

# **Report**

**9**

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>19 January 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources) Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>More Choices, More Chances - Summary Progress Report</b>
----------	---

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ inform the Committee of the outcome of the recent School Leaver Destination Rate report and to outline progress with implementation of actions in support of the More Choices, More Chances (MCMC) agenda.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

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

- (1) that the overview of the School Leaver Destination Rate be noted; and
- (2) that current partnership action to address the needs of young people requiring MCMC be approved.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. MCMC is the Government strategy to 'reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)' – the Government defines 'young people' within the strategy as people aged from 16 until they reach 19.
- 3.2. 16+ Learning Choices is the key driver for addressing the MCMC agenda in Scotland and, as such is embedded in a number of other national strategies including the skills strategy, 'Skills for Scotland' and Curriculum for Excellence. The model will be rolled out on a universal basis across Scotland by Summer 2010.
- 3.3. The three 'crucial elements' of 16+ Learning Choices, as described in the Government publication, 'Building the Curriculum 3' are:
- providing appropriate learning provision
  - obtaining the right information advice and guidance
  - gaining access to financial support
- 3.4. Central to 16+ Learning Choices is the compilation and tracking of a mutually agreed 'offer' between a young person and body able to provide employment, education or training. Through 16+ Learning Choices, every young person aged from 16-19 years (inclusive) has an entitlement to an appropriate offer of learning.
- 3.5. South Lanarkshire Council has established an inclusive MCMC partnership structure led by Enterprise Resources and including Education Resources' Integrated

Children's Services (ICS), Social Work, Corporate and Housing and Technical Resources, SOLVE, Skills Development Scotland, Jobcentre Plus, NHS Lanarkshire and both Motherwell and South Lanarkshire Colleges. This group is responsible for the implementation of 16+ Learning Choices in South Lanarkshire.

- 3.6. Following the submission of a proposal from the South Lanarkshire MCMC Strategy Group the Scottish Government appointed South Lanarkshire as one of the 21 early implementing local authorities for 16+ Learning Choices in Scotland.
- 3.7. Key objectives for schools and those involved in integrating children's services are to identify potential young people who will benefit from MCMC, to assign a keyworker to each and to apply consistent criteria to determine the most appropriate interventions. Schools will work with relevant partners to strengthen systems for sharing information and the mechanisms for tracking young people. Senior staff within schools will lead on MCMC and will actively participate in locality multi agency planning structures such as ICS Area Co-ordination groups.

#### **4. Overview of the School Leaver Destination Rate (SLDR) 2008/2009**

- 4.1. 3,242 young people left school in Summer 2009, 366 fewer than in Summer 2008.

South Lanarkshire schools reported 284 young people returning to school in August 2009 that had expected to leave in May 2009.

The SLDR negative destination rate for 2009 is 13.3% compared to 11.8% in 2008. The total number of young people recorded as having a negative destination in 2009 is 431 compared to 427 in 2008.

370 fewer positive destinations were recorded in 2009 compared to 2008 (i.e. 2009 – 2811, 2008 – 3181).

#### **4.2. Higher Education**

17 more young people progressed into Higher Education (+4.3%) than in 2008.

#### **4.3. Further Education**

For academic year 2009/2010, the Scottish Funding Council allocated an additional £7.7M to meet demand for additional college places as a result of the recession. The allocation notionally made for South Lanarkshire residents through this additional funding was £858,964. 722 young people entered Further Education from school in 2009 compared to 762 in 2008 (40 fewer).

#### **4.4. Employment**

578 young people in 2009 progressed into employment from school, compared to 954 in 2008 (376 fewer = a reduction of 61%).

South Lanarkshire Council has developed a Youth Jobs Fund for 16-17 year olds, to provide 50 week wage subsidy employment, supported by aftercare and training, opportunities for up to 120 young people

#### **4.5. Training**

267 young people progressed into training in 2009 compared to 242 in 2008 (an increase of 25).

£5.2M was allocated to Get Ready for Work (GRFW) and Lifeskills contracts across Lanarkshire for 2009/2010 (an increase of £150k from 2008/2009).

By the end of September 2009, 46% of spend had been achieved – compared to 41.5% nationally.

38% of participants completing the programme (306 young people) had progressed into a positive destination by end September 2009 – compared to 35% nationally. 476 young people had made a positive progression from GRFW at the same point in time in 2008 (170 fewer from 2008/2009).

South Lanarkshire residents account for 33% of the overall Lanarkshire GRFW budget by September 2009.

Skills Development Scotland are developing a Vocational Training Pilot Initiative funded through underspend in the National Programmes budget. The programmes which will run for 16 weeks commenced on 10 December 2009.

The target group for this programme is young unemployed people – including Modern Apprenticeship redundancies.

South Lanarkshire Council has had approval to deliver a variety of vocational training opportunities through this pilot for around 40 young people.

#### 4.6. **Non-Formal Learning**

South Lanarkshire has been allocated £1.4m from the Scottish Government to pilot Activity Agreements (AA) as part of its approach to 16+ Learning Choices. The AA programme commenced in November and will run through until March 2011. Over this period the programme will support around 450 of the most vulnerable young people in South Lanarkshire.

It should be noted that there are new recording arrangements for the SLDR as follows:

**Training** – this now includes all national training programmes – previously Modern Apprenticeships were recorded under employment with a sub-heading of employed with training.

The **employed** category is only for young people employed and not part of a national training programme. (This may account for some of the large decrease in the employment figure i.e. last year 55% of those recorded as employed were in a training 'placement').

There is a new category called '**self employed**' but the numbers for that are very small.

Young people who are engaged with a first stage offer, or in the future an Activity Agreement, will be recorded under the sub-heading of '**personal skills development**' but still be recorded negatively – i.e. economically inactive.

**Higher Education** recordings are made for anybody doing an **HNC course or above**. This includes young people who have an unconditional offer of a place starting in 2011 but who are taking a gap year this year. Further Education is anything up to HNC.

#### 4.7. The attached appendix summarises the overall South Lanarkshire position and comparator Local Authority areas used by HMIE and the Scottish Government. This demonstrates that, although there has been a reduction in positive destinations as a result of the impact of the recession, South Lanarkshire continues to perform relatively well compared to other areas. It should also be noted that new initiatives have not yet had a chance to impact upon the statistics.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct employee implications arising from the report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. Additional resources have been made available to the MCMC Partnership by the Scottish Government to support its co-ordination costs and to assist with the delivery of the Activity Agreement pilot activity.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders on the More Choices, More Chances Partnership Group and with schools on leaver destinations and on the support offered to young people.

**Larry Forde**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

**Colin McDowall**  
**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

18 December 2009

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives**

- Tackling disadvantage and deprivation
- Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth. Improving skills and employability
- Raise educational attainment for all

## **Previous References**

- None

## **List of Background Papers**

- Building the Curriculum 3

## **Contact for Further Information**

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

Patricia Rossi, Head of Education (Cambuslang/Rutherglen)

Ext: 5692 (Tel: 01698 455692)

E-mail: [patricia.rossi@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.rossi@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

### School Leaver Negative Destinations shown as a percentage

#### Please note

Table 1 shows South Lanarkshire Councils as compared to comparator authorities used by HMle

Table 2 shows South Lanarkshire Councils as compared to comparator authorities used by Scottish Government (MC MC

#### South Lanarkshire and Comparator Authorities used by HMle

##### Percentage of School Leavers with Negative Destinations

Local Authority	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
South Lanarkshire	15	13	13	12	<i>11.7</i> <b>13.3</b>
North Lanarkshire	17	15	16	13	<i>13.2</i> <b>14.3</b>
Falkirk	21	19	16	13	<i>13.2</i> <b>17.9</b>
Fife	14	16	13	14	<i>13.6</i> <b>14.4</b>
Clackmannanshire	12	16	13	15	<i>14.6</i> <b>14.3</b>
West Lothian	23	19	20	19	<i>19.2</i> <b>18.1</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13.5</b> <b>14.3</b>

NB Statistics are reported using rounded percentages Last column in purple italics shows actual percentage for 07/08

It is also worth noting that Clackmannanshire's total leavers figure this year was 544 and South Lanarkshire's total leaver figure was 3,242.

Evidence shows that South Lanarkshire is outperforming all of its recognised Comparator Authorities.

#### South Lanarkshire and Comparator Authorities used by Scottish Government for MC MC

##### Percentage of School Leaver with Negative Destinations

Local Authority	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
South Lanarkshire	15	13	13	12	<i>11.7</i> <b>13.3</b>
Dundee	17	18	15	17	<i>17.4</i> <b>18.5</b>
West Dunbarton	15	17	16	18	<i>17.8</i> <b>17.0</b>
North Ayrshire	19	15	16	15	<i>14.6</i> <b>15.6</b>
East Ayrshire	21	22	15	16	<i>15.7</i> <b>15.3</b>
Clackmannanshire	12	16	13	15	<i>14.6</i> <b>14.3</b>
Inverclyde	9	9	7	9	<i>9</i> <b>10.1</b>
Glasgow	18	18	17	17	<i>17.4</i> <b>16.0</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13.5</b> <b>14.3</b>

This grid shows South Lanarkshire Council compared to the 7 designated Hot Spot areas for MC MC. These areas received £400K per year for 2 years, 06/08 to help improve destination figures whilst all other Authorities received £75K per year for the same 2 years.