

Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	19 January 2010
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:	EDUC/13/10/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	Update on the Get Ready for Work Programme		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the changes to the national training programme of Get Ready for Work and its impact locally.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Information on training within the More Choices More Chances Initiative was requested at the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of 3 November 2009. Inverclyde is an active participant and beneficiary of the Get Ready for Work (GRfW) programme for 16-18 year olds and Inverclyde Council is also a training provider for the scheme.
- 2.2 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is an active member of the More Choices More Chances Local Partnership and the sub groups. Entry to GRfW is gained through SDS.
- 2.3 Skills Development Scotland changed the entry criteria for Get Ready for Work on the 1st April 2009 and this has reduced the number of school leavers in summer 2009 who were eligible to join the programme compared to previous guidelines.
- 2.4 Skills Development Scotland recently relaxed the entry criteria for potential trainees in late November 2009 and a trawl is currently underway with 16-18 year olds who may now be able to access the programme between now and March 2010.
- 2.5 Inverclyde continues to place a high importance on the Get Ready for Work programme as an option for access to vocational training for school and post-school young people.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 An update of recent activity includes:

- The MCMC Development Officer and Skills Development Scotland host regular quarterly meetings of local training provision rotated across venues in Inverclyde
- The above group includes all the organisations that deliver Get Ready for Work in Inverclyde, the newly funded Inspiring Scotland providers and the statutory sector
- The MCMC Development Officer visited every Get Ready for Work training provider in Inverclyde during October 2009 to give and receive updates and establish which further opportunities or developments are required for local provision and delivery
- The Skills Development Scotland Operations Director, Danny Logue, met with the MCMC Development Officer and local SDS Team Leaders on the 24th September and discussed and requested greater flexibility of local Get Ready for Work delivery. This was granted in late November 2009
- Skills Development Scotland are currently reviewing all potential clients who may be eligible to join or re-join the programme to maximise the opportunities for the appropriate young people in Inverclyde
- Skills Development Scotland administer a Fairer Scotland Funded discretionary programme called Individual Change Accounts and all young people joining Get Ready for Work are assessed for this support including clothing, zone cards etc
- All young people who join Get Ready for Work are offered a starter pack funded by the Individual Change Accounts which includes a bag from James Watt College, notepad, pen, pen drive, alarm clock and leaflets from health, Youth Work etc
- Inverclyde will continue to maximise the use of Get Ready for Work for young people into vocational training with local employers
- A review of Get Ready for Work recommended that this continues to attract a payment of £55 per week although this will come under the Educational Maintenance Allowance and may become means tested in the future
- Inverclyde has been selected as one of 10 Local Authority pilot areas for a new initiative called 'Activity Agreements' and this will support more young people to become eligible to progress onto Life skills and Get Ready for Work between now and March 2011

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes this briefing and further information will be supplied as developments or changes are made.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Skills Development Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government to deliver the Get Ready for Work programme across Scotland and in Inverclyde.

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resource issues.

6.4 Equalities

There are no equality issues.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The MCMC Local Partnership continues to work to develop local opportunities and influence how Get Ready for Work can be adapted to meet local demand and need.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 School Leaver Destination Results follow-up 2007-08.

Background

The School Leaver Destination Return is a statistical exercise undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. Information on the latest known destination of school leavers in September, referred to as the school leaver's initial destination is collated by SDS. This is approximately 3 months after they left school (although some may have left school in the previous winter). This return is published in December of each year by the Scottish Government. Local authority reports compiled by SDS on the initial destinations of the 2007/08 school leavers can be found on our website here:

<http://www.careers-scotland.org.uk/AboutCS/Initiatives/SLDR.asp>

During March and April 2009, SDS contacted the 2007/08 cohort of leavers from publicly funded schools to update their destination from the initial survey. The results have been used, by the Scottish Government, to monitor the national indicator on increasing the proportion of school leavers in sustained positive destinations. The Government has published these results and they can be found here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/follow>.

The initial destinations data provides information on the outcomes for young people leaving school approximately 3 months after leaving while the follow up survey provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately 9 months after leaving school. These publications should be seen as complementary to one another however it should be noted that different factors may affect the results at the different time periods.

Methodology

The SLDR cohort was contacted to establish their current destination. SDS managed to successfully contact **94%** of the cohort to establish their current destination, **0.4%** of the original cohort were excluded from this follow up exercise as they had either returned to school or had moved out with Scotland. SDS was therefore unable to establish the current destination of **5.5%** of the 2007/08 school leavers. Our analysis which follows is based solely on those destinations which we were able to establish and will therefore not match exactly with the Scottish Government's analysis which uses statistical techniques to provide a Scotland level estimate of positive and sustained destinations for the whole leaving cohort. SDS has agreed with the Scottish Government that the Local Authority level analysis presented in this paper will be based only on those leavers contacted by SDS during the follow-up survey.

Positive destinations relate to all young people from publicly funded secondary schools whose current status is Higher Education, Further Education, Training, Voluntary Work and Employment.

Analysis

This year there were **988** young people reported in the SLDR within the Inverclyde local authority area. **3** of these leavers have since returned to school or moved out with Scotland and have therefore been excluded from the return leaving a total of **985**. Skills Development Scotland was able to contact **937 (94.8%)** and this analysis relates only to these young people for whom their current destination is known.

Positive Destinations

Higher Education

There were **315** young people in Higher Education in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **94.3%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **93.3%** had sustained and remained within Higher Education
- **5.1%** had moved into another positive destination
- **1.6%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

Further Education

There were **291** young people in Further Education in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **99.7%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **80.0%** had sustained and remained within Further Education
- **10.0%** had moved into another positive destination
- **10.0%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

Training

There were **73** young people in Training in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **98.6%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **38.4%** had sustained and remained within Training
- **31.5%** had moved into another positive destination
- **30.1%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

Employment

There were **182** young people in Employment in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **91.9%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **73.6%** had sustained and remained within Employment
- **12.6%** had moved into another positive destination
- **13.7%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

Voluntary Work

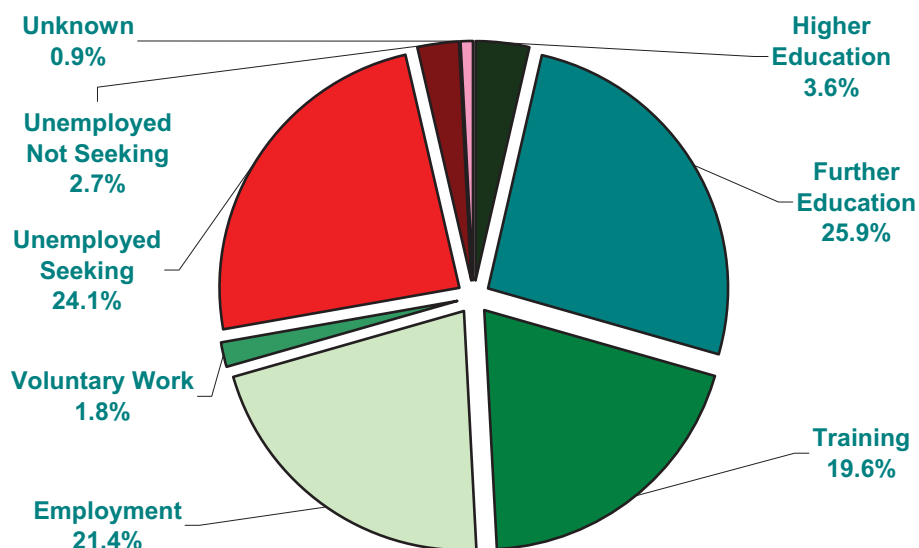
There were **4** young people in Voluntary Work in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. **2** young people have sustained this destination and the remaining **2** young people are currently within a negative destination.

Negative Destinations

Unemployed Seeking

There were **54** young people who were unemployed seeking in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **91.5%** of the original unemployed seeking cohort.

However, there were **112** individuals from Inverclyde secondary schools who had a status of unemployed seeking at the time of the SLDR follow up and SDS was able to contact all of them. **72.3%** of this cohort were in a positive destination in the SLDR in September. The graph below shows the breakdown of the September destinations of those recorded as unemployed seeking in the March/April follow up.



As shown this group is very fluid and in addition to those who were reported in a positive destination in September a further **16.1%** of those reported as being unemployed seeking in the SLDR follow up had already been in at least one positive destination since leaving school but had been unable to sustain it.

52.7% of all young people reported as unemployed seeking in the March/April follow up left school at their statutory leave date and the majority of those reported (**62.5%**) are male.

Unemployed Seeking in both Surveys

24.1% (27) of young people were reported as unemployed seeking in both surveys and the following table indicates the number of weeks this group have been in a negative destination between the SLDR in September and the follow up survey around 6 months later.

Number of Weeks	Total	%
0 to 12 weeks	1	4%
13 to 25 weeks	2	7%
26 weeks and over	24	89%

55.6% had individual circumstances that put them into the “At Risk” category as detailed with the Scottish Government’s More Choices More Chances strategy and SDS was aware of these indicators for **53.3%** of this cohort prior to them leaving school. **55.6%** of these young people have engaged with SDS at some point over the period and had been allocated a SDS case manager. **40.7%** of them have received support from a SDS key worker.

By the 30th June, **3.7%** of this cohort had already secured a positive destination.

Intermediate Data zones analysis for Unemployed Seeking:

By using a leaver’s last known postcode we were able to analyse the areas of the authority where unemployed leavers were living. In the SLDR follow up there were **110** unemployed seeking leavers from Inverclyde secondary schools who were still residing within the local authority area, with the other **2** living out with the authority boundaries. However, there were a further **2** leavers who attended other local authority secondary schools who had moved into the area, leaving a total of **112** leavers in the follow up exercise residing in Inverclyde.

The table below shows the unemployed leavers by intermediate data zone. There are unemployed seeking leavers residing within **16** intermediate data zones within the authority but only those with the highest **10** percentages are displayed:

Intermediate Datazone	Total	%	Intermediate Datazone	Total	%
Port Glasgow Upper East	17	15.2%	Port Glasgow Upper, West and Central	8	7.1%
Port Glasgow Mid, East and Central	13	11.6%	Greenock Town Centre & East Central	7	6.3%
Lower Bow & Larkfield, Fancy Farm, Mallard Bowl	12	10.7%	Greenock Upper Central	7	6.3%
Braeside, Branchton, Lower Larkfield and Ravenscra	11	9.8%	West Braeside, East Inverkip and West Gourrock	6	5.4%
Greenock East	11	9.8%	Inverkip and Wemyss Bay	5	4.5%

Unemployed Not Seeking

There were **15** young people who were Unemployed Not Seeking in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **83.3%** of the full cohort. This category includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. These individual circumstances may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out and as such it is not anticipated that many will become economically active between the two surveys. It can be noted however, that **20.0% (3)** did progress into a positive destination.

Unknown

9 young people were unknown in the SLDR and **55.6% (5)** were still unknown at the time of the SLDR Follow Up. A further **6** young people have become unknown since the original SLDR exercise in September. None of these young people could be followed up.