

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 11 January 2012

**Subject: Analysis of West Dunbartonshire School Leaver Destinations
2010/11**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the figures for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2010/11 and to explain how these figures compare to the national figures for school leavers for the same period.

2. Background

- 2.1** On 7 December 2011, Scottish Government published a statistical bulletin containing summary statistics for schools in Scotland for the school session 2010/11.
- 2.2** Lying behind these summary statistics are more detailed figures on a wide range of measures. Staff within Educational Services are currently analysing these figures and a further report on some of the key statistics will be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in March 2012.
- 2.3** One of the most important statistics at a time of difficult economic circumstances is the figure for school leaver destinations. Staff have already analysed these figures and a detailed breakdown is provided as Appendix 1.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The headline figures for school leavers in West Dunbartonshire for 2010/11 are as follows
- School leavers entering positive destination has increased by 3.4% to 91.5% in 2010/2011 compared to 88.1% in 2009/2010.
 - We have managed to record a steady increase of young people moving into positive destination since SLDR 2007/08.
 - The number of young people moving into positive destination increased by 63 from 880 in 2009/2010 to 943 in 2010/2011.
 - Young people moving into employment increased by 2.7% with a 1.4% increase in training compared to SLDR 2009/10.

- Percentage of young people reported moving into Higher Education has decreased by 3.6%
- Percentage of young people reported as unemployed seeking and not seeking has consistently dropped since 2007/08.
- For the first time there were no young people in the unknown destination category on SLDR 2010/11.
- For the last two consecutive years, West Dunbartonshire has managed to perform better than the national average for school leavers moving into positive destinations
- West Dunbartonshire ranks 7th among 32 local authorities for school leavers moving into positive destinations.

3.2 Given the fact that the economic outlook remains exceptionally difficult both nationally and locally, the figures outlined in 3.1 represent a very significant achievement for West Dunbartonshire Council, especially given the very high levels of deprivation in the area and the fact that youth unemployment generally remains very high in West Dunbartonshire.

3.3 These figures have been achieved through the hard work of both centrally deployed and school based staff in West Dunbartonshire Council and staff in partner agencies such as Skills Development Scotland.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications arising directly from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Strategies to ensure as many young people as possible move into positive post school destinations are financed from within existing budgets.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Failure to achieve high levels of positive post school destinations represents a significant risk to the future life chances of our young people. The Council also faces significant challenges in ensuring positive destinations are sustained over a longer period of time.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 As this is a report which provides information but does not itself impact on policy development or changes to service delivery, there are no equalities issues arising from the contents of this report.

8. Strategic Assessment

- 8.1** The achievement of high levels of positive post school destinations is important for future economic regeneration of West Dunbartonshire.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1** The figures outlined in the appendix to this report represent a very significant achievement for West Dunbartonshire Council, showing an increase in positive destinations for school leavers across the Council area. It is particularly impressive that, despite the socio-economic factors prevalent within West Dunbartonshire, the Council now ranks seventh amongst Scotland's 32 local authorities for school leavers moving into positive destinations.
- 9.2** The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is recommended to
- a) note the contents of the appendix outlining the statistics for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire for 2010/11;
 - b) congratulate the staff for their efforts in achieving these results; and
 - c) note that a further report on the statistics for schools in Scotland 2010/11 will be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in March 2012.

Terry Lanagan
Executive Director of Educational Services

Person to Contact: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services, Department of Educational Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU
Telephone No. 01389 737301
E-mail: terry.lanagan@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Analysis of West Dunbartonshire School Leavers Destinations Report 2010/11

Background Papers: Statistical Bulletin – A National Statistics Publication for Scotland Published 7 December 2011

Wards Affected: All wards