQ element in terms of the hours or work based learning and the range of tasks they will undertake to develop their skills and develop competency

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