

## **EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE**

### **THE SENIOR PHASE OF SCHOOL: HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE PURSUE THE RIGHT PATHWAY FOR THEM**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM SCQF Partnership**

The SCQF Partnership welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence around the progress made in developing senior phase vocational pathways.

The introduction of Foundation apprenticeships has been a positive move towards ensuring young people have the opportunity to undertake vocational qualifications alongside more traditional forms of learning and that these qualifications have a clear vocational pathway into employment if required. FAs are credit rated on the SCQF along with Modern, Higher and Graduate apprenticeships and sit at level 6.

We would like to see a wider range of Foundation apprenticeships developed that allow more vocational opportunities and pathways for young people.

However, there is a wealth of programmes other than FAs that are recognised on the SCQF and contribute to developing vocational pathways for young people. More needs to be done to promote these learning programmes and pathways. The SCQF School Ambassador programme was introduced in 2016 and goes some way to helping this through training teachers to understand the different ways in which the Framework can support the learner journey and advocating a cascade approach to learners, parents and carers. However, the SCQF Partnership has limited resources and requires a collaborative approach to spread the word amongst schools. It is hoped that the work arising from the learner journey review will assist this.

The SCQF is also a valuable tool to support parity of esteem amongst qualifications and again, although the SCQF Partnership is working hard to raise awareness of this fact with key stakeholders, more needs to be done to ensure understanding in this area.

The introduction of Insight has been a welcome development within Scottish education allowing any learning programme that is SCQF credit rated to have the potential to be included in the school improvement tool rather than just SQA qualifications. However, the allocation of tariff scoring had come under some scrutiny and there were concerns that it created perverse incentives in that it discriminated between vocational and graded qualifications in terms of the number of tariff points allocated.

The SCQFP has worked closely with the Insight team at Scottish Government in this area and our CEO has chaired the tariff review group. We therefore very much welcome the piloting of a grade neutral tariff system which should go some way to

removing this bias. Alongside this though there needs to be clear messaging from Scottish Government around the importance of all types of qualifications and not just those that are end tested. The work around the learner journey review will further support this.