

SDS Education 2026 – 2027 professional learning offer



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The SDS Education Team supports educators to embed meaningful, sustainable career education within learning and teaching. Through a delivery model that combines a universal professional learning offer with tailored support for local authorities and colleges, we help practitioners develop their knowledge, confidence and capability across key career education themes. This approach ensures all educators can access high-quality professional learning while also benefiting from targeted support that reflects local priorities.

Universal professional learning offer

A national programme of professional learning available to all educators, providing access to virtual workshops, sharing practice sessions and supporting resources.

Tailored support for local authorities

A tailored package of support, developed in partnership with local authority leads to meet local improvement priorities and build sustainable capacity in career education.

Tailored professional learning offer for colleges

A tailored programme of professional learning, co-designed with college strategic leads to meet institutional priorities, and support curriculum and student services teams.

Career Education



Meta-skills



Embedding Skills and Profiling



Scotland's Learner Profile



Labour Market Information



Experiential Career Learning



SDS Research: The Voice of Young People



You can find out more about the SDS Education team 2026 – 2027 professional learning offer via the SDS Education team webpage:

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/scotlands-careers-services/education-team>

Universal professional learning offer

Our universal professional learning offer provides all educators with access to consistent, high-quality learning opportunities aligned to key career education themes. The offer includes a national programme of professional learning (PL) workshops, sharing interesting practice (SIP) sessions, and supporting resources that help practitioners build their understanding and confidence over time. It aims to provide a common foundation while allowing individuals and establishments to engage with themes that are most relevant to their needs.

PL workshops

- 45-minute virtual workshop.
- Explores the 'Why' and the 'What' of key themes and their impact on learners and practice.
- Builds confidence through evidence-informed content.
- Encourages self-reflection through participation in activities.



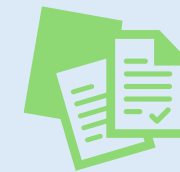
SIP sessions

- 1hour 15-minute virtual session.
- Explores 'How' the key theme is brought to life in practice.
- Features insights, examples and approaches shared by guest speakers.
- Provides opportunities for professional dialogue throughout.



Supporting resources

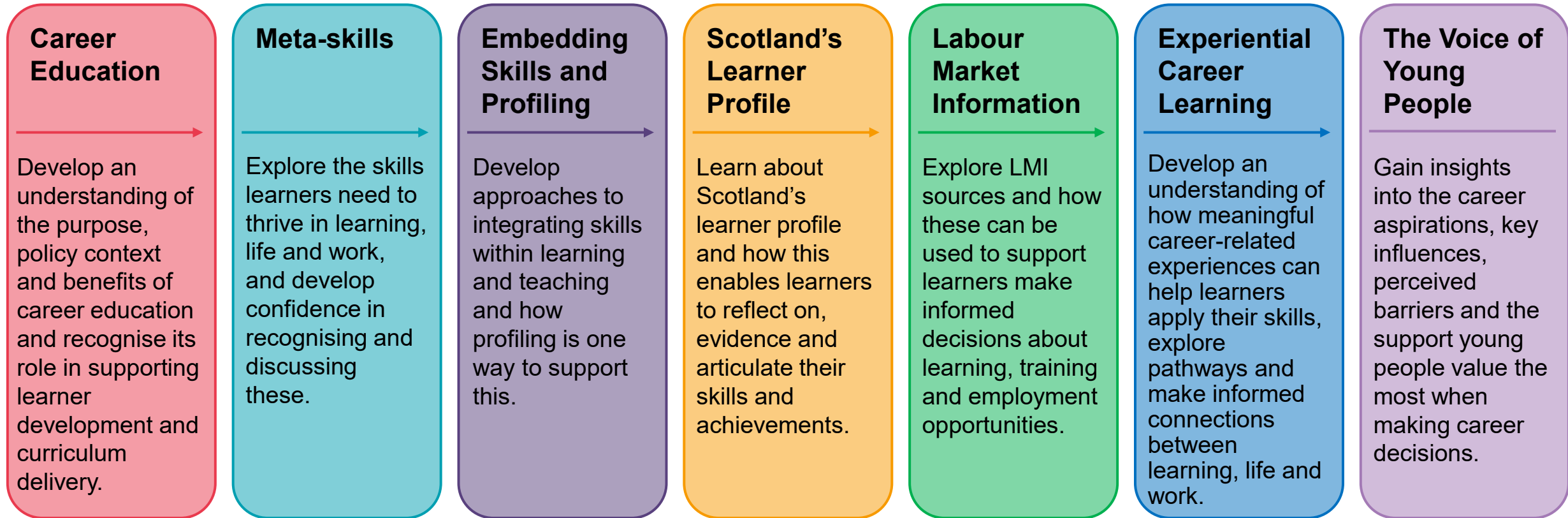
- Access to materials, guidance, self-evaluation and planning tools that can build confidence and enhance learning and teaching.
- Learn from inspiring examples of practice through a suite of case studies.



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Progressive learning journey

Educators can engage with any theme at a stage that best meets their needs; however, the programme is designed as a progressive learning journey that supports deeper development over time. Starting with career education as the foundation, practitioners build their knowledge, confidence and practice before exploring meta-skills, profiling, labour market information, applying learning in practice, and using learner voice to inform planning and improvement.



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National programme of PL workshops and SIP sessions

Our national programme is delivered through two learning cycles, September 2026 to December 2026 (cycle 1) and January 2027 to May 2027 (cycle 2), giving educators multiple opportunities to engage with key career education themes while providing greater flexibility and accessibility throughout the academic year.

Each cycle follows a progressive learning journey, beginning with foundational knowledge and building towards practical application. Professional Learning (PL) workshops are complemented by Sharing Interesting Practice (SIP) sessions, which take place throughout the programme and provide opportunities for practitioners to explore how themes are being implemented in real settings, learn from colleagues, and engage in professional dialogue.

	Cycle 1										Cycle 2																			
Format	Sept 2026	October 2026		November 2026		December 2026		January 2027		February 2027		March 2027		April 2027		May 2027														
PL Workshop	Career Education	Meta-skills	School holidays	Embedding Skills and Profiling	Scotland's Learner Profile			Labour Market Information	Experiential Career Learning	The Voice of Young People		School holidays	Career Education	Meta-skills		Embedding Skills and Profiling	School holidays	Scotland's Learner Profile			Labour Market Information	School holidays		Experiential Career Learning		The Voice of Young People				
SIP session						Meta-skills					Labour Market Information										Experiential Career Learning						Scotland's Learner Profile			



Sign up by clicking the relevant theme above or by visiting the SDS Education team webpage:
<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/scotlands-careers-services/education-team>

Tailored support for local authorities

Through consultation and collaboration with local authority strategic leads, and wider partners; our professional learning content, delivery approaches and support can be adapted to reflect local context, improvement priorities and emerging workforce development needs.

These illustrations provide a sample of some of the ways the SDS Education team can provide support.

Engagement with local authority groups and networks



Contribute to strategic and operational local authority networks to:

- explore potential collaboration and plan implementation
- offer information and guidance
- deliver keynotes and workshops at conferences or events

Professional learning



To complement our national virtual programme, we can support authority wide professional learning including:

- PRT programmes
- development of bespoke professional learning aligned to improvement priorities
- delivery to DYW, CLD, employability and other partners

Collaborative projects



Develop and test new approaches to embedding career education key themes that could include:

- more in-depth support
- support for shared developments between schools, local authority and college



If you would like arrange a consultation for your local authority, please complete this [online form](#) or contact us at education@sds.co.uk

Tailored professional learning offer for colleges

The SDS Education team can support colleges with the embedding of career education, meta-skills, profiling and labour market information within the curriculum. Our offer can be tailored to complement existing college improvement priorities and aligns with national policies and guidance including the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) and the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF).

Professional learning



To complement our national virtual programme, we can support colleges with tailored professional learning inputs for a wide variety of purposes including:

- whole staff development days
- cross-departmental sessions
- joint workshops with schools, local authorities and employers
- keynotes and workshops at conferences and events

Career Education



- Develop an understanding of the purpose, policy context and benefits of career education and recognise its role in supporting learner development and curriculum delivery.

Meta-skills



- Explore the skills learners need to thrive in learning, life and work, and develop confidence in recognising and discussing these.

Embedding Skills and Profiling



- Develop approaches to integrating skills within learning and teaching and how Scotland's Learner profile can support this.

Labour Market Information



- Explore LMI sources and how these can be used to support learners make informed decisions about learning, training and employment opportunities.



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