

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>1 June 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>School Leaver Initial Destination Results 2019/2020</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the 2019/2020 School Leaver Initial Destination survey results produced by Skills Development Scotland (SDS); and on the Youth Employability Service's efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on young people

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the School Leaver Initial Destination Survey results, showing a positive destination for 94.8% of South Lanarkshire's 3,174 school leavers in 2019/2020, which is above the national rate of 93.3%, be noted.
- (2) that the Youth Employability Service's responses to the challenges presented by COVID-19 are noted.

## 3. School Leaver Destination Results (SLDR)

- 3.1. Each year, Education Resources report on the key outcomes for young people who left school from analysis of the School Leaver Initial Destination Results (SLDR) for South Lanarkshire.
- 3.2. Following the introduction of the Participation Measure introduced in 2017, 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 2019/2020 cohort includes leavers from publicly funded secondary schools who left school between September 2019 and September 2020. The national report is based on information held on the shared dataset which is updated on an ongoing basis. The figures are taken as a snapshot in early October 2020.
- 3.4. 'South Lanarkshire's Opportunities for All' partnership group is well established 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.

- 3.5. 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 / Housing / Social Work / Regeneration and Corporate).
- 3.6. The Council has invested significant resources from core Education budgets, and utilised funding from the Scottish Government's No-one Left Behind and European Social Fund programmes and external funding from Skills Development Scotland to provide senior phase vocational learning opportunities and targeted employability support to young people.
- 3.7. In 2019/2020 (the year which this cohort of school leavers were supported), the Youth Employability service provided support to:
- Aspire programme – 591 participants
  - GradU8 – 845 participants
  - Foundation Apprenticeships – 330 participants

#### 4. **Spotlight on South Lanarkshire School Leaver Destination Data**

- 4.1. A total of 3174 young people left school in South Lanarkshire in 2019-2020. The positive destination rate is 94.8%, a slight decrease of 0.9% from 95.7% the previous year but remains above the national rate (93.3%). This fall in positive destinations reflects the national picture where the rate fell to 93.3% from 95.0% the previous year, reflecting some of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Council has performed above the national rate.

#### 5. **Summary**

- The positive destination rate for South Lanarkshire is 94.8%.
- This places South Lanarkshire as joint 5<sup>th</sup> highest of the 32 local authorities. This is an increase from 10<sup>th</sup> the previous year.
- The unemployed (seeking) rate is 3.7%, this is below the national rate of 4.1%
- The unemployed (not seeking) rate is 1.1%, this is below the national rate of 1.8%
- The unknown rate is 0.4%, this is below the national rate of 0.7%

- 5.1. The table below shows the positive destination outcome for each of the 4 localities across South Lanarkshire

Locality	% Total Positive 2018/19	% Total Positive 2019/20
Cambuslang and Rutherglen	96.8	96.8
Clydesdale	95.5	95.3
East Kilbride and Strathaven	96.1	96.4
Hamilton, Blantyre and Uddingston	95.2	92.5
<b>South Lanarkshire</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>94.8</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>93.3</b>

- 5.2. The table below provides a breakdown of the destinations of school leavers in 2019/2020:

Destination	South Lanarkshire	National
Employment	16%	16.2%
Higher Education	48.6%	44.2%
Further Education	22.9%	28.1%
Personal Skills Development	0.1%	0.8%
Training	6.9%	3.7%
Voluntary work	0.3%	0.5%
Unemployed not seeking	1.1%	1.8%
Unemployed seeking	3.7%	4.1%
Unknown	0.4%	0.7%

## 6. Tackling Poverty and Inequalities - Closing the Gap

- 6.1. Through the Community Plan (LOIP) the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) 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 20% most deprived areas. This target is also at the heart of the Children's Service Plan to achieve a reduction in the gap between school leavers from the most deprived localities compared to their peers in the 20% least deprived areas.
- 6.2. The table below shows the gap between school leaver destinations for young people residing in datazones in the most and least deprived 20%. Compared to the previous year, there has been a widening of the gap which is now in line with the national rate of 6.3%. The widening of the gap reflects the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 and the associated challenges on the most-deprived communities.

Gap between Most Deprived 20% and Least Deprived 20%	2018/19	2019/20
South Lanarkshire	4.9	6.3
National	5.3	6.3

## 7. Care Experienced Young People

- 7.1. The established South Lanarkshire multi-agency care experienced tracking and monitoring group works to ensure that every care experienced young person has an individualised employability support package with regular monitoring and alterations to support as required. The work of this group has a positive impact on the destinations of care experienced young people in recent years to a high of 92% for 2018/19. This year due to the pandemic has seen a drop in the rate for South Lanarkshire to 86%, however, remains above the national rate.
- 7.2. The table below shows the positive destination rate of care experienced young people in recent years.

Positive destination rate for care experienced young people	2018/19	2019/20
South Lanarkshire	92%	86%
National	82%	81%

- 7.3. As the number of care experienced school leavers is relatively small, an increase/decrease from year to year can have a corresponding change on the percentage rate which can hide the unique individual circumstances and intensive support that, in many instances, is required to progress to and sustain post-school destinations for care experienced young people. The sustained progress in leaver destinations for care experienced young people has been supported through the tailored approach by the Aspire programme which was highlighted as good practice in the recent joint inspection of care and protection.

## **8. COVID-19 Responses**

- 8.1. A key role of the Youth Employability Service is to work with Skills Development Scotland on an ongoing basis to identify and offer support to school leavers who become unemployed after leaving school. 165 young people were identified as unemployed or unknown through the SLDR and continuing efforts are made to re-engage them to progress to a positive destination. This includes individualised support through the Aspire programme.
- 8.2. The services provided by the Youth Employability Service have adapted to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19. In the Aspire service, this has included online individual and groupwork supports as well as telephone and outdoor one-to-one contact in line with national guidance. The Aspire Service has made available 178 Chromebooks and facilitated internet access for young people through Connecting Scotland and Youthlink.
- 8.3. During the 2020/2021 academic year, the service has prioritised the in-person delivery of our GradU8 and Foundation Apprenticeship programmes. For most of the session young people have attended college, training providers and school college hubs to complete work-based and vocational qualifications designed to support progression to further education and employment. The exception to this has been the period from January to the spring holiday when most of the provision was moved online.
- 8.4. Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19 which has reduced the capacity of some programmes, the service has provided support to over 1500 young people:-
- Aspire programme – 527 participants
  - GradU8 – 645 participants
  - Foundation Apprenticeships – 374 participants
- 8.5. This approach has enabled young people to engage in learning during periods of lockdown, however, Covid-19 has curtailed engagement activity significantly. It is anticipated that the forthcoming SLDR follow up, which records the destinations of the cohort 6 months after the initial survey, may record a higher level of negative destinations from young people than in previous years due to a combination of lack of labour market opportunities and the difficulties some young people experience in remote engagement in further and higher education and training.
- 8.6. In response to this, the Youth Employability Service is working closely with partners including Skills Development Scotland to identify and track young people and make appropriate offers of support. Funding has been secured through the Scottish Government's Young People's Guarantee programme to support the development of AspireWorks which will create additional opportunities for young people to engage in work experience and employability focused groupwork activities to progress to and sustain employment.

- 8.7. The Youth Employability Service is working with colleagues in Social Work to deliver a further roll out of the Care Experienced Employability Pilot. The programme was piloted in 2019 and supported 5 care experienced young people to progress to employment with South Lanarkshire Council. Through the Council's role as a corporate parent, the programme developed an innovative and flexible waged placement-based approach to identify training and employment opportunities within the Council that met the young people's needs and aspirations. A planned roll-out in 2020 was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be delivered from May 2021.

## **9. Next Steps**

- 9.1. A summary of the next steps is provided below:-

- Continue to work with partners including Skills Development Scotland to identify and track unemployed young people and offer individual packages of support through the Aspire programme.
- Deliver the AspireWorks job-focused programme through the Scottish Government's Young People's Guarantee funding.
- Continue to focus on improving outcomes for care experienced young people, including the roll out of a second pilot to support care experienced young people into employment with the Council.

## **10. Employee Implications**

- 10.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11. Financial Implications**

- 11.1. It is anticipated that the current Council and Government funding will continue and that ESF funding will be available until December 2022, and the Scottish Government No-one Left Behind and Young People's Guarantee funding being available until March 2022.

## **12. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 12.1. There are no implications for climate change associated with this report.
- 12.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 12.3. There are no Environmental Implications associated with this report.

## **13. Other Implications**

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

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

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. Consultation and engagement with young people, parents/carers, families and partners in order to provide appropriate supports is a core part of the activities of the Employability Service and those involved in the Aspire and other programmes.
- 14.3. Consultation has taken place with the Trade Unions in regard to the recommendations contained within this report.

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

13 May 2021

**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**

- Executive Committee May 2020

**List of Background Papers**

- ASPIRE Youth Employability Service and School Leaver Initial Destination Results 2018/19 – Education Committee May 2020
- Youth Employability and Work Based Learning – Education Committee January 2021
- Employability Supports for Care Experienced Young People - CPP Partnership Board 2 December 2020

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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