

## **STEM Bursary Advisory group**

**Monday 26 November 2018**

### **Note of meeting**

#### **Attendees**

Stephanie Walsh (Chair)	Policy Manager, Teacher Workforce, Scottish Government
Stuart Robb	Unit Head, Education Workforce Unit
Angela Felvus	Senior Policy Officer, Education Workforce Unit, (Secretariat)
Barbara Morton	STEM Team leader, Scottish Government
Ken Edwards	Education Programme Lead, Skills Development Scotland
Lynda McShane	STEM Programme Executive, Skills Development Scotland
Ian Rivers	Scottish Council of Deans of Education
Helen Gorman	Team Leader Skills and Youth Employment, Stirling Council

#### **Apologies**

Nicola Dickie	Chief Officer – Children and Young People, Cosla
Stuart Robb	Unit Head, Education Workforce Unit
Diane Hill	Transition Training Fund Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Lisa Dawson	Director of Student Systems and Administration
Jennifer Brown	Student Funding Finance Manager

#### **Note**

1. The note of the previous meeting was agreed.
2. Actions from previous meeting
  - All actions were complete.
3. Discussion on the criteria for 2019/20 scheme

#### **Level of qualification**

The group discussed the implications around changing the level of qualification. This included suggesting changes that may introduce a selection process and the different scenarios in which a selection process could be taken forward. The group suggested that to allow a wider group of applicants the level of qualifications should be reduced from a 2.1 to a 2.2 or a minimum Initial Teacher Education (ITE) entry requirement with a relevant masters.

## Employment

The group further explored the employment criteria including, removing the requirement to be in current employment at time of application and an expectation that applicants should be 3 plus years away from full-time education to address specific part time working scenarios.

The status of carers was also discussed including how this could be evidence during the application process, the length of time a carer has been out of paid employment and how this relates to the bursary's intended purpose of supporting career changers giving up a salary. To further explore this it was agreed that a definition of 'who is a carer' was needed and that Skills Development Scotland (SDS) would consider when reviewing the employment criteria.

It was highlighted that there was a need to ensure that whatever changes are made we are fully aware of the implications in terms of needing a selection process.

SDS highlighted if the number of bursaries were to increase for the 2018/19 scheme this would have significantly increased costs on their staffing in terms of administering the scheme and in developing the application portal and related management system. Similar numbers to the 2017/18 scheme would mean minimal change and the cost to administer would be similar to the previous year.

It was agreed that SDS would develop a scenario paper looking at the impact of running different models from a selection process with only minor adjustments to last year's model. This paper would include examples around caring. This paper would be included in the recommendations submission to the Deputy First Minister.

### **Actions:**

- **Definition of 'who is a carer – Scottish Government to send definition to SDS - complete**
- **Defining a minimum expectation around what constitutes employed – SDS**
- **SDS to develop a scenario paper.**

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 January 2.00 - 4.30 at Victoria Quay