

# Awards Network News and Information Update - June 2018



Welcome to the latest Awards Network News and Information update, for and about the Awards Network and its Members!

## Minister Consults Young People on Recognising Achievement



Shirley Ann Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, engaged in the first of a series of consultation events being organised through the Awards Network to hear views directly from young people on how they would wish their non-formal learning achievements to be more systematically recognised.

Hosted by Citadel Youth Centre, young people aged 13 to 22 shared views based on youth

award achievement gained within and outside school. Participants said such achievements can be as important to future choices as academic attainment and called for more opportunities for recognition of their achievements and encouragement to share these more widely. Further consultations will be held in the coming months and will inform approaches to capturing and valuing wider achievement.

## New Professional Learning Activity - Leadership of Wider Achievement



NEW on the [SCEL Framework](#):

Leadership of wider achievement - a professional learning activity developed in partnership with the Awards Network.

The Framework for Educational Leadership is a SCEL (Scottish College for Educational Leadership) online learning resource which supports professional learning in

leadership for educators at all stages of their careers. This PLA is designed to assist those leading wider achievement in schools to:

- Enhance understanding of the importance and value of wider achievement to securing CfE, employability and attainment goals
- Develop an awareness of the wide range of opportunities provided by youth awards to support wider achievement within and outside school
- Reflect upon the practicalities and challenges of leading a wider achievement strategy

## 15 – 24 Learner Journey Review

The final [Report](#) from the 15 – 24 Learner Journey Review is now available. The Review was established in 2016 to: 'review education provision for all 15-24 year olds so their learning journey is as efficient and effective as possible and provides stepping stones to success for those needing most support'. Containing a series of important recommendations supporting greater personalisation of the learner journey, the Review acknowledges 'the significant role that is played by Community Learning Development in improving life chances of young people in Scotland and in providing opportunities for educational and personal development.'

To inform the Review SQW, in partnership with Young Scot, was commissioned by the Scottish Government to co-design and deliver research into young people's experience of the education and training system in Scotland. Findings [reported](#) in September 2017 point to the important role of non-formal learning: 'Young people's learner journeys are often influenced by personal and social issues...and the skills and confidence gained through sports and other hobbies.'



## New Members of the Awards Network

We are delighted to welcome two additional organisations to our membership, bringing current Awards Network membership to 27 awards organisations in Scotland.



**Trinity College London**, responsible for the [Arts Award](#) programme, has been accepted as a Full Member. Already available through award centres covering much of Scotland, five levels of award recognise achievements of children and young people aged up to 25 in any art form including performing arts, visual arts, literature, media and multimedia. TCL will be represented by Glasgow-based See Think Make CIC.



**Children's University Scotland** joins as an Associate Member. During a recent visit to pupils at Bo'ness Academy Deputy First Minister John Swinney MSP helped launch [Aspire](#), an innovative digital platform developed by Children's University Scotland to capture and celebrate learning taking place outside school lessons, at home and in the community.

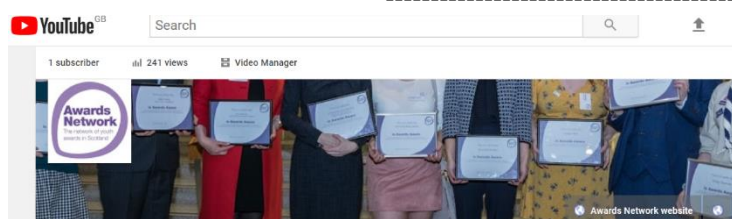
## Young Workforce Needs Employability Skills

New research from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) sheds light on Scottish business managers' opinions on the skills and investment needed to prepare young people for the demands of the modern workplace.

During the Year of Young People, the DofE commissioned poll of more than 250 Scottish business managers found that 38% of those surveyed don't feel confident that young people they hire will have the transferable employability skills of communication, teamwork, resilience and the ability to multitask that are essential for the modern workplace. 96% of Scottish managers agree that young people in Scotland would benefit from programmes that develop essential employability skills. Worryingly, however, a staggering 39% do not feel well informed about how to upskill their young employees in those crucial areas.

Alex Hynes Managing Director at ScotRail Alliance points to the value of youth awards programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award in developing employability skills: "Since we've been offering the DofE to our apprentices, we've seen the huge benefits it brings to Scotland's Railway. Our young employees have learned new skills and gained a new level of confidence in working with others as well as our customers."

For further information on the DofE survey, please contact Aga Maciejewska, [aga@standagency.com](mailto:aga@standagency.com) 020 3696 5804, or Jamie Mitchell: [Jamie.Mitchell@DofE.org](mailto:Jamie.Mitchell@DofE.org), 0131 343 0920



Similar views highlighting the value of youth awards to workforce development are echoed by Sandy Begbie of Standard Life Aberdeen plc (and Chair of DYW EdinMidEast Region Group), Tracy Black of CBI

Scotland and other stakeholders on the [Awards Network YouTube channel](#)

## Awards Network Out and About



Over 40 teachers from across Scotland attended two Awards Network workshops at the MVP Scotland (Mentors in Violence Prevention) Practitioners Development Day to learn and share experience about opportunities to accredit learning and achievement of Mentors and Mentees using youth awards.

Attending one of the workshops was Matthew Linning, Volunteer Scotland, Strategic Performance Manager, and it was gratifying to hear him speak in plenary about the value of youth awards, highlighting in particular their importance to encouraging and recognising youth volunteering.



In collaboration with John Galt, EdScotCLD, the Awards Network delivered a presentation to a recent meeting of the Education Scotland Profiling Group organised to consider how young people's non-formal learning achievements can be more systematically recognised, recorded and accredited. Further work has been agreed to deliver on a commitment by Ministers to strengthen the value and recognition of all achievements of all young people.

## Snippets

### The Link – beyond the school gates:



YouthLink Scotland is seeking contributions from members for The Link magazine. The Link – *beyond the school gates*, focussing on youth work's contribution to young people's attainment and achievement, will highlight partnership working, youth work and school's initiatives, examples of innovative practice and targeted intervention work.

Examples illustrating innovative practice and impact of youth awards on attainment would be welcomed. Contact Sarah Paterson, Communications and Public Affairs, YouthLink Scotland, T: 07804 603762, E: spaterson@youthlinkscotland.org. The deadline for expressions of interests is Thursday 21st June 2018.

### CLD Workforce Survey



*Working with Scotland's Communities Survey 2018* is a national study of the CLD workforce from Education Scotland and the CLD Standards Council. The [online survey](#) is now live and will be open until Friday 10th August. Rocket Science UK Ltd has been commissioned to conduct this research and wants to hear from as many CLD practitioners, volunteers, employer organisations and other stakeholders as possible. This includes those engaged with non-formal learning, youth work and youth awards. Your views are important to developing an understanding of who is doing what across Scotland. This helps the Standards Council to better advocate for community learning and development, and better support the workforce, volunteers, employers and organisations with training and development needs.

### Thanks and best wishes to Mhairi McRaid

We are sad to learn that Mhairi McRaid is moving on from Education Scotland to pastures new later this month. Mhairi has been a tremendous help to the Awards Network, not least in relation to the hugely successful Parliamentary Reception held last January that has supported a greater focus on recognition of the non-academic achievements of young people. We extend our thanks to Mhairi and wish her well in the next phase of her learner journey!

## Awards Network Meetings

The next Full Members Meeting will take place on **4<sup>th</sup> September 2018** (11.00am to 2.00pm), hosted by YouthLink Scotland

The meeting of **4<sup>th</sup> December** will be hosted by the Prince's Trust in Glasgow.



## Next Update

There will be no Update published in July. Contributions are welcome for the next News and Information Update to [contact@awardsnetwork.org](mailto:contact@awardsnetwork.org) by **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018**