

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Education Officer

Educational Services Committee: 24 August 2016

Subject: School Leaver Destination Report follow up

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the figures for follow up school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2014/15 and to explain how these figures compare to the initial school leaver destinations reported in 2 March 2016.
- 1.2** To inform Members of the progress with the action plan being implemented to address the fall in positive destinations, and further identified steps that require to be taken.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Educational Service Committee is recommended to:
 - a) note the contents of the report and appendix 1 outlining the statistics for follow up school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire for 2014/2015. (Appendix 1)
 - b) note the progress with the action plan (Appendix 2) outlining the actions and next steps to improve the figure for school leaver destinations.

3. Background

- 3.1** Each year Skills Development Scotland (SDS) provides information on the destinations of school leavers from publicly funded schools to the Scottish Government. A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year, and where the school year is taken to run from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015. Initial (autumn) destinations data of school leavers was taken on the snapshot date of Monday 5th October 2015, and was reported to committee on 2 December 2015.
- 3.2** Six months later, this cohort of young people is again analysed to provide a follow up report, the content of which is presented in this report. Destinations data is gathered through a combination of direct follow up of leavers by SDS and shared administrative data from local authorities, colleges, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). Leaver data is supplied to the Scottish Government's Education Analysis Unit (SGEAS) at an individual level and they match this

data to information they hold in order to report against the National Indicator “Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work”.

- 3.3** Skills Development Scotland acknowledges that the “snapshot” approach of calculating destinations on one specific day is imperfect and is moving to a new, more robust Participation Measure’ in the future. This Participation measure will look at the destinations of all young people 16-19 instead of only those in their year of leaving school. It will also regard secondary, further and higher education along with training as participation on the way to a destination, as opposed to a destination in and of itself.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** In analysing the statistics, it should be noted that “positive destinations” are classed as: ‘Higher Education’, ‘Further Education’, ‘Employment’, ‘Training’, ‘Voluntary work’ and ‘Activity Agreements’. ‘Negative destinations’ are classed as: ‘Unemployed Seeking’ and ‘Unemployed Not Seeking’.

The headline follow up figures for school leavers in West Dunbartonshire for 2014/15 are:

- Young people in positive destinations have decreased by 0.9% from 89.4% to 88.5%.
- Two of our secondary schools recorded a growth in school leavers sustaining positive destinations:
 - Vale of Leven Academy up 0.5% from 85.2% to 85.7%
- Dumbarton Academy up 1.9% from 91.5% to 93.4%
- Three of our 5 secondary schools recorded a decline in school leavers sustaining positive destinations:
 - Clydebank High School down -2.2%, from 91.1% to 88.9%
 - Our Lady and St Patrick’s High School down -1.6% from 91.8% to 90.2%
 - St Peter the Apostle High School down -1.0% from 88% to 87%
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- Young people in higher education decreased by 2.1% from 33.6% to 31.5%.
- Young people in further education decreased by 4.1% from 29.8% to 25.7%.
- Young people in training decreased by 1.4% from 5.1% to 3.7%.
- Young people in employment increased by 7.2% from 19.6% to 26.8%.
- Young people involved in voluntary work decreased by 0.3% from 0.5% to 0.2%.
- Young people on Activity Agreements decreased by 0.1% from 0.7% to 0.6%.
- Young people reported as unemployed seeking increased by 0.8% from 8.6% to 9.4%.
- Young people reported as unemployed not seeking increased by 0.3% from 1.6% to 1.9%.

- The initial SLDR reported 0.4% of school leavers as 'unconfirmed', but this had dropped to 0.1% at the time of follow up.

4.2 There are some similarities across schools in West Dunbartonshire:

- All schools recorded a decline in the number of school leavers sustaining places in Higher Education.
- All schools recorded a growth in the number of school leavers being in employment.

4.3 There is significant local variation amongst establishments in West Dunbartonshire:

4.3.1 Vale of Leven Academy saw a decline in the number of young people sustaining places in Higher Education (down 2.3%), Further Education (down 8.5%), Training (down 3.7%) whilst also showing a decrease in the number of young people recorded as 'Unemployed Seeking' (down 0.5%). They saw the largest growth in the number of young people in Employment (up 15.1%). This gives an overall positive performance from the initial destinations recorded.

4.3.2 Dumbarton Academy saw a decline in the number of young people sustaining places in Higher Education (down 2.8%) and Training (down 1.9%), but an increase in the number of young people in Further Education (up 1.9%) and Employment (up 4.7%), whilst simultaneously seeing a reduction in the number of young people recorded as 'Unemployed Seeking' (down 1.9%). This gives an overall positive performance from the initial destinations recorded.

4.3.3 Clydebank High saw a decline in the number of young people sustaining places in Further Education (down 5.4%) and Higher Education (down 1.2%). They also showed an increase in the number of young people recorded as 'Unemployed Seeking' (up 2.2%). This gives an overall negative performance from the initial destinations recorded.

4.3.4 Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School saw a decline in the number of young people sustaining places in Higher Education (down 2.8%), Further Education (down 4.4%) and Training (down 0.5%), whilst also showing an increase in the number of young people recorded as 'Unemployed Seeking' (up 1.6%). They saw growth in the number of young people in Employment (up 6%). This gives an overall negative performance from the initial destinations recorded.

4.3.5 St. Peter the Apostle High School saw a decline in the number of young people sustaining places in Higher Education (down 2%), Further Education (down 2.7%), Training (down 1.7%) and Voluntary work (down 1%), whilst also showing an increase in the number of young people recorded as 'Unemployed Seeking' (up 1.1%). They saw growth in the number of young people in Employment (up 6.5%). This gives an overall negative performance from the initial destinations recorded.

- 4.4** With such a shift between initial and follow up destinations, it is clear that many of our young people are entering a destination upon leaving school that they do not sustain. Further analysis of why destinations are not sustained by our young people would need to be conducted. Factors such as not selecting the appropriate initial destination, not having the resilience to sustain the destination, or external factors on their ability to sustain the destination may affect our follow up performance.
- 4.5** With the introduction of Insight, positive sustained destinations are a key measure of the success of a school. Development work will be required with senior management teams and staff in our secondary schools to ensure that all staff are aware that the success of our secondary schools is not solely measured by examination performance, but also in the ability of our young people to achieve and sustain a positive destination that is right for them.
- 4.6** Details of the 2014/15 follow up figures are provided as Appendix 1.
- 4.7** Further to our initial school leaver destinations report, West Dunbartonshire Senior Phase team staff have been working closely with Skills Development Scotland staff to ensure that this negative trend is reversed. Key activities such as monthly 16+ meetings case managing individual young people have been reintroduced, along with positive early interventions for young people potentially at risk of entering a negative destination. Further work is required to understand the factors affecting young people changing destinations, and the negative affect this shows in our performance. West Dunbartonshire Senior Phase team staff will undertake this work in partnership with SDS and secondary schools, and report findings back to a future Education Committee.
- 4.8** Details of the joint action plan between SDS and West Dunbartonshire Council is provided as Appendix 2.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications arising directly from this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** Strategies to ensure as many young people as possible move into positive post-school destinations are financed from within existing budgets but are dependent on continued support from the Opportunities for All Grant from the Scottish Government.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Failure to achieve high levels of positive post school destinations represents a significant risk to the future life chances of our young people. The Council also faces challenges in ensuring positive destinations are sustained over a longer period of time.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** As this is a report which provides information but does not itself impact on policy development or changes to service delivery, there are no equalities issues arising from the contents of this report.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** This report reflects the Council's aspiration to improve life chances for children and young people which is one of the strategic priorities for 2012 - 2017.
- 10.2** The achievement of high levels of positive post school destinations is important for future economic regeneration of West Dunbartonshire, and is a key strategic SOA Local Priority within both the 'Supporting Children and Families' and 'Employability and Economic Growth' Delivery and Improvement Groups Action Plans.

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Date: 22 July 2016

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Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Analysis of Follow up SLDR 2014-2015 Appendix 2 – Action Plan
Background Papers:	EIA Screening
Wards Affected:	All wards