
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 06 September 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No: EDUC/34/11/DS
Contact Officer:	Dougie Smith MCMC Development Officer	Contact No: 01475 712820
Subject:	More Choices, More Chances Update 2010-11	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update regarding key statistics and measures for More Choices, More Chances.
- 1.2 This information is brought together from components gathered by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) through their follow up exercise from the 2010 School Leaver Destination Survey, and also from 16+ Learning Choices data.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 School Leaver Destination Results (SLDR) are provided by SDS in early December every year and a follow up exercise is also completed in May of each year, to provide further detail – primarily in terms of the sustainability of their positive destinations, or further update on successes for those initially in negative destinations.
- 2.2 In the December SLDR exercise, 89.1% of young people had progressed into positive destinations. The follow up figure for positive destinations is now at 84%; we have however been able to maintain the December position of having no “unknown” young people, meaning that all leavers are still in touch with or actively engaging with agencies who can support them further as required.
- 2.3 In addition to the zero unknowns, the % of school leavers in employment has also risen from 12.6% to 17%. This is a positive situation, given the general employment issues facing the general population in this current climate.
- 2.4 Inverclyde’s position is testament to the strength and effectiveness of the partnership working within the area, and the level of tracking now made possible by systems established between Scottish Government, SDS and local authorities.
- 2.5 SDS has communicated the findings of the SLDR follow up exercise as they relate to Inverclyde. No national statistics have been made available for comparison. This is standard across all authorities.
- 2.6 It should also be noted that the SLDR 2010-11 Follow Up exercise is the first that has been undertaken to include the entire cohort of leavers. The exercise has taken place over a number of years, but until now, only with a sample of leavers. This makes the maintenance of our zero unknowns an even more significant achievement. Inverclyde was in fact the only local authority to have zero unknowns at both the SLDR and also the Follow Up stages.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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
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. It is recognised that this is the best way to ensure their long term employability.
- 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, has now fed into the national School Leaver Destination Results (December 2010) and also the Follow Up Exercise (May 2011)
- 4.5 Scottish Government have indicated that the use of the 16+ Learning Choices “Data Hub” 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.
- 4.6 This is partially evident in Inverclyde’s SLDR follow up, as we were able to maintain zero “unknowns” from the 2010 leavers. The availability of 16+ Learning Choices data beyond the scope of the SLDR exercise will help us to continue to work towards the reduction of negative destinations.
- 4.7 The SLDR Follow Up (**summarised in Appendix 1**) shows an increase in the % of Summer 2010 leavers who have gone into employment since the December measurement, but also shows a decrease in training and Further Education as destinations. This information has been shared with Partners, most specifically at the 16+ learning Choices Sub Group, and discussions have begun regarding the reasons for fluctuations and possible solutions / developments for the future.
- 4.8 Arguably more important than the overall summary provided by SDS, is the data held and shared via SDS nationally to support the 16+ Learning Choices model. This is information about individuals and their employment / training / education status, tracking young people from the time they leave school until they are 18.
- 4.9 Currently, Inverclyde Council are able to request data updates on 4 cohorts of leavers (Summer 2009, Winter 2009, Summer 2010 and Winter 2010). This data is encrypted and forwarded to the MCMC team, who then interrogate the dataset to determine changes, track pupils known to the team or provide updates on status of pupils no longer included in the SLDR exercises. Again this information is shared with partners and informs planning, development and ongoing work with individual young people and their families.
- 4.10 This information is available from SDS on request. Each time an updated version is provided, it outlines the most up to date status of each young person who has left any of Inverclyde’s secondary schools since 2009, who is still under 19.
- 4.11 We can already see some of the status changes and the offers made to the summer 2011 leavers in the few months since they left school. This information is being discussed with partners to provide the best possible support for young people in their post-school transitions.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 This report is submitted to committee as an update on Inverclyde’s current position in terms of More Choices, More Chances / 16+ Learning Choices work.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

There are no known financial issues.

6.2 Legal

Data sharing agreements have now been signed off locally and nationally between SDS, Scottish Government and most Local Authorities, to facilitate this work. Inverclyde was one of the first to do so, having consulted at the earliest opportunity with Legal Services.

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 all school leavers are being supported in their transitions from schools in the senior phase. The current resulting figures are very positive in the context of the current economic climate.

Appendix 1:

SLDR 2010 Follow Up Exercise (May 2011)

Summary of Findings

		HE	FE	Training	Emp.	Vol.	U/E Seeking	U/E Not	Not Known	Total Leavers	% +ve	% Other
Inverclyde Council	Initial	34.6%	34.7%	6.8%	12.7%	0.3%	9.3%	1.6%	0.0%	939	89.1%	12.2%
	Follow Up	33.0%	30.0%	3.9%	17.0%	0.2%	13.9%	2.0%	0.0%	937	84.1%	18.9%

Note: For the follow up exercise, leavers who have since moved outwith Scotland, returned to school or who are deceased are not reported within the return

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies information on the destinations of school leavers, at an individual level, to the Scottish Government's Analytical Services Unit (schools). This return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1st August 2009 and 31st July 2010. The initial exercise was carried out during the month of September 2010 and produces a snapshot of destinations as at the 2nd October 2010. IN March 2011, we followed up the same cohort to determine if there had been any change in their circumstances. This provides the Scottish Government with data to report upon their national indicator "increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)".