
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	10 March 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/27/15/DS
Contact Officer:	Dougie Smith, MCMC Development Officer	Contact No:	01475 712820
Subject:	School Leaver Destination Results 2013-14		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information relating to the Annual release of School Leaver Destination Results.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies information on the destinations of school leavers (SLDR) to the Scottish Government's Education Analytical Services Division. The return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1st August 2013 and 31st July 2014.
- 2.2 The exercise was undertaken in September 2014, and is therefore a snapshot of each individual school leaver's status from that time. Status may change and because of this, a further annual follow up is undertaken (scheduled for March 2015) to determine changes to and / or the sustainability of immediate post-school destinations.
- 2.3 In 2012-13's SLDR, 94.9% of young people progressed into positive destinations. This was a significant increase from previous years. The figure for 2013-14 has dropped slightly, to 94%. Details of the latest SLDR results for Inverclyde can be found in **Appendix 1** to this report. This year, the national figure is 92.3%. Inverclyde is therefore 1.7 percentage points higher than the Scottish levels for young people moving from schools into positive destinations. Inverclyde is 6th out of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities for school leavers moving into positive destinations. App 1
- 2.4 Information relating to the **2012-13** SLDR results has been attached as **Appendix 2** to this report, for the purposes of comparisons, along with a summary of the variance between the two years. App 2
- 2.5 The actual number of school leavers was stable at precisely 861 in the previous 2 SLDR cohorts. For 2013-14 however, there are only 791 – a reduction of 70 school leavers counted within the cohort.
- 2.6 The percentage of school leavers entering Higher Education (HE) is 36.9%. This is 1.7 percentage points lower than the national figure for this measure (equivalent figure was higher than the national percentage last year). There have been year on year decreases in the uptake of HE as an initial destination within Inverclyde's school leavers: a 4.5% decrease last year, and a further 0.8% decrease this year.

- 2.7 The percentage of leavers entering Further Education (FE) has also dropped this year from 34.8% to 30.7%. It should be noted, however, that 2012-13 saw an increase of over 8% in FE uptake from Inverclyde's school leavers. We remain higher than the national % for this measure (26.3%) by 4.4 percentage points.
- 2.8 A significant rise can be seen in the figures for employment as the initial post-school destination for Inverclyde's school leavers. This figure has risen 5 percentage points from 16.1% in 2012-13 to 21.1% in 2013-14. This continues, but has accelerated an upward trend, locally, for this measure. This is approaching the national level of 21.7% of school leavers moving into employment – which has also risen from last year.
- 2.9 The percentage of our young people entering training has fallen this year by 0.7 percentage points (4.5% down to 3.8%) Again this shows a consistent trend. The national figure for this measure has also fallen from 5% to 4.1% from last year.
- 2.10 In terms of negative destinations, 5.4% (43) of our school leavers are unemployed but seeking opportunities. This is almost a full percentage point higher than the same figure for last year (4.5% - 39 pupils). Inverclyde's figures are still lower than the national levels, by 0.9 percentage points (6.3% nationally). This is a consistent trend for Inverclyde and is a welcomed and positive situation.
- 2.11 As it is important that the young people not only move into positive destinations, but also sustain the opportunities that they have secured: the FE young people will be a particular focus of the Follow Up exercise, and all partner agencies will target support and services to the young people currently seeking work.
- 2.12 It should also be noted that, for the 5th consecutive year, Inverclyde's SLDR statistics once again show no "unknown" young people. This means that all school leavers are known to SDS and partners, who will continue to track them and provide further support to them. We are the only local authority area in Scotland to have reported no unknowns in all SLDR exercises, and also all SLDR Follow Up Exercises since 2009-10.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Patricia Cassidy
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The 2013-14 SLDR exercise reports on our 6 mainstream secondary schools.
- 4.2 Last year we reported that, for 2 consecutive years, 5 out of 6 of our secondary schools had a minimum of 90% positive destinations in the SLDR exercise. This year, all 6 secondary schools have exceeded 90% positive destinations.
- 4.3 Last year, 2 schools saw % decreases in their positive destinations, with all others showing an increase. This year, 3 schools saw % decreases, 2 saw increases and one school's positive destination % remained the same. It should be noted, however, that there has been a significant change in the cohort number this year (-70 pupils) and the % changes are not large. The changes this year range from +1.5% in Port Glasgow High School (who had a -9% drop last year) to -2.5% in Clydeview Academy (who had 99.2% positive destination as their previous year's position).
- 4.4 In 2009-10, we bettered the national average for the first time since becoming a "NEET Hotspot" in 2003. (Local level of 89.1% compared to national level of 86.8% - a difference of 2.3 percentage points). Last year, we were 3.5 percentage points above the national average (94.9% compared with 91.4%). This year, we are 1.7 percentage points above the national average (94% compared with 92.3%).
- 4.5 From being "ranked" 4th for positive destinations last year (behind Eilean Siar, East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire), we are now 6th, with Scottish Borders and North Ayrshire joining the same authorities ahead of us. The differential between Inverclyde and the best performing authority – East Dunbartonshire – is 3.2 percentage points, and North Ayrshire are 0.1 percentage points ahead of our results.
- 4.6 As in previous years, our successes and improvements in this measure are rooted firmly in successful partnership working and the establishment, then maintenance of relationships and processes that facilitate effective working between partners in support of young people. This year again, support has been sought from and provided by the Community Wardens working in the area. They have played a significant part in early identification of young people and of assisting SDS not only to find everyone, but to draw alongside a number of young people who indicated that they were not yet in positive destinations, and provide them with support needed to help them take up opportunities they were previously unaware of.

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 16+ Learning Choices / 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

Promotion of successes and achievements such as this can only assist in the communication of the positive message of Inverclyde as an area of educational excellence and opportunity.

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 SLDRs are, once again, very positive in the context of the current economic climate.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Appendix 1 – 2014 SLDR summary for Inverclyde
Appendix 2 – 2013 SLDR summary for Inverclyde (for comparison)

Inverclyde Council SLDR 2013/14 (Initial Destination Percentages)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Training %	Employment %	Voluntary Work %	Activity Agreements %	Unemployed Seeking %	Unemployed Not Seeking %	Not Known %	Pos %	Other %
Inverclyde Council	796	36.9	30.7	3.8	21.1	0.5	1.0	5.4	0.6		94.0	6.0

Inverclyde Council SLDR 2013/14 (Initial Destination Figures)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Total Pos	Total Other
Inverclyde Council	796	294	244	30	168	4	8	43	5	748	48	

Inverclyde Council SLDR 2012/13 (Initial Destination Percentages)												
School	Total Leavers	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Training %	Employment %	Voluntary Work %	Activity Agreements %	Unemployed Seeking %	Unemployed Not Seeking %	Not Known %	% Pos	% Other
Inverclyde Council	861	37.7	34.8	4.5	16.1	0.5	1.2	4.5	0.6		94.9	5.1

Inverclyde Council SLDR 2012/13 (Initial Destination Figures)												
School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Total Positive	Total Other
Inverclyde Council	861	325	300	39	139	4	10	39	5		817	44

Inverclyde Council Variance SLDR 2013/14 v SLDR 2012/13 (Percentage Point Variance)												
School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Pos	Pos
Inverclyde Council	-65	-0.8	-4.1	-0.7	5.0	-	-0.2	0.9	-	-	-0.9	-0.9