
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 30 October 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No: EDUCOM/34/12/DS
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Subject:	School Leaver Destination Results Follow up Exercise 2010-11	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information relating to the exercise, undertaken in spring 2012, as a follow up to the School Leaver Destination Results of 2010-11.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies information on the destinations of school leavers (SLDR) to the Scottish Government in November / December each year, based on fieldwork carried out in September. The most recent SLDR return was based on the initial post school destinations of young people who left school between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011. This was reported to the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee in January 2012. In the initial SLDR exercise, and for the first time, all Inverclyde Secondary Schools achieved a minimum of 80% positive destinations.
- 2.2 As indicated in the original SLDR report, a follow up exercise has been introduced, taking place in the March following the release of SLDR data: in this case, March 2012. This exercise follows the same cohort of students (those who left school Aug 2010-July 2011) and tracks the sustainability of or change in their post-school destinations over the 6 month period between the two reports.
- 2.3 In 2011's SLDR, 88% of young people progressed into positive destinations. The figure for the follow up exercise has fallen slightly to 86.1% (a drop of 2.7%). Details of the follow up results for Inverclyde can be found in **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 2.4 The actual number of school leavers changed between the SLDR and the follow up exercise, but only by 1 pupil. Percentages are also noted in **Appendix 1**, and this provides a better comparison between the two exercises, in terms of the balance of pupils sustaining the various categories of destinations.
- 2.5 Uptake of most positive destination categories fell between the 2010-11 SLDR and the subsequent follow up exercise. **Employment** was the only significant deviation from this, with an **increase of 36.9%** between the two pieces of fieldwork. This means that **51** additional school leavers went into employment after the initial SLDR measures were taken.
- 2.6 The number of school leavers in Higher Education fell by 10%, and 8.5% for those in Further Education. Reductions are also evident in training, where 68 school leavers had been engaging at the SLDR point in the year – changing to only 42 (a reduction of 38.2%) at the time of follow up.

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- 2.7 The increase in employment figures will account for a proportion of the drops in the other positive destination categories.
- 2.8 For both the measures of the number of school leavers who are 'unemployed and seeking' or 'unemployed and not seeking' there have been increases at the follow up exercise. (16 and 7 young people respectively). The unemployed not seeking numbers are relatively small, resulting in a large % increase. **See Appendix 1.**
- 2.9 It should also be noted that, once again, Inverclyde has shown no "unknown" young people through the follow up exercise. This means that all school leavers were still known to SDS after the 6 months. SDS will continue to track them via the National Data hub and will provide further support as required. **We are the only local authority area in Scotland to have reported no unknowns consistently for 3 years.**
- 2.10 SDS particularly works with and supports those young people who, although they are known within the authority, have yet to move into a positive destination.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report, which narrate the statistics presented in the appendix.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This is the follow up exercise from the 3rd SLDR since the economic downturn of 2008. Nationally, it is logical to assert that the availability of fewer labour market opportunities might be expected to lead to greater demand for places in Higher and Further Education for young people, or indeed to increased numbers of pupils staying on at school, and certainly to lower proportions of young people entering employment.
- 4.2 This has not been the case in Inverclyde, where employment as a destination went up in both numbers and percentage for the second year (SLDR) and then rose *again* at the follow up. In the report which accompanied the original exercise, sustainability of employment was noted as a 'point to watch' in terms of the follow up figures. It is encouraging that employment levels were not only sustained but developed during the intervening 6 months.
- 4.3 Again it should be noted that the 2010-11 SLDR follow up exercise reports on 7 secondary schools. The merger of Greenock Academy and Gourock High School into Clydeview will be first reported in the 2011-12 SLDR's.
- 4.4 In the initial SLDR exercise, and for the first time, all Inverclyde Secondary Schools achieved a minimum of 80% positive destinations. St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School both saw the most significant improvements from the previous year – the only schools to show % increases from 2009.
- 4.5 Port Glasgow High School, in the follow up exercise, had a 1.7% decrease in positive destinations, down from 91.4% to 89.7%. St Stephen's had a 7.9% decrease from the initial exercise (from 83.5% to 75.6%). St Stephen's did in fact show increases between the two measures for positive destinations in Further Education (26.8% to 30.7%) and slightly in Employment (14.2% to 15%). The significant reduction was from 22% to 9% of the leaving cohort with a post-school destination in Training.
- 4.6 For Port Glasgow High School, the % of leavers in Employment at the follow up had almost doubled, from 13.8% to 26.7%. Reductions of between 3 – 7% were evident across all other positive destination categories for the school.
- 4.7 Other schools with overall % reductions at follow up were Gourock High School and Inverclyde Academy with drops of 5.5% and 6.6% respectively. In both cases the most significant drops were in Higher and Further Education, and both schools saw % increases in Employment).
- 4.8 Notre Dame and St Columba's High Schools both achieved the same level of overall positive destinations from both exercises. Positive levels for individual categories changed, and followed the same pattern as the other schools mentioned thus far: reductions for Further & Higher Education, and increases for Employment.
- 4.9 The only school to see a % increase in positive destinations at the follow up exercise was Greenock Academy. 3.7% increase overall at the second measure for the cohort. % changes for categories showed less movement than the other schools (both positively and negatively). Again, there was an increase (6.1%) for Education, a smaller dip (3.3%) for Higher Education, but unlike the other schools, Further Education % held at 14.3%, from 14.2% initially.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 This report is submitted to Committee as an update on Inverclyde's current position in this National Indicator, which not only informs the Employability Agenda locally, but which is also used as an indicator of the success of Curriculum for Excellence in the Senior Phase, and the delivery of Opportunities for All.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

There are no known financial issues.

6.2 Legal

There are no known legal issues

6.3 Human Resources

There are no known HR issues.

6.4 Equalities

There are no known equality issues.

6.5 Repopulation

No breakdown is given as to the geographical location of the education, training and employment opportunities taken up by our school leavers. However, the national Data Hub is a tool which is being developed by SDS and Scottish Government, and implemented locally via Opportunities for All Partners. This data hub will enable clearer tracking of the location of young people's education and employment choices beyond local authority boundaries. The reports which can be requested as extracts from the system will therefore assist, in years to come, in the analysis of this information, and could inform planning and decision making regarding strategies to retain or attract back young people after their school careers have ended.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Schools, Skills Development Scotland, and all partners have worked effectively to ensure that all School Leavers are being supported in their transition from educational establishments. The figures presented for SLDR follow up are positive in the context of the current economic climate.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – 2011 SLDR follow up summary for Inverclyde

Appendix 1
SLDR Follow Up Results - Inverclyde
2010-11

Year	Total Number of Leavers	Positive Destination	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreement	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unknown
2010/11 SLDR	847	88.4	36.4	27.4	8.0	16.4	0.0	0.6	10.0	1.2	0.0
2010/11 SLDR Follow UP	846	86.1	32.7	25.1	5.0	22.5	0.2	0.6	11.9	2.0	0.0
Change (%)	-0.1%	-2.7%	-10.0%	-8.5%	-38.2%	36.9%	0.2%	0.0%	19.0%	70.3%	0.0%

Year	Total Number of Leavers	Positive Destination	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreement	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unknown
2010/11 SLDR	847	749	308	232	68	139	0	5	85	10	0
2010/11 SLDR Follow UP	846	728	277	212	42	190	2	5	101	17	0
Change (Numbers)	-1	-21	-31	-20	-26	51	2	0	16	7	0