

Report To: Education & Communities Committee

Date: 08 March 2016

Report By: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Report No: EDUCOM/25/16/DS

Contact Officer: Dougie Smith
MCMC Development Officer

Contact No: 01475 712820

Subject: School Leaver Destination Results 2014-15

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 2014 and 15th September 2015.
- 2.2 The status reported is the last known status recorded for the leaver within the shared dataset using the reporting date of Monday 5th October 2015. This 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 2016) to determine changes to and / or the sustainability of immediate post-school destinations.
- 2.3 In the 2013-14 SLDR, 94.0% of young people progressed into positive destinations. This was a decrease from the previous year. The figure for 2014-15 has increased slightly, to 94.3%. This year, the national figure is 92.9%. Inverclyde is therefore 1.4 percentage points higher than the Scottish levels for young people moving from schools into positive destinations. Inverclyde is 9th out of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities for school leavers moving into positive destinations.
- 2.4 The actual number of school leavers was precisely 796 in the previous SLDR cohort. For 2014-15 however, there are 793 – a decrease of 3 school leavers counted within the cohort.
- 2.5 The percentage of school leavers entering Higher Education (HE) is 36.8%. This is 1.5 percentage points lower than the national figure for this measure. There have been year on year decreases in the uptake of HE as an initial destination within Inverclyde's school leavers: a 0.84% decrease last year, and a further 0.1% decrease this year.
- 2.6 The percentage of leavers entering Further Education (FE) has also dropped this year from 30.7% to 30.0%. We remain higher than the national % for this measure (27.8%) by 2.2 percentage points.

2.7	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, 21.1% in 2013-14 and has risen 2.0% to 23.1% in 2014-15. This is now above the national level of 21.7% of school leavers moving into employment by 1.4%.	
2.8	The percentage of our young people entering training has remained constant this year at 3.8%) and matches the national figure for this measure.	
2.9	In terms of negative destinations, 4.9% (39) of our school leavers are unemployed but seeking opportunities. This is 0.5% lower than the same figure for last year (4.9% - 43 pupils). Inverclyde's figures are still lower than the national levels, by 0.5 percentage points (5.4% nationally). This is a consistent trend for Inverclyde and is a welcomed and positive situation.	
2.10	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.	
2.11	It should also be noted that, for the 6 th consecutive year, Inverclyde's SLDR statistics once again show no (0.0%) "unknown" young people. This means that all school leavers are known to SDS and partners, who will continue to track 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.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0	BACKGROUND	
4.1	The 2014-15 SLDR exercise reports on our 6 mainstream secondary schools.	
4.2	Last year we reported that all 6 of our secondary schools had a minimum of 90% positive destinations in the SLDR exercise. This year 5 out of 6 secondary schools have exceeded 90% positive destinations.	
4.3	Last year, 3 schools saw % decreases in their positive destinations, 2 schools had increases and one school's positive destinations stayed the same. This year, 3 schools saw % decreases and 3 increases. The changes this year range from minus 4.2% in Port Glasgow High School to +3.4% in St. Columba's High School and +3.5% Notre Dame High School.	
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 1.7 percentage points above the national average (94.0% compared with 91.4%). This year, we are 1.4 percentage points above the national average (94.3% compared with 92.9%).	
4.5	From being "ranked" 6 th for positive destinations last year, we are now 9 th , the differential between Inverclyde and the best performing authority – East Dunbartonshire – is 2.4 percentage points, last year this was 3.2%.	
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 and Street Mediators 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 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	<u>Finance</u> There are no known financial issues.	
6.2	<u>Legal</u> There are no known legal issues	
6.3	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no known HR issues.	
6.4	<u>Equalities</u> There are no known equality issues.	

6.5	<u>Repopulation</u> 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 continued to work 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	2015 CPP Report for Inverclyde	