

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	2022/2023 Secondary Leavers' Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on outcomes achieved by pupils leaving school following session 2022/23, as reported in the March 2024 national 'Insight' update

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the outcomes shown in section 4 of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the support and challenge provided to secondary schools, and the continuing commitment to improving outcomes for all children and young people be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. In March 2024, Scottish Government released leavers' cohort data for session 2022/23 through the 'Insight' benchmarking tool for senior phase. Insight provides schools with a school level statistical summary of attainment. This update affords the opportunity to explore how well young people leaving school, in the five years to 2023, have achieved.
- 3.2. This data supports schools and local authorities in planning for improvement and allows for focussed discussion in relation to next steps. Education Resources, working collaboratively with schools, has established a self-evaluation strategy to build upon areas of strength and to develop areas for improvement in relation to outcomes for leavers.
- 3.3. It is noted that the period covered by the statistics includes data relating to period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In particular, the cancellation of exams and external assessment of coursework in 2020, and the use of the Alternative Certification Model in 2021 means that care must be taken in making comparisons over time.
- 3.4. It is also noted that the pandemic continues to affect the destination choices made by, and opportunities available to, school leavers in 2022/23. Indeed, the impact of COVID-19 on schools continues and the need to support and nurture children and young people through this ongoing period of recovery remains.

- 3.5. That said, the overall outcomes achieved by young people leaving school in South Lanarkshire are strong in comparison to their peers in the West Partnership and nationally. It is noted, however, that there is no room for complacency and that there is a shared ambition for improving outcomes for all.

4. National Benchmarking Measures

- 4.1. Insight provides data relating to four national benchmarking measures showing the performance of pupils at the point of exit from school. This provides a consistent benchmark and emphasises that attainment and achievement in S4 to S6 are cumulative.
- 4.2. The four National Benchmarking Measures are:
- attainment in literacy and numeracy
 - attainment for all (upper 20%, middle 60%, lower 20%)
 - attainment vs deprivation (closing the gap)
 - post-school participation
- 4.3. Young people who left school in 2022/23 achieved literacy levels which were better than those achieved nationally and in the West Partnership. At all levels, attainment in literacy has improved since 2019.
- 4.4. Young people who left school in 2022/23 achieved numeracy levels which were better than those achieved Nationally and were in line with the West Partnership. At levels 3 and 4, attainment in numeracy has improved since 2019. At levels 5 and 6 attainment in numeracy remains in line with 2019 levels and remains higher than the virtual comparator.
- 4.5. The overall attainment of the lowest performing 20% of leavers has improved since 2019 and is above our comparators.
- The overall attainment of the middle 60% of leavers is in line with the West Partnership and virtual comparators and is above the National level and is higher than in 2019.
- The overall attainment of the upper 20% of leavers is in line with the West Partnership and national levels and is higher than in 2019.
- 4.6. It is noted that in some measures the attainment gap remains high. We see more young people from less affluent backgrounds leaving school earlier, and while their attainment levels are generally improving, it is not improving as quickly as their peers.
- Both the staying on rate and the attainment of young people from deprived backgrounds are a focus for schools in the session coming.
- 4.7. Leavers' destinations and post-school participation remain an area of strength for our schools and support services. Positive destination rates continue to improve and remain above all comparator measures.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications contained within this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications contained within this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

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

Carole McKenzie

Executive Director (Education Resources)

3 May 2024

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

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:-

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