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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Lifelong Learning Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 May 2010</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education and Communities</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUC/37/10/DS</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Dougie Smith</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712828</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on the winter 2009 school leavers for the purposes of 16+ Learning Choices</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the offers made to and intended destinations of the winter 2009 school leavers, as a report on the early implementation of 16+ Learning Choices.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 16+ Learning Choices is a guaranteed offer of a place in post-16 learning for every young person approaching their statutory school leaving age. This is an integral part of Curriculum for Excellence as well as facilitating delivery of the national indicator for positive and sustained post-16 destinations: "increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (Further Education, Higher Education, Employment or Training)".
- 2.2 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies monthly information to the More Choices, More Chances team on the offers made to, as well as the destinations of, school leavers for each educational establishment in Inverclyde. This return is based on joint working between the school guidance teams and the Careers Advisers from SDS and is supported by strong local partnership working.
- 2.3 A summary of offers is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members note the positive information contained in this report as a success for Inverclyde as an early adopter of 16+ Learning Choices as well as adding to the successes for Inverclyde's young people in the area of post-school transitions.

**Albert Henderson**  
**Corporate Director of Education & Communities**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 16+ Learning Choices is the Scottish Government model for helping young people stay in learning post-16, as it is recognised that this is the best way to ensure their long term employability. *It is not prescriptive*; rather, it offers local partnerships a useful framework for implementing and delivering post-16 learning choices. It will help build capacity for individuals, families and communities; and will support economic growth in Scotland. Critically, it will help reduce and prevent youth unemployment.
- 4.2 By December 2010 16+ Learning Choices will be the nationally adopted model for **all young people** – generally those aged 15-18 leaving any episode of learning, regardless of setting (including compulsory education), during what is being termed as the “Senior Phase” of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 4.3 The default offer made to each young person as they approach their statutory leaving date is that of staying at school. Any **alternative** offers made to young people are recorded by SDS. Only the acceptances of offers outwith that of staying on at school are summarised in Appendix 1, as these, by definition, relate to the school leavers.
- 4.4 This framework of support to young people and the concurrent information sharing that helps to record and manage the process between schools and outside agencies working in partnership with the schools, will feed into the national School Leaver Destination Results which are published each year in November / December.
- 4.5 The development of 16+ Learning Choices will yet further reduce the number of “unknown” destinations for young people as well as reducing the negative destinations; as active monitoring and intervention is built into the 16+ Learning Choices framework for all relevant young people, throughout the academic session.

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 This report is submitted to Committee as an update on Inverclyde’s current position in the implementation of this national development. It is proposed that partners continue to refine systems and processes in relation to this area of work prior to the national roll-out of 16+ Learning Choices in December 2010.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Finance

There are no known financial issues.

### 6.2 Legal

Partners are currently ensuring that information sharing can be effectively achieved within an appropriate structure in terms of security and confidentiality. This is being addressed nationally, to ensure that all parties have access to appropriate information, which has been transferred between systems in accordance with Data Protection requirements.

### 6.3 Human Resources

There are no known personnel issues.

### 6.4 Equalities

There are no known equality issues.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The schools, Skills Development Scotland, Social Work and all partners have worked effectively to ensure that the winter 2009 leavers are being supported in their transition from educational establishments. The current resulting figures are very positive in the context of the current economic climate.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 The 16+ Learning Choices Policy Framework is due for release in April 2010 and copies will be circulated for Members when this is received from the Scottish Government.

## Appendix 1:

### 2009 Winter Leavers, Summary of Offers and Destinations

- These figures relate to the December 2009 leaving date, with reports from SDS in Feb / Mar
- It should be noted that the default offer made to every young person reaching statutory school leaving age is to stay on at school. The information summarised in the following table relates only to those young people, eligible to leave school in Winter 2009 who **did not** choose to stay on at school.

<b>Inverclyde Schools Winter Leavers 2009</b>	
<b>Total number of leavers</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Destination</b>	<b>Number of Leavers</b>
Higher Education	0
Further Education	8
Training	23
Employment	3
Personal Development	3
Moved outwith Inverclyde	2
Unemployed with an offer	16
<b>Total Offers Made</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Offers Accepted</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>% of Positive Destinations</b>	<b>71%</b>

<b>Inverclyde Schools Winter Leavers Analysis</b>		
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Number of Potential Leavers	137	144
Number of Leavers	55	97
% of Eligible Pupils Leaving	40%	67%