

Report

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| Report to: | Education Resources Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 24 April 2018 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | School Leaver Initial Destination Results 2016/2017 |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the 2016/2017 School Leaver Initial Destination survey results produced by Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the outcome from the initial survey on destinations for the 2016/2017 school leavers' cohort and the planned next steps be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Each year the key outcomes from analysis of the School Leaver Initial Destination Results (SLDR) for South Lanarkshire are reported, together with some comment on issues arising or implications for the Council and its partners.
- 3.2. As part of the development work for the participation measure introduced last year, it was agreed that Skills Development Scotland would continue to supply school leaver destination data to the Scottish Government's Education Analysis Unit (SGEAS) for their annual national statistics publication and to update Insight, the online benchmarking tool for Scottish local authorities and secondary schools.
- 3.3. The 2016/2017 cohort includes leavers from publicly funded secondary schools who left school between 21 September 2016 and 19 September 2017. This report is based on status information held on the shared dataset which is updated on an ongoing basis. The figures are taken as a snapshot in early October 2017.
- 3.4. South Lanarkshire Council has a strong "Opportunities for All" partnership" group and the partners work closely together to ensure that all school leavers are supported into learning or employment post-school and when this is not achievable, that other supports are put in place to meet the individual needs of the young people through bespoke programmes. The partnership includes Skills Development Scotland, VASLan, South Lanarkshire College, New College Lanarkshire, the Regional DYW group and representatives from across the Council Resources (Education/Regeneration/Housing/Social Work/Regeneration and Corporate).
- 3.5. Through the Council's employability review and the introduction of the Aspire programme, work has taken place to consolidate and align the management of Youth

Employability supports to Education Resources. This allows for a centralised approach to service provision and a greater ability to use intelligence to target resources to the areas of greatest need effectively and quickly.

- 3.6. The funding sources from the Scottish Government and the European Social Fund (ESF) have also been aligned and matched to core Education funds to facilitate provision that meets the needs of all 'at risk' young people across the authority. Previously, the targeted supports were only available to the Data Zone areas which included six of the secondary establishments, due to restrictions of ESF funding. The revised structure and changes to the funding criteria now allows the offer of identified services to all secondary establishments and all young people identified as requiring support to enter and sustain a positive destination until the age of 19.

4. Highlights

- 4.1. A total of 3,367 young people left school in South Lanarkshire in 2016-2017 and this year South Lanarkshire was ranked 5th for positive destinations in relation to all local authorities. It is also the 3rd consecutive year that the South Lanarkshire figure has been greater than the Scottish average (see appendix 1). This year also sees the highest figure recorded for South Lanarkshire since the information has been collected. In summary:
- The positive destination rate for South Lanarkshire is 95.8%. This sits above the national average (93.7%)
 - The unemployed (seeking) rate for South Lanarkshire is 2.8%. This sits below the national average (4.5%)
 - The unemployed (not seeking) rate for South Lanarkshire is 1.2%. This sits below the national average (1.4%)
 - The unconfirmed rate for South Lanarkshire is 0.02%. This sits below the national average (0.4%)
- 4.2. With regards the 140 young people who were recorded as being in a negative destination at the time of the survey, we have held a planning and support meeting for all of these young people. Where required, we have involved partners and the young people's parents/ carers to put in place actions to support the young person towards a positive destination of employment or learning. Where this was not possible, there is an ongoing tracking and review process of each individual's needs and an offer of employability supports when the time is right.
- 4.3. The table below shows the positive destination outcome for each of the 4 localities across South Lanarkshire and highlights that all 4 areas were above the national average. This is the first year this has been achieved.

| Year | Clydesdale Positive % | Cambuslang/ Rutherglen Positive % | Hamilton/ Blantyre Positive % | EK/ Strathaven Positive % | South Lanarkshire Positive % | National Positive % |
|---------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2014/15 | 83.7 | 94.0 | 94.6 | 94.3 | 93.0 | 92.9 |
| 2015/16 | 93.6 | 93.0 | 93.5 | 95.6 | 94.1 | 93.3 |
| 2016/17 | 97.1 | 95.9 | 95.5 | 96.1 | 95.8 | 93.7 |

4.4. The table below shows the destination recorded for the school leavers.

| Initial Destination | Number | % |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Employed | 705 | 20.9 |
| Higher Education | 1523 | 45.2 |
| Further Education | 782 | 23.2 |
| Training | 79 | 2.4 |
| Activity Agreement | 122 | 3.6 |
| Voluntary Work | 16 | 0.5 |
| Unemployed Not Seeking | 40 | 1.2 |
| Unemployed Seeking | 94 | 2.8 |
| Unknown | 6 | 0.2 |
| | 3367 | 100 |

5. Tackling Poverty and Inequalities - “Closing the Gap”

- 5.1. The Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan has highlighted the need for all services to target resources towards tackling poverty and reducing inequalities and to strive to close the gap in outcomes for children and families from the 30% most deprived areas. This target is also at the heart of the Children’s Service Plan and key targets have been identified to achieve a reduction in the gap between school leavers from the most deprived localities and their peers across the local authority. Youth Employability provision has been targeted to young people from the 30% most deprived areas. Over the last two years, some strong progress has been made.
- 5.2. In 2016-2017, the South Lanarkshire figure of positive destinations achieved by the young people in the 30% most deprived areas was 93%. This is the highest figure recorded since figures became available and it is above the national average of 90.3%, for the 30% most deprived areas. (Appendix 2)

6. Care Experienced Young People

- 6.1. Care experienced young people are not a homogenous group; they are individuals with their own personalities, needs, experiences and aspirations. What they have in common is that life has not been easy for them and many of these young people experience difficulties during their school years which can lead to challenges in making an effective transition from school to a positive post-school destination.
- 6.2. These young people are less likely than their peers to go on to further or higher education, training or to find employment. Despite recent improvements in leaver destinations for young people in general, the outcomes for this group have shown slower improvement.
- 6.3. There is a multi-agency care experienced tracking and monitoring group which works to ensure that every care experienced young person has an individualised employability support package with regular monitoring and alterations to support as required.
- 6.4. Reasons for young people not sustaining a positive destination are linked to the complex life challenges the young people face and often changes in their care placement. Joint work takes place with Social Work to try and minimise disruption and maintain the young person in employment or training.

- 6.5. The figures are low, so it is difficult to do comparison by percentages, the local records show that 37 care experienced young people left school in this recorded cohort and their outcomes are as follows.

| Destination | Looked After Children (at Home) | Looked After Children (away from home) | Totals |
|------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Employment | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Higher Education | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Further Education | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Training | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Activity Agreement | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Voluntary Work | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unemployed not seeking | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Unemployed seeking | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Unconfirmed | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 24 | 13 | 37 |

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. Further develop the tracking and monitoring of employability support packages for care experienced young people, with a particular focus on the supports required for young people who are looked after at home.
- 7.2. Continue to make connections and develop early intervention supports through the developments of the expanded senior phase curriculum and the action plan for the improvements in the Developing the Young Workforce action plan.
- 7.3. Further expand the number of young people who are engaged in the Foundation Apprenticeships programme.
- 7.4. Work to secure funding from the Scottish Government and the European Social Fund to deliver the wide range of targeted provision required to meet the individual needs of young people.
- 7.5. Further develop the joint work with Youth Justice Services to ensure every young person has a bespoke package of support as required to achieve and sustain a positive destination post school.
- 7.6. Develop an employer engagement action plan to further expand the work placements and job opportunities for our young people. This will be within the Council and across the partners and local employers.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. There are no direct employee implications.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

10.2 There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

11.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

16 March 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

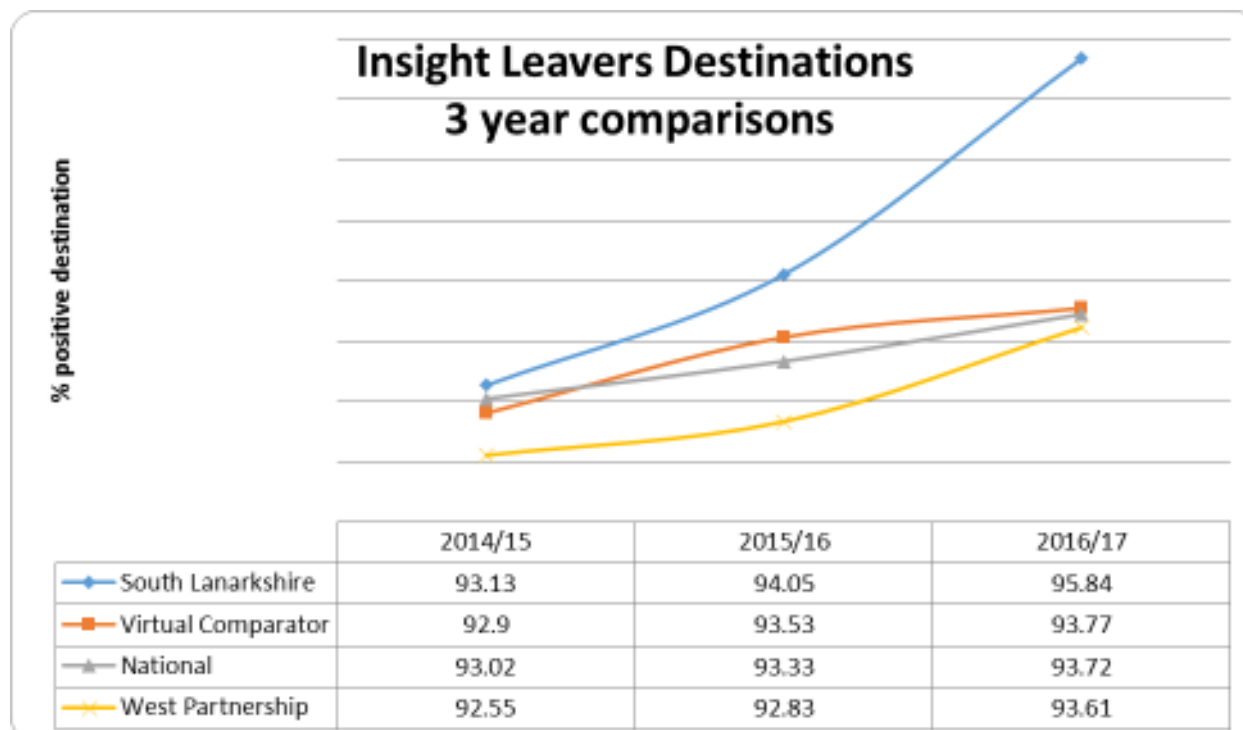
Stewart Nicolson, Head of Education (Curriculum and Assessment)

Ext: 4475 (Tel: 01698 454475)

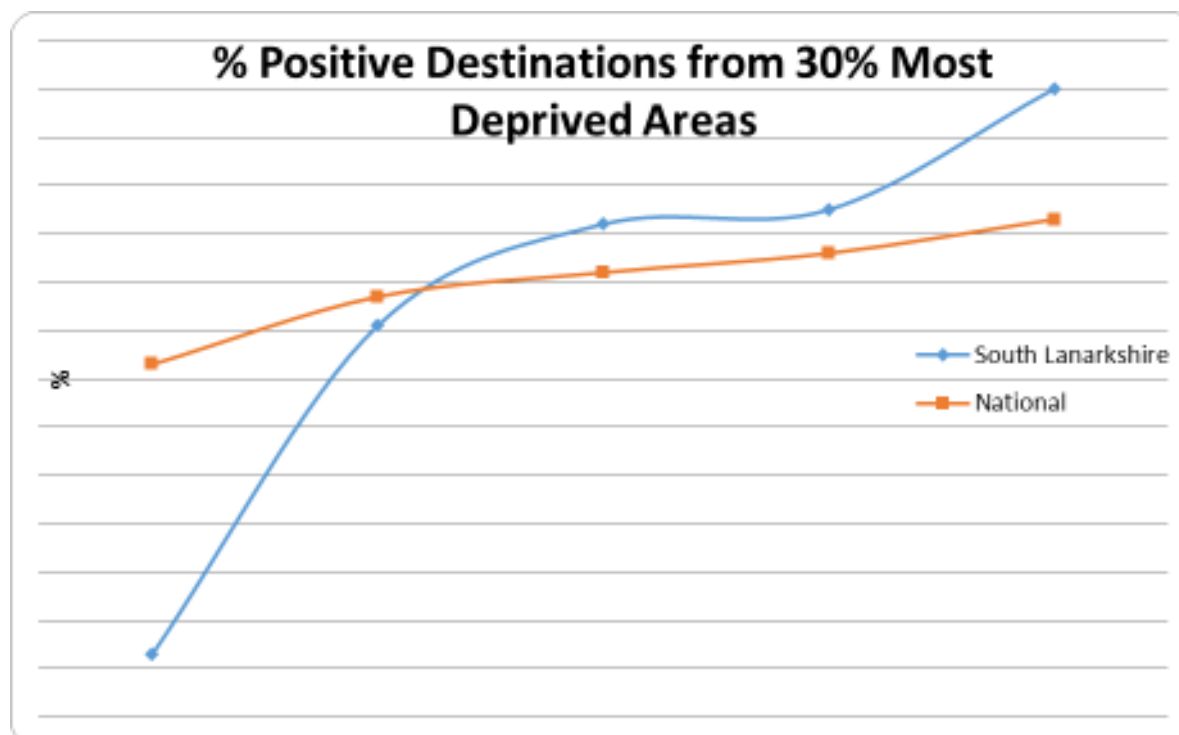
E-mail: stewart.nicolson@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk

3 Year Comparison

The chart below shows 3 year comparison with SLC, Virtual Comparator, National figure and West Partnership



Positive Destination from 30% Most Deprived Areas



The difference in South Lanarkshire between the 30% most deprived areas and all other leavers is 4.5% and this is a smaller gap than the national average of 5.2%. The following table shows the progress made over the last 3 years and comparisons with the national and our comparator authorities.

