**Business in Parliament Conference 2023**

**Sustainable Recovery: Maximising the Opportunities of the next Decade**

**Workshop 3 Note - Enterprise education within the Young Person’s Guarantee, National Strategy for Economic Transformation**

**Co-Chairs**:

* Jamie Hepburn MSP**,** Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training.
* Colin Smyth, MSP, member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee

**Host**:

* Mark Armstrong and Lynn Kelly, Young Enterprise Scotland

**Speakers:**

* Julie Degnan, Scotland’s Enterprise Schools
* Gillian Darroch, Young Enterprise Scotland
* Lisa Wardlaw, Bridge 2 Business
* Morgane Imre, Entrepreneur, Designs by Morgane
* Moth Hay, Entrepreneur, Moth to Flame Events
* Emma Soanes, Young Enterprise Scotland, CEO

**Summary**

The session was opened by the Minister who welcomed the attendees and thanked Young Enterprise Scotland for hosting the workshop. The Minister then summarised the importance of these events, where business, parliament and government can come together to discuss the embedding of entrepreneurship and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

Co-host, Colin Smyth, MSP for South Scotland, shared his previous experience of entrepreneurship education programmes before handing over to Young Enterprise Scotland to lead the workshop.

Participants then heard presentations from all six speakers summarising the work that Young Enterprise Scotland is currently doing in schools and in further education. These presentations were broken-up with Q&A discussion sessions.

The session was drawn to a close with Colin Smyth MSP, thanking all the speakers, the young entrepreneurs that shared their experiences and the businesses that attended for their contributions to the discussion. He concluded that businesses are key to the successful delivery of entrepreneurship programmes in schools and stated that entrepreneurial education is on all of our agendas.

**Key points discussed**

* **Geographical reach of entrepreneurship education programmes:**

It was suggested during the discussion that access to entrepreneurship education is predominantly teacher-led and often requires a willing teacher to actively engage with entrepreneurship programmes or teach enterprise skills within their classes. This may lead to a disparity in entrepreneurial education across the regions, schools and classrooms as not all teachers are aware or wish to bring in entrepreneurial education programmes into their classroom.

It was concluded in the discussion that rural and regional offerings need to keep evolving to meet the demand required. Continued learning may still be required to assess any different regional requirements.

* **The inclusion of teachers in promoting and providing entrepreneurial education:**

It was suggested that amongst the challenges for entrepreneurship education programmes was getting the programmes into the schools and for educators across Scotland to understand the importance of enterprise education. This was followed by a short discussion on the potential factors that may have led to these challenges. There was agreement that for entrepreneurial education to be in all schools, teachers have to *want* to teach these skills and participate in these programmes. They should not be viewed as an added extra.

It was highlighted that enterprise is already present within the curriculum but suggested that entrepreneurial education is yet to be fully embedded. It was proposed that if entrepreneurial education was taught across all subject areas, this may alleviate the disconnect. It was suggested that entrepreneurship education should be seen as an essential part of education and the ongoing discussion around the education system may be an excellent opportunity to achieve this.

Student teachers' Career-Long Professional Learning could be another valuable way to deliver this goal as student teachers are a captive audience. Regional role models were also suggested as a method to inspire young people into entrepreneurship, as well as the continuations of productive partnerships with enterprise education stakeholders and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

* **Entrepreneurship or starting your own business should be seen as a valid option for young people:**

The final discussion centered on the entrepreneurial mindset. There was agreement that entrepreneurship is not currently viewed as a valid or attainable option for young people compared to going into employment or higher/ further education and that more could be done to ensure more parity of esteem.

It was recognised that this was a substantial issue to overcome. It was noted that if this is to be addressed, then a multi-sector approach was crucial. Mentorship and more representation in schools were provided as two initial ways to overcome this issue.

It was suggested that the continued valuable work between Developing the Young Workforce and enterprise education organisations to give entrepreneurship parity of esteem alongside employment, training, and further education so that young people feel this is a valid option for their future.