
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 3 November 2009
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No: 01475 712824
Subject:	Update on the More Choices, More Chances Initiative	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the progress made within this initiative.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2003 Inverclyde was in 31st position nationally in terms of the percentage of young people not achieving a positive destination, such as entering employment, training or further/higher education.
- 2.2 A collaborative partnership of officers, led by Education Services, began working towards the reduction of the numbers of young people not entering positive destinations (NEET) in the late summer of 2006. The partnership consists of officers from Jobcentre Plus, James Watt College, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire and colleagues from the Psychological Service, Social Work, Community Learning and Development, the voluntary sector and secondary schools.
- 2.3 Inverclyde now sits in 19th position nationally in terms of NEET (now known as MCMC) expressed as a percentage of the 16 – 19 population (9.4%). It is achieving a lower percentage than other authorities, such as East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Dundee, Glasgow, Renfrewshire and West Lothian. Inverclyde is only slightly behind South Lanarkshire, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that members note the positive information contained in this report.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 An update on new developments and recent progress is set out below:

- The Convener of Education & Lifelong Learning Committee launched the new Action Plan and Partnership Manual document, the 'Planual', with representatives from the More Choices More Chances (MCMC) Local Partnership on the 07th July 2009 and this was promoted through the Inverclyde Council website and the Greenock Telegraph.
- The Planual is also being shared with Scottish Government who assisted with funding, and this will be made available to the other 31 Local Authorities, LTS has requested the MCMC Development Officer present this work at a national forum
- The MCMC website address is www.inverclyde.gov.uk/mcmc is now part of the main Education Services, Inverclyde Council website
- Education Services has successfully applied to Scottish Government for additional resources for the implementation of 16+ Learning Choices. £100,000 has been used to recruit 2 members of staff to ensure that the infrastructure is in place for delivery by December 2010.
- Scottish Government representatives, including the HMIE Inspector Elizabeth Morrison, visited Inverclyde on the 10th August for the annual review of MCMC
- The Schools Minister, Keith Brown MSP, has Inverclyde as part of his MCMC portfolio and visited the MCMC Local Partnership touring Inverclyde Academy on the 20th August 2009
- Inverclyde has been selected as one of 10 Local Authority pilot areas for a new initiative called 'Activity Agreements'. Funding of £298,771 has been secured for the period June 2009 to March 2011. There will also be additional use of EMA grants. Community Learning & Development will lead on the delivery of this new approach to young people with complex needs who are less likely to make a positive transition when leaving school.
- Inverclyde held an MCMC conference in September 2009 to bring together managers and staff to consult on how services can be developed and improved. Lord Smith and Stephen Devine, Deputy Director at Scottish Government with responsibility for MCMC were keynote speakers. The conference was opened by the Chief Executive.
- A new group of MCMC providers has been formed. This is believed to be the first of its kind in Scotland. The group will improve links and develop Curriculum of Excellence in the post school delivery of services. Included in this group are the 5 organisations that have received funding from Inspire Scotland.
- Inverclyde has continued to host fact finding visits from other Local Authorities and these have included East Ayrshire and Renfrewshire Councils

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the initiatives underway and progress made.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

MCMC has received funding of £894,271 for the years 2008 to 2011 as detailed below.

Financial implications - Budget information - external funding

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Budget	Virement from	Other comments
01995	More choices More chances	2008 - 10	£495,500	N/A	Funded by Fairer Scotland Fund
01995	More choices More chances	2009 - 2011	£100,000	N/A	16+ Learning Choices grant funded by Scottish Government
01995	More choices More chances	June 2009 to March 2011	£298,771	N/A	Activity Agreements funded by Scottish Government

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

6.3 Personnel

Two Co-ordinators on temporary contracts for the period of the funding have been appointed for 16+ Learning Activities.

6.4 Equalities

There are no equality issues.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Partners and Stakeholders are kept fully informed of new developments in this area. Views of partners are made known at the regular MCMC Strategy Group meetings.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 MCMC is an area of excellent practice in the Council which is receiving national attention. The allocation of further funding allows the Service to continue to reduce still further the number of young people entering negative destinations.

9.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES

9.1 There are no equality issues.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Inverclyde MCMC Planual, April 2009 – March 2011.