

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Educational Services Committee: 20 February 2013

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**Subject: Analysis of West Dunbartonshire School Leaver Destinations (SLDR) for 2011/12**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To inform Members of the figures for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2011/12 and to explain how these figures compare to the national figures for school leavers for the same period.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** 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 given the socio-economic factors prevalent within West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** It is recommended that the Educational Services Committee:
- a) note the contents of the appendix outlining the statistics for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire for 2011/12;
  - b) congratulate the staff and young people for their efforts in achieving these results; and,
  - c) note that a further report on the statistics for school leavers in West Dunbartonshire 2011/12 will be presented to the Educational Services Committee in May 2013.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** This year the Scottish Government will not be publishing figures for initial school leaver destinations for 2011/12 until June 2013. Therefore Skills Development Scotland (SDS) agreed to share the results with local authorities prior to this publication. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) supplies information about the destinations of school leavers from publicly funded Secondary Schools and other schools, at an individual level, to the Scottish Government's Education Analytical Services Division. SDS has agreement from the Scottish Government to share this data with local authorities. On 16 January 2013, Skills Development Scotland supplied information on school leaver destinations to all authorities including West Dunbartonshire Council.

**3.2** In addition to the figures on school leaver destinations, the Scottish Government publishes detailed figures on a wide range of measures relating to schools. Staff within Educational Services are currently analysing these figures and a further report on some of the key statistics will be presented to the Educational Services Committee in May 2013.

**3.3** However, staff have had the opportunity to analyse the school leaver destination figures and a detailed breakdown is provided as Appendix 1.

#### **4. Main Issues**

**4.1** The headline figures for school leavers in West Dunbartonshire for 2011/12 are as follows:

- [redacted] school leavers entering positive destinations from West Dunbartonshire schools have increased by 1.1 percentage points to 92.6% in 2011/2012 compared to 91.5% in 2010/2011 (note: Higher Education, Further Education, Employment, Training, Volunteering and Activity Agreements are considered to be positive destinations; unemployment, either seeking employment or not seeking employment are considered negative destinations, as is “destination unknown”);
- the percentage of school leavers entering positive destination has consistently increased from its low of 82.5% in 2007/08 to 92.6% in 2011/12;
- [redacted] we have managed to record a steady increase of young people moving into positive destinations since SLDR 2007/08;
- the percentage of school leavers from West Dunbartonshire in positive destinations is 2.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 89.9% in 2011/12;
- the percentage of leavers in Higher Education increased by 6.1 percentage points, from 31.7% in 2010/11 to 37.8% in 2011/12, 0.5% higher than the national figure;
- the percentage of young people in Further Education increased by 0.9 percentage points from 29.4% in 2010/11 to 30.3% in 2011/12, 3.5% higher than the national figure;
- young people in employment increased by 0.6 percentage points from 15.8% in 2010/11 to 16.4% in 2011/12
- the percentage of young people reported as unemployed (seeking and not seeking) has consistently dropped since 2007/08;
- for the second consecutive year there were no young people in the unknown destination category;

- for the last three years, West Dunbartonshire has managed to perform better than the national average for school leavers moving into positive destinations.

**4.2** 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.

**4.3** 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.

## **5. People Implications**

**5.1** There are no people implications arising directly from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

**6.1** Strategies to ensure as many young people as possible move into positive post-school destinations are financed from within existing budgets but are dependent on the continued support from the Community Planning Partnership and the Opportunities for All grant from the Scottish Government.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** 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.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** 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.

## **9. Consultation**

**9.1** The views of both Finance and Legal services have been requested on this report.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

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

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Analysis of West Dunbartonshire School  
Leavers Destinations Report 2011/12

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All wards