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## Scottish Tertiary Education Network for Micro-Credentials Minutes

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The sixth meeting of the Scottish Tertiary Education Network for Micro-Credentials was held on 24 March 2025 via Teams

Present: Anne Tierney (Co-Chair) Wilma MacLeod  
Jon Buglass (Co-Chair) Luke Millard  
Alison Gilmour Sharon Rankin  
Morven Shearer Duncan Abernethy  
Sara Rae Debra Willison  
Siobhan Wilson Keir Elder  
Iain Hawker

Officers: Karen Gray Alison Malcolm  
Erica Russell-Hensens Stewart Squire

Apologies: Douglas Dickson Pauline Hanesworth  
Phil McGuinness Eni Adesida  
Lee Lappin Joy Perkins  
John Kerr Iain McGarry  
Alen MacKinlay Sally Smith  
Steve Osborne Sheila Dunn

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

This item was chaired by Jon Buglass.

The Chair welcomed members of the network and extended a special welcome to Keir Elder from the University of Glasgow, who was standing in for John Kerr.

The Chair provided an update on the Co-Chairs recent meeting with CLD Standards Council and that CLD agreed to act as a critical friend in the development of the draft framework.

The Chair noted the recent webinar, "Micro-credential Practice: International Perspectives to support development across the UK's Nations", which was supported by Medr.

The Chair asked for any other items of business, and none were raised by members.

## 2. Minute of previous meeting (MCN/Min5/25)

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with no amendments.

## 3. Planning a New Micro-credentials Framework

This item was chaired by Anne Tierney.

The Chair introduced the agenda item and outlined the activities to support discussion and decision making. Members were then moved to breakout rooms as part of activity 1.

Members returned to the main meeting to undertake a plenary session and feedback included:

- Members noted that the Australian framework was the most developed.
- It was considered that the length of micro-credentials was important and learning hours and credits were discussed.
- The importance of the framework providing a consistent approach was highlighted.
- Members discussed the scope and placement of the market within the framework.
- There was agreement about the role, and alignment, of the framework to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and that there was an important principle that micro-credentials should have a quality framework attached to them.
- It was believed that micro-credentials should be driven by demand and be able to demonstrate that they meet the needs of employers and students.
- Members discussed the importance of standards in the framework, including the standards of assessment or evidence of competency at the end of the learning, but stressed it would not say how it should be done.
- Members believed that micro-credentials should be purposefully designed to support stackability.
- Members noted that there should be clarity around the framework's audience.
- It was agreed that there should be a clear definition of the purpose of micro-credentials.
- Members highlighted that stakeholders had different views of micro-credentials and that it is important to reflect that in the purpose.
- The appropriateness of the term stackability was discussed with colleagues noting that credit accumulation was not enough, it is important that curriculums can be linked.
- Members emphasised that opportunities for the Recognition of Prior Learning and portability should be explicit in the principles.
- Members noted other key areas such as funding as being fundamental to micro-credentials and the importance of funding to allow institutions to be innovative and agile.

- There was some discussion of micro-credentials being online as a national course and that if funding was based on regions, it might impact the provision on online and in person courses.

The Chair moved the meeting to the next activity.

The Chair directed members to the questions provided in the proposal paper and invited members views which included:

- Members noted the difficulty in how to organise the group development of the proposal.
- Members outlined different approaches that could be taken and highlighted that there were some issues that members had to agree on first.
- Members supported the development of a Microsoft Form which would assist the network to agree collectively on “red lines” for the framework. It was suggested that if members were content with the Australian model, that there could be some mapping done to help develop areas to decide and members noted that there was no disagreement with the structure proposed in the paper in the breakout groups.
- Members also discussed and agreed that a draft document would be developed and access would be provided to network members to review and provide track changes. There was a discussion on previous issues around access through Office 365 packages and alternative platforms were discussed.
- Members reviewed the timeline and it was agreed that a draft document would be developed for the network’s next meeting in May.
- Members outlined potential areas which would be covered in the Microsoft Form.
- There was a discussion about the differences between the SCQF and the role of SCQFP and whether or not all micro-credentials needed to be credit rated. It was noted that there was interest from Skills Development Scotland in discussing the framework due to their development of a national learner profile and digital badges.
- Members pointed to the previously developed micro-credentials characteristic statement, which covered the question of whether all micro-credentials needed to be credit rated and it was noted that there was some divergence in the approach taken by colleges and universities.
- Members highlighted the level of college credit rating was an important consideration and it was noted that could be looked at and an open text box could be provided to pick up red lines that had not been mentioned.
- Members agreed to store the documents in a SharePoint and reiterated that a collaborative document that members could access was the best way forward.

#### 4. Next Steps/Close

The Chair provided an overview of agreed next steps which included:

- A SharePoint would be established to store key documents.
- Notes from the Breakout groups would be stored in the SharePoint.
- A draft document would be created for members to review and engage with.
- A Microsoft Form will be developed for circulation around network members with red line questions.

The Co-Chairs agreed to meet to take the action's forward and no further items were put forward for discussion.

The Chair thanked members and ended the meeting.