

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 12 March 2013

BY: Executive Director (Services for People)

SUBJECT: Positive School Leaver Destinations and Employability

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee regarding positive school leaver destinations using the recent School Leaver Destination Report (SLDR) report and employability activity within East Lothian.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and recognise the wide range of activities being undertaken to improve positive leaver destinations in East Lothian.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 To assist local authorities and schools target resources effectively Skills Development Scotland provides information about leaver destinations on an annual basis. A statistical report for East Lothian is attached (Appendix 1).

In East Lothian we continue to have strong links with partners and have further developed our post 16 provision to include Lifeskills. For the More Choices More Chances (MCMC) cohort, this opportunity provides an additional positive destination for those that are participating in Activity Agreements and a natural feed into the Get Ready for Work provision.

3.2 Available Destinations

Training providers delivering in East Lothian are:

- East Lothian Skill Centre at Meadowmill delivering a Get Ready for Work programme in partnership with Midlothian Training Services supporting up to 20 young people at any one time. This programme has been recently

developed to include the delivery of qualifications around literacy and numeracy (Intermediate 1) and IT (Intermediate 2).

- East Lothian Skill Centre at Meadowmill in partnership with Midlothian Training Services have commenced a Lifeskills programme at the beginning of February. This is a pilot and will offer initially 5 young people a part time training opportunity for 13 weeks
- Rathbone Training continues to deliver Get Ready for Work in Dunbar and Musselburgh along with the X-Ceed a programme of 1:1 support for 14-25 yr olds who have been or who are involved in the care or youth offending system.
- Activity Agreements are delivered by a staff member at East Lothian Skill Centre. This is a bespoke service for those furthest away from the job market. Positive destinations for East Lothian are sitting at 85% with a national average quoted of 79%. Appendix 2 shows the % of school leavers in positive destinations in East Lothian for the past 4 years. Based on the last 2 quarters of leavers –

Quarter 2 (July – September 2012)

20 referred, 19 offers made for Activity Agreements with 16 accepting a place.

Leavers during this period equated to 6, 5 of which went onto positive destinations (further education, employment, Get Ready for Work)

Quarter 3 (October – December 2012)

17 referred, 9 offers made for Activity Agreements with 8 accepting a place.

Leavers during this period equated to 7, 6 of which went onto positive destinations (employment, Get Ready for Work and Lifeskills).

- All of the above give priority to Looked After Children (LAC) and Look After and Accommodated Children (LAAC). Edinburgh College also offer a variety of further education options for example the Learning Programme for 16-24 year olds which offers a range of part time courses based throughout various campuses in Edinburgh, along with their winter and summer leaver course prospectus.

3.3 Additional Support into Positive Destinations (including in-school)

- **Careers Scotland** continues to offer their services in schools and beyond.
- All S4 secondary school pupils receive **work experience** as part of their Personal Social Education Programme.

- **Extended work experience** placements and shadowing is available to S4 to S6 pupils.
- **TWO (Targeting Work Opportunities)** Programme at the Skill Centre works with targeted winter leavers and offers extra support in preparing for work, training or further education. This programme generally consists of 12 young people.
- **Girls Aloud** programme at the Skill Centre helps girls who are still at school and at risk of disengaging to prepare for employment, training or further education. There are currently 14 girls on the programme which runs from January – March.
- **Community Benefits** continues to offer a wide range of opportunities with an opportunity to gain employability skills. Opportunities range from work experience, apprenticeships, school talks, mock interviews and site visits. The opportunities are shared throughout the county with schools, Jobcentreplus, Through Care and After Care (TCAC) and the Bridges Project.
- **WOSSTA (West of Scotland Seafish Training Association)** – this is a three week course, week one has been completed and attended by 5 East Lothian pupils (2 pupils from Dunbar Grammar School, 2 pupils from North Berwick High School and 1 pupil from Musselburgh Grammar School). 4 out of the 5 pupils already have links with the fishing industry and it is hoped that through the course and the award of the mandatory certificates that this will significantly aid their employment prospects.
- **Business Coaching** continues to be a success, feedback from a recent meeting with the coaches reinforced the power of the relationship and the positive effect it is having with the participants in such a short period of time.

3.4 Other Support

- All schools are now holding 16+ Hubs meetings (multi-agency) during which young people who are less likely to secure a positive destination are discussed and allocated a lead professional to support them. A traffic light system of red, amber and green (RAG) is used. To identify those furthest away from the job market (red) those requiring shorter term interventions (amber) and those who have a clearly identified path (green). It is via discussions within the hub with the various professionals present including (Bridges, East Lothian Skill Centre, Skills Development Scotland and staff from school that suggestions and potential solutions are identified.
- The Bridges Project offers a variety of support to vulnerable young people who have a range of issues which are preventing them from achieving employment/training opportunity. In particular the Transition Worker has been an effective solution in assisting young people into positive destinations.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – Currently the Activity Agreement post and provision is funded through Government Opportunities for All Funding. Going forward there is an expectation that this will be funded by the local authority. The grant spend to date (including projected spend for the remainder of the final year on Activity Agreements) comprises of £75K staffing and £58K provision plus an additional £22K from MCMC budget for provision. Discussions are taking place with Midlothian Council to explore joint working across the two authorities around the delivery of Activity Agreements and how we could work together on the procurement process.

6.2 Personnel – None.

6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

AUTHOR'S NAME	Alison Hood
DESIGNATION	16+ Learning Choices Officer
CONTACT INFO	Tel No 01875 616484 E-mail- ahood@eastlothian.gov.uk
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East Lothian Council SLDR 2011/12 (Initial Destination Percentages)												
School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	% Pos	% Other
Dunbar Grammar School	109	43.1%	22.9%	1.8%	17.4%	0.9%	0.0%	12.8%	0.9%	0.0%	86.2%	13.8%
Knox Academy	141	43.3%	15.6%	0.7%	26.2%	0.0%	0.7%	12.1%	0.0%	1.4%	86.5%	13.5%
Musselburgh Grammar School	250	23.6%	30.4%	6.0%	22.0%	0.0%	1.6%	15.2%	0.8%	0.4%	83.6%	16.4%
North Berwick High School	143	60.8%	13.3%	0.0%	19.6%	0.0%	0.7%	2.1%	3.5%	0.0%	94.4%	5.6%
Preston Lodge High School	155	33.5%	27.7%	5.2%	20.0%	0.0%	1.3%	9.7%	0.6%	1.9%	87.7%	12.3%
Ross High School	174	28.2%	32.2%	2.9%	25.3%	0.6%	2.9%	6.9%	1.1%	0.0%	92.0%	8.0%
East Lothian Council	972	36.5%	24.8%	3.2%	22.0%	0.2%	1.3%	10.2%	1.1%	0.6%	88.1%	11.9%
Scotland	50,892	37.3%	26.8%	4.6%	19.8%	0.4%	0.9%	8.4%	1.3%	0.4%	89.9%	10.1%
Comparison of percentages (LA to Scotland)		-0.8	-2.0	-1.4	2.2	-0.2	0.4	1.8	-0.2	0.2	-1.8	

East Lothian Council Variance SLDR 2011/12 v SLDR 2010/11 (Percentage Point Variance)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Pos
Dunbar Grammar School	-31	6.7	0.0	-1.1	-6.9	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.9	0.0	-0.9
Knox Academy	-15	1.0	-0.4	-1.9	7.6	0.0	0.7	-4.6	-3.2	0.8	7.0
Musselburgh Grammar School	-17	-4.1	-2.2	-0.4	2.5	-0.7	1.6	3.2	-0.3	0.4	-3.3
North Berwick High School	-13	8.9	1.1	-0.6	-3.5	-1.3	0.7	-4.3	-1.0	0.0	5.3
Preston Lodge High School	-19	-2.1	1.3	-6.3	2.8	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.6	1.9	-3.1
Ross High School	-20	-0.2	11.1	-5.9	-2.5	0.1	2.9	-5.5	0.1	0.0	5.4
East Lothian Council	-115	0.7	1.8	-2.6	0.4	-0.4	1.3	-1.4	-0.5	0.5	1.3

East Lothian Council SLDR 2010/11 (Initial Destination Percentages)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	% Pos	% Other
Dunbar Grammar School	140	36.4%	22.9%	2.9%	24.3%	0.7%	0.0%	12.9%	0.0%	0.0%	87.1%	12.9%
Knox Academy	156	42.3%	16.0%	2.6%	18.6%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	3.2%	0.6%	79.5%	20.5%
Musselburgh Grammar School	267	27.7%	32.6%	6.4%	19.5%	0.7%	0.0%	12.0%	1.1%	0.0%	86.9%	13.1%
North Berwick High School	156	51.9%	12.2%	0.6%	23.1%	1.3%	0.0%	6.4%	4.5%	0.0%	89.1%	10.9%
Preston Lodge High School	174	35.6%	26.4%	11.5%	17.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.2%	0.0%	0.0%	90.8%	9.2%
Ross High School	194	28.4%	21.1%	8.8%	27.8%	0.5%	0.0%	12.4%	1.0%	0.0%	86.6%	13.4%
East Lothian Council	1,087	35.8%	23.0%	5.8%	21.6%	0.6%	0.0%	11.6%	1.6%	0.1%	86.8%	13.2%

% of school leavers in positive destinations (Appendix 2)
(East Lothian Schools)

