

**REPORT TO:** Education Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 19 June 2018

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Positive School Leaver Destinations 2016/17

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**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of trends in the initial destinations of pupils who left East Lothian schools using the 'Increasing post-school participation' measure from Insight.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and note the contents of the report and to endorse the steps being taken to improve further school leavers' positive destinations.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people is one of the key priorities in the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education.
- 3.2 The initial destination of school leavers' data is used by schools and Education Authorities across Scotland to monitor progress in improving the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations.
- 3.3 Information on the initial destinations of school leavers is provided from the 'Opportunities for All' shared dataset managed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). The data on initial post school destinations in this report is taken from the February 2018 release of the senior phase benchmarking tool, 'Insight' and forms one of the four National Benchmarking measures. The data provides information on the outcomes for young people as

recorded in October 2017, approximately three months after leaving school.

- 3.4 The data on initial post-school destinations for 2016/17 was reported on nationally and published by the Scottish Government on 27 February 2018: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/SeniorLeavers>
- 3.5 This report compares East Lothian initial school leaver destinations with the Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment (i.e. national average). Figures are provided in most cases for both the national average and the Virtual Comparator, however, the Virtual Comparator is seen as the key benchmark for helping schools and authorities understand their strengths and areas for improvement. The Virtual Comparator takes the characteristics of each pupil in East Lothian and matches them to 10 pupils with similar characteristics and backgrounds from schools in other local authorities across Scotland.
- 3.6 This report will explore how the Education Authority has performed over the five-year period since 2012/13 to 2016/17 in relation to the national average and its Virtual Comparator. The main highlights for East Lothian in 2016/17 are provided in paragraph 3.7. A detailed breakdown of East Lothian's performance from 2012/13 to 2016/17 is provided in Appendix 1.

### **Summary of Results for East Lothian 2016/17**

- 3.7 The main findings for East Lothian are:
- 94% of 2016/17 school leavers were in a positive destination approximately three months after leaving school compared to 93.5 per cent in 2015/16.
  - The percentage of leavers in positive initial destinations has increased 4 percentage points over the five year period from 2012/13 when 90% of pupils were in a positive destination.
  - 63.6% of school leavers continued their education within Higher or Further Education establishments in 2016/17 compared to 61.2% in 2015/16.
  - The percentage of leavers entering employment decreased from 28.3% in 2015/16 to 25.7% in 2016/17. The percentage of leavers in training has decreased very slightly by 0.2 percentage points (2.3% in 2016/17 compared to 2.5% in 2015/16). The increase in continuing education within HE or FE is reducing the numbers entering employment or training.
  - In 2016/17 the percentage of East Lothian looked after young people moving into positive destinations is higher than the national average.

- In 2016/17 the percentage of East Lothian school leavers with additional support needs moving into positive destinations is higher than the national average.
- The percentage of East Lothian school leavers living in the most deprived 30% areas in a positive initial destination decreased slightly by 0.6 percentage points (89.3% in 2015/16 to 88.7% per cent in 2016/17) just below the national average (90.3%) and Virtual Comparator (90.2%).
- The percentage point gap in positive initial destinations (the difference between the most and least deprived areas) remained relatively static at 8.4 percentage points in 2016/17.

### **Next Steps**

- 3.8 Overall, there have been improvements in the trends of young people going on to a positive school leaver destination with almost all young people (94%) in a positive destination in 2016/17. This represents a 4% increase over the last 5 years. There has also been an increase in the number of young people continuing their education within Higher or Further education establishments, from 61.2% in 2015/16 to 63.6% in 2016/17. Whilst these results are very positive, the Education Service is not complacent. The Education Service Improvement Plan sets out a key target within our overarching theme of supporting improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people. We will continue to focus on improving the numbers of school leavers who live in the most deprived areas to move on to a positive and sustained school leaver destination. The Lead Officer School Estate and Curriculum is working closely with East Lothian Works and external partners to improve the range of pathways post-school.
- 3.9 The initial school leaver destinations data will be used to inform each school's and the local authority annual Standards and Quality Report which is published each session.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications associated with this report.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - none
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other - none

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

Appendix 1 – East Lothian Initial School Leaver Destinations to 2012/13 to 2016/17

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<b>DATE</b>	21 May 2018

**East Lothian Council - Education Service**

**East Lothian Initial School Leaver Destinations 2012/13 to 2016/17**

**1. Background Notes**

This report compares the performance of East Lothian school leavers against the Insight Leavers Initial Destinations 'Increasing Post-school Participation' National Benchmarking Measure since 2012/13.

- The figures are taken from the February 2018 release of Insight. The leavers' cohort will include a mixture of pupils from S4, S5 and S6.
- Figures 1 to 8 and Tables 1 to 4 and commentary in section 2, detail the progress made by East Lothian pupils against the Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment (i.e. national average) over the last 5 years. Figures are provided in most cases for both the National Establishment and the Virtual Comparator, however, the Virtual Comparator is seen as the key benchmark for helping schools and Education Authorities understand their strengths and areas for improvement.
- The Virtual Comparator takes the characteristics of each pupil in East Lothian and matches them to 10 pupils with similar characteristics from schools in other local authorities across Scotland, offering a fairer comparison.
- When the cohort being compared relates to a small number of pupils (less than 20 pupils as a rule of thumb provided by the Scottish Government), the trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant. Data is suppressed where it relates to a cohort, or part of a cohort, of fewer than five pupils to prevent the identification of individuals.
- Where Insight testing has found that comparisons between the East Lothian performance and its Virtual Comparator is statistically significant and large enough to be considered of important educational value, this information has been included in the commentary in section 2 of this document. The following graded shading is also used in tables to visualise where Insight testing has found the comparisons to be significant:

<b>Colour Shading</b>	<b>East Lothian's performance relative to Virtual Comparator (VC)</b>
	much greater than VC
	greater than VC
	lower than VC
	much lower than VC

- In most tables, three-year averages, a five year net score or percentage point change and five year 'Trend' are presented with the annual performance. This provides an indication of an overall declining or improving trend by East Lothian schools in relation to the Virtual Comparator. The net change is the sum of the score or percentage point difference from one year to the next over the five-year period. The 'Trend' is the average annual percentage or score point change over the number of years given. A positive value (coloured green) indicates an improving trend on average over the period and a negative value (coloured red) indicates a declining trend.

2. **National Benchmarking Measure: Increasing Post-School Participation (Initial Destinations)**

The ‘Increasing Post-School Participation’ measure features as one of the strategic long-term outcome indicators in Outcome 4 of East Lothian’s Single Outcome Agreement, with a focus on all school leavers and looked after (LAC) school leavers. It also features as an indicator in Contributory Outcome 4.1 with a focus on school leavers with an additional support need (ASN).

Figure 1 and Table 1 below detail the progress made by East Lothian against its Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment in relation to the percentage of all school leavers in an initial positive destination (i.e. approximately three months after leaving school).

Figure 1: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations) since 2012/13

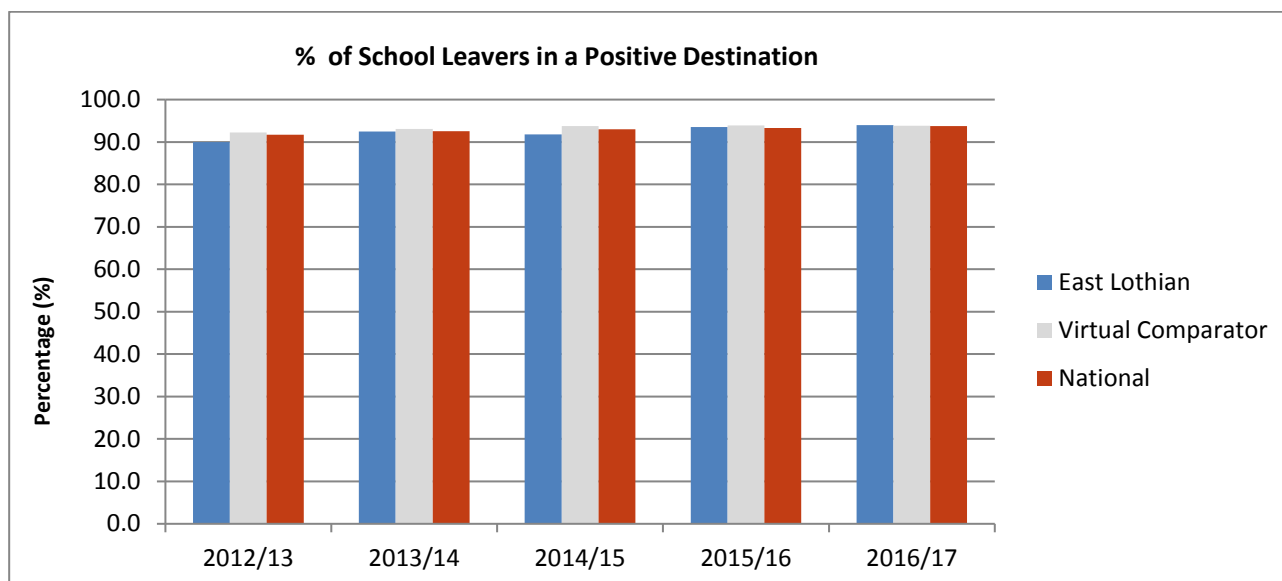


Table 1: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations) since 2012/13

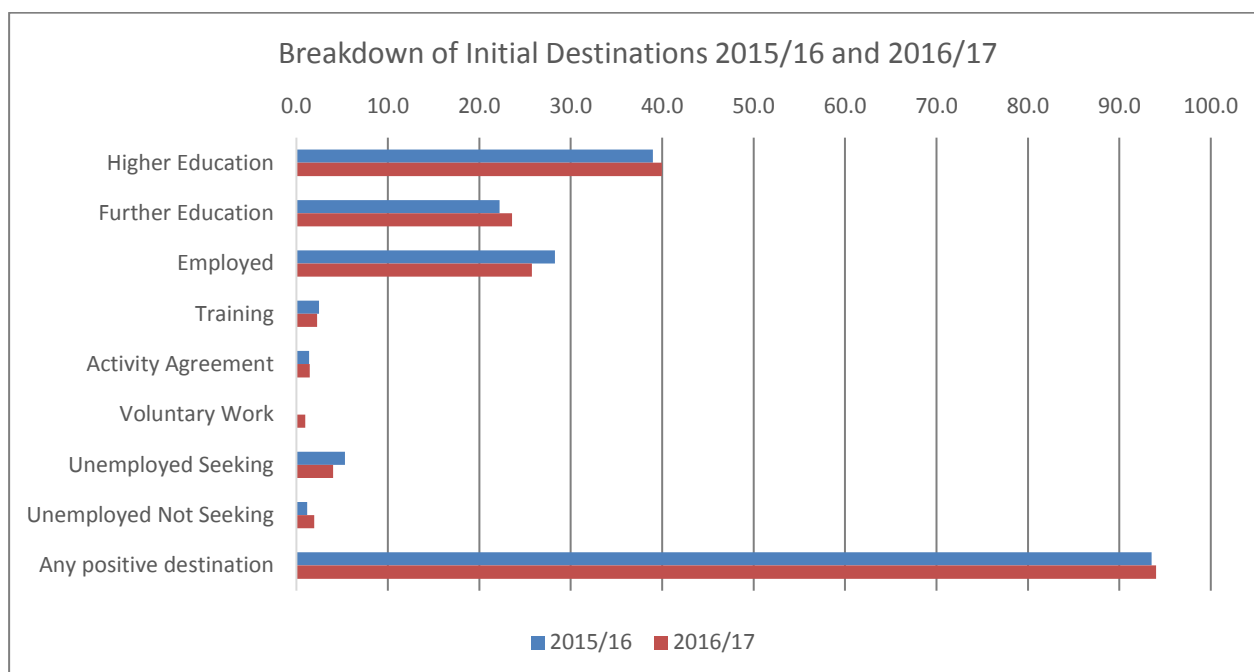
All School Leavers	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	3 Year Ave	2017 % point change (+/-) on 2016	5 Year Trend	5 Yr % Point Net Change (+/-)
East Lothian	90.0	92.4	91.8	93.5	94.0	93.1	0.5	1.01	4.05
Virtual Comparator	92.3	93.1	93.7	93.9	93.9	93.8	-0.1	0.40	1.58
National	91.7	92.5	93.0	93.3	93.7	93.4	0.4	0.50	2.01

**Comments on Table 1:**

- 94.0% of all school leavers in East Lothian went into a positive destination in 2016/17, an increase of 0.5% on the previous year, slightly above the national average (93.7%) and the Virtual Comparator (93.9%). The percentage of school leavers in East Lothian entering an initial positive destination shows an improved trend over the five years, increasing by 4 percentage points overall since 2012/13.
- Since 2012/13 the percentage gap between East Lothian and the Virtual Comparator has reduced by more than 2 percentage points. While East Lothian’s performance is considered lower than the Virtual Comparator in 2012/13 and 2014/15, Insight testing did not find any significant comparisons between East Lothian’s performance and the Virtual Comparator over the last 2 years.

‘Positive Destinations’ include higher education, further education, voluntary work, employment and activity agreements. *Figure 2* below shows the percentage of East Lothian school leavers from 2016/17 compared with 2015/16 in positive destinations as well as the percentage of leavers who were unemployed. *Table 2* further details the breakdown of ‘positive destinations’ since 2012/13.

**Figure 2: Percentage of East Lothian school leavers in positive destinations by initial destination type in 2015/16 and 2016/17**



- Most young people in East Lothian continue into further or higher education on leaving school. 63.6% of school leavers continued their education within Higher or Further Education establishments in 2016/17 compared to 61.2% in 2015/16. There has been a one percentage point increase in leavers continuing to higher education (40% in 2016/17 compared to 39% in 2015/16) and a 1.4 percentage point increase in leavers continuing on to further education (23.6% in 2016/17 compared to 22.2% in 2015/16).
- The percentage of leavers entering employment decreased from 28.3% in 2015/16 to 25.7% in 2016/17.
- The percentage of leavers in training has decreased very slightly by 0.2 percentage points (2.3% in 2016/17 compared to 2.5% in 2015/16).

*Table 2* that follows further details the breakdown of ‘positive destinations’ by destination type since 2012/13.

Table 2.../

Table 2: Percentage of East Lothian school leavers in positive destinations since 2012/13 by initial destination type

Establishment	Year of Leaving	HE	FE	Training	Employment	Voluntary	Activity Agreement
East Lothian	2012/13	35.0	24.9	4.3	23.2	0.9	1.6
	2013/14	38.9	19.7	4.8	27.2	0.8	1.2
	2014/15	35.5	23.4	3.7	28.7	*	*
	2015/16	39.0	22.2	2.5	28.3	*	1.4
	2016/17	40.0	23.6	2.3	25.7	1.0	1.5
	(+/-) change on 2016	1.0	1.4	-0.2	-2.6	*	0.1
	3yr ave	38.2	23.1	2.8	27.6	*	*
	5 Yr % Point net change (+/-)	4.94	-1.32	-2.08	2.57	*	*
	5yr trend	1.24	-0.33	-0.52	0.64	*	*
Virtual Comparator	2012/13	40.0	26.0	4.1	20.2	0.6	1.3
	2013/14	42.7	24.5	3.1	21.4	0.5	0.9
	2014/15	41.2	27.0	3.0	21.1	0.5	1.0
	2015/16	42.4	25.9	2.1	21.7	0.7	1.2
	2016/17	44.7	24.6	2.1	20.7	0.5	1.3
	(+/-) change on 2016	2.3	-1.3	0.0	-1.0	-0.2	0.1
	3yr ave	42.8	25.8	2.4	21.2	0.6	1.1
	5 Yr % Point net change (+/-)	4.74	-1.40	-2.03	0.54	-0.18	-0.07
	5yr trend	1.19	-0.35	-0.51	0.14	-0.05	0.29
National	2012/13	37.1	27.7	4.8	20.4	0.5	1.3
	2013/14	39.1	26.3	4.0	21.7	0.4	1.0
	2014/15	38.8	27.6	3.8	21.4	0.4	0.9
	2015/16	40.3	26.6	2.6	22.3	0.5	1.0
	2016/17	40.7	26.8	2.4	22.0	0.6	1.2
	(+/-) change on 2016	0.4	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.2
	3yr ave	40.0	27.0	2.9	21.9	0.5	1.1
	5 Yr % Point net change (+/-)	3.57	-0.82	-2.35	1.60	0.04	-0.04
	5yr trend	0.89	-0.21	-0.59	0.40	0.01	-0.01

**Comments on Table 2:**

- Over the last five years there has been a 5 percentage point increase in the percentage of school leavers continuing their education beyond school in higher education (35% in 2012/13 compared to 40% in 2016/17). The percentage difference has fluctuated between three and six percentage points lower than the Virtual Comparator across the same period but has been broadly in line with the national average.
- Over the same period the percentage of school leavers continuing their education in further education has remained broadly constant at 23% on average. The percentage difference is typically between one and five percentage points lower than the Virtual Comparator and between three and percentage points lower than the national average.
- The percentage of school leavers entering employment in East Lothian has fluctuated over the five-year period, having been typically between three and eight percentage points higher than the Virtual Comparator and national average across the years.



- As with the national trend, the percentage of school leavers in training has decreased over the last five years from 2012/13 when 4.3% of pupils entered training to 2.3% in 2016/17.
- The percentage of school leavers in activity agreements or undertaking voluntary work has remained low over the last five years (1.5% and 1% respectively in 2016/17).

Table 3 below details the progress made by East Lothian against its Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment in relation to the percentage of all looked after school leavers, who left East Lothian Schools and went into a positive destination.

**Table 3: Percentage of all looked after school leavers in a positive destination (initial destinations) since 2012/13**

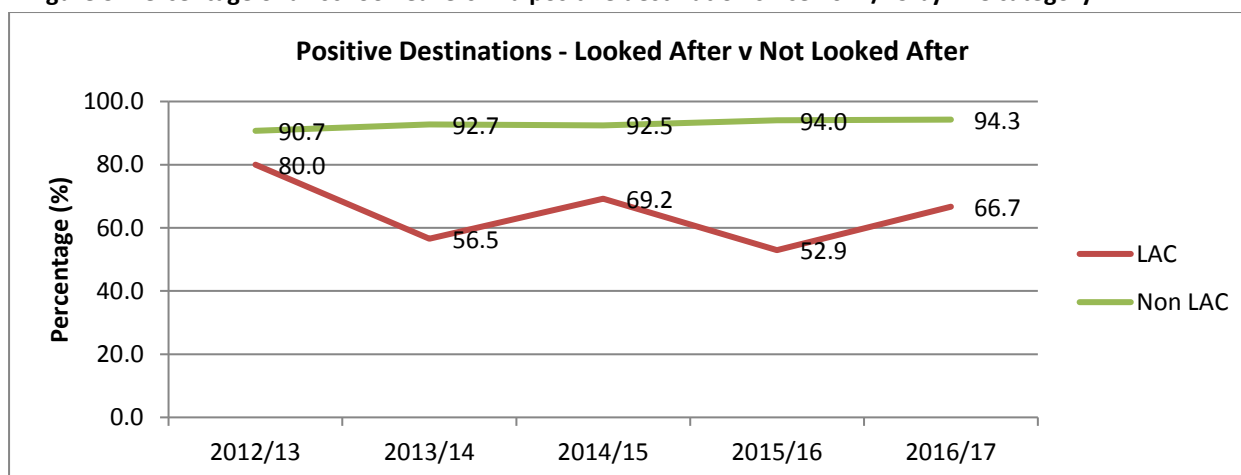
Looked After School Leavers	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	3 Year Ave	2017 % point change (+/-) on 2016	5 Year Trend	5 Yr % Point Net Change (+/-)
East Lothian	56.5	69.2	52.9	66.7	83.3	67.6	16.7	6.70	26.81
Virtual Comparator	88.3	86.2	82.9	86.1	86.3	85.1	0.1	-0.50	-2.01
National	70.2	73.3	74.6	73.6	76.4	74.9	2.7	1.54	6.14

**Comments on Table 3:**

- In 2016/17, 83.3% of all East Lothian looked after school leavers went into a positive destination, a 16.7% increase on the previous year and a net increase of 26.8 percentage points overall since 2012/13. The East Lothian percentage has been typically lower than both the Virtual Comparator and national average over the last four years, having fluctuated widely from year to year due to the small numbers within the looked after cohort. In 2016/17 the percentage of East Lothian looked after young people moving into positive destinations is higher than the national average.
- The data relating to looked after school leavers in East Lothian is based on small cohorts of between 9 and 20 pupils (approx. 1.9% of the leavers’ cohort on average). Trends are more likely to fluctuate over time and, therefore, are less likely to be significant. Care must be taken when drawing any conclusions about performance over time in relation to looked after pupils.

Figure 3 shows the gap in positive destinations for school leavers in East Lothian by looked after category since 2012/13.

**Figure 3: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination since 2012/13 by LAC category**



- The gap in positive destinations between East Lothian LAC and non LAC leavers in 2016/17 decreased on the previous year from 41 to 28 percentage points. The gap has fluctuated widely over the last five years as a result of the small cohort with the percentage of looked after leavers in positive destinations typically between 10 and 41 percentage points lower than those not looked after.

*Due to the small number of pupils involved in the calculations it is not appropriate to publish a breakdown of the initial destinations for leavers who are looked after.*

Table 4 below details the progress made by East Lothian against its Virtual Comparator and the National Establishment in relation to the percentage of school leavers with an additional support need (ASN) who left East Lothian Schools and went into a positive destination.

**Table 4: Percentage of school leavers with additional support needs in a positive destination (initial destinations) since 2012/13**

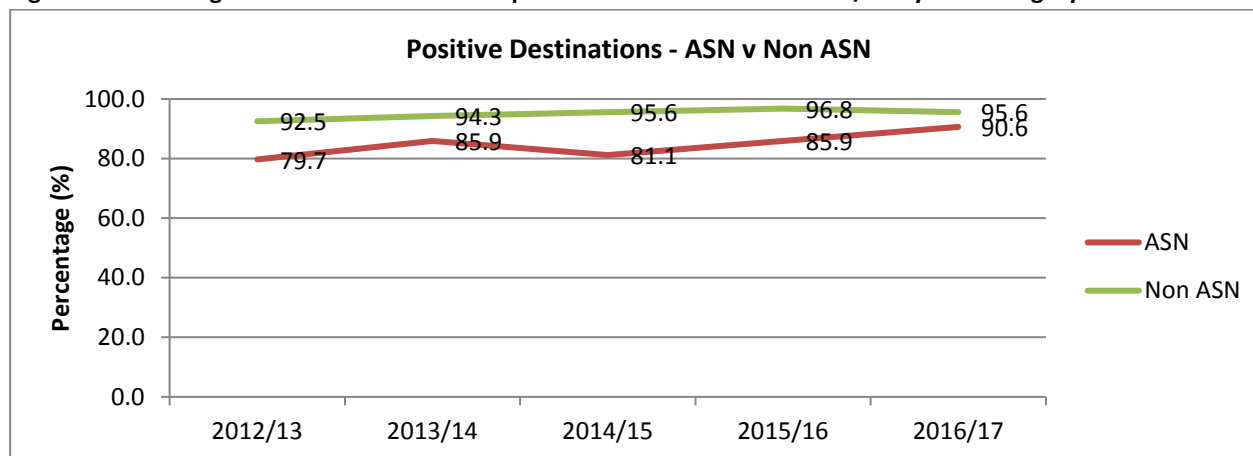
School Leavers with ASN	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	3 Year Ave	2017 % point change (+/-) on 2016	5 Year Trend	5 Yr % Point Net Change (+/-)
East Lothian	79.7	85.9	81.1	85.9	90.6	85.9	4.7	2.73	10.92
Virtual Comparator	88.5	87.8	89.7	88.8	89.3	89.3	0.5	0.20	0.78
National	87.2	87.4	88.2	88.6	89.4	88.7	0.8	0.55	2.20

**Comments on Table 4:**

- In 2016/17 90.6% of East Lothian school leavers with ASN went into a positive destination, a 4.7% increase on the previous year and a net increase of 10.9 percentage points since 2012/13. The East Lothian percentage has been typically lower than both the Virtual Comparator and national average over the last five years and shows a fluctuating but overall improved trend. School leavers with an additional support need made up 31.4% school leavers cohort in East Lothian in 2016/17.

Figure 4 below shows the gap in positive destinations for school leavers in East Lothian by looked after category since 2012/13.

**Figure 4: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination since 2012/13 by ASN category**

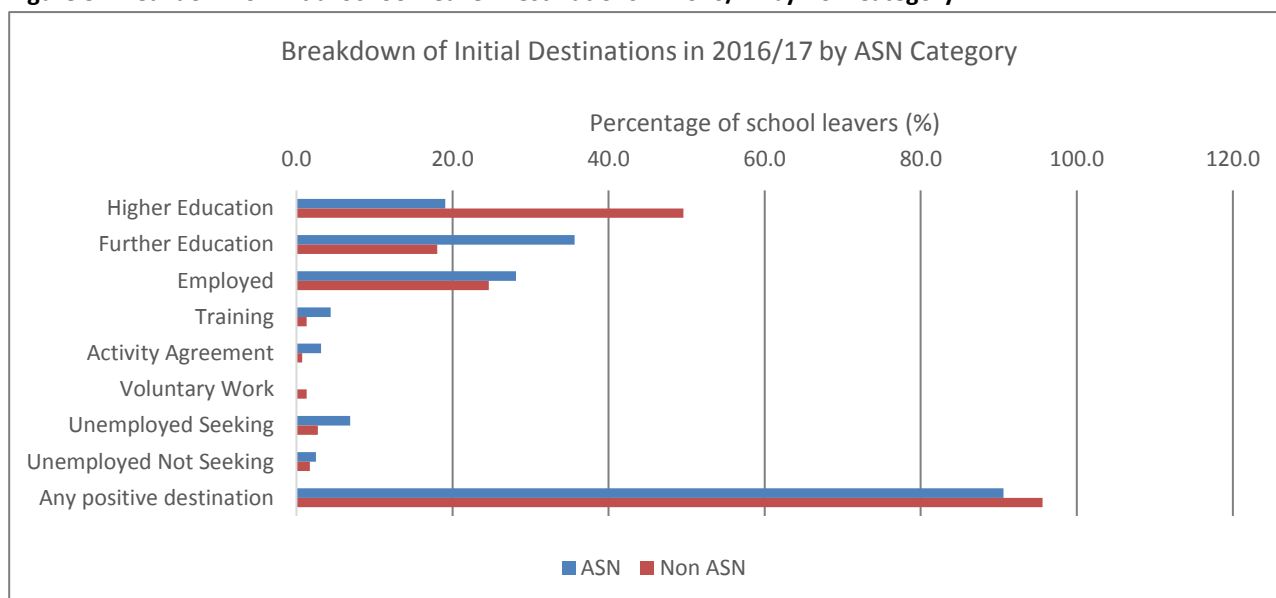


- The gap in positive destinations between East Lothian leavers with ASN and without ASN in 2016/17 decreased on the previous year from 11 to 5 percentage points. The gap has

fluctuated over the last five years with the percentage of ASN leavers in positive destinations between 8 and 15 percentage points lower than those without ASN. Overall, the gap has decreased over the five-year period from 12.8% in 2012/13 to 4.9% in 2016/17.

Figure 5 below details the breakdown of initial destinations of East Lothian school leavers who had an additional support need compared to leavers who did not.

**Figure 5: Breakdown of Initial School Leaver Destinations in 2016/17 by ASN Category**

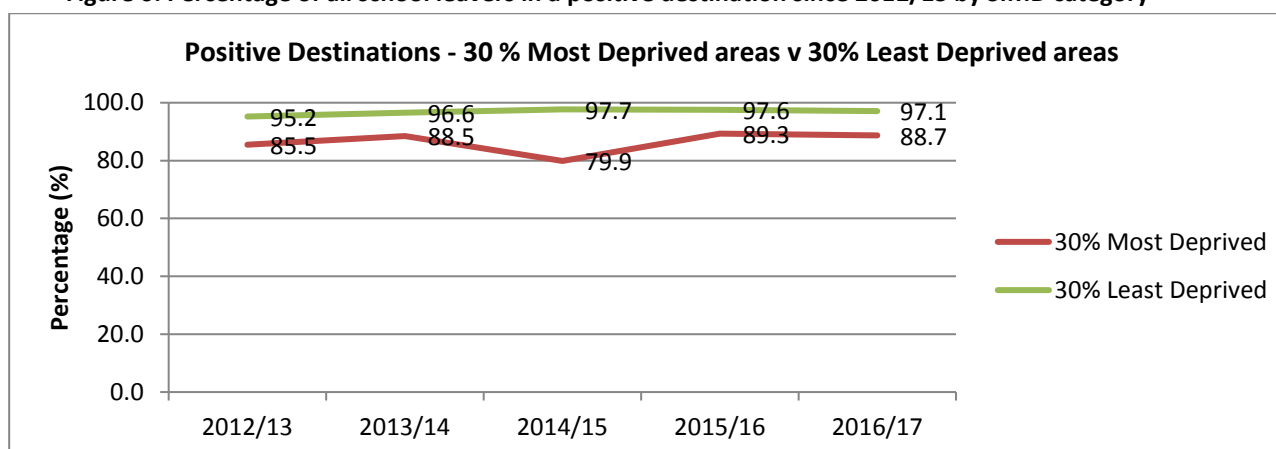


- Of the various types of positive destinations, the most notable difference is the proportion entering further education where 36% of leavers with additional support needs entered compared to 18.1% of leavers who did not have an additional support need.

**Initial Leaver Destinations: Closing the Gap (SIMD)**

Figures 6 to 7 below show the gap in positive destinations for school leavers in East Lothian by SIMD category since 2012/13.

**Figure 6: Percentage of all school leavers in a positive destination since 2012/13 by SIMD category**

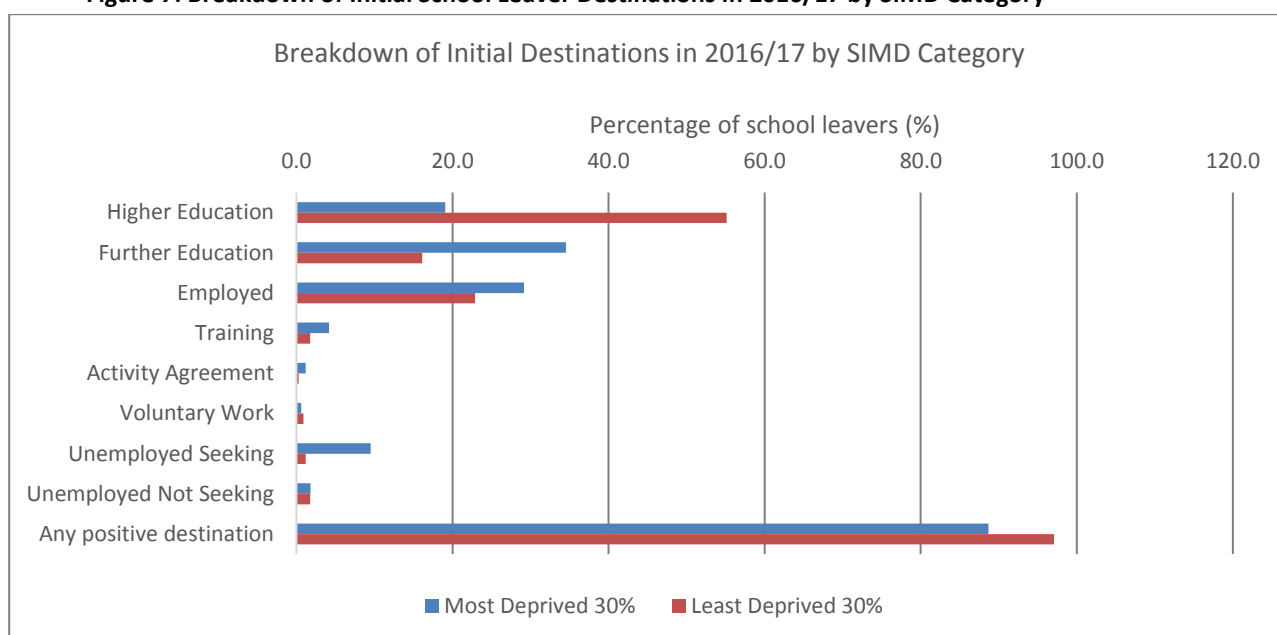


- 88.7% of school leavers living in the 30% most deprived areas went into a positive destination in 2016/17, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points on the previous year. The gap in positive destinations between East Lothian leavers from the 30% most deprived areas and the 30% least

deprived areas has fluctuated in East Lothian over the last five years with the percentage of leavers in positive destinations from the 30% most deprived areas between 8% and 18% lower than those from the 30% least deprived areas. Overall, the gap has decreased slightly over the five-year period from 9.7% in 2012/13 to 8.4% in 2016/7. School leavers living in the 30% most deprived areas in 2016/17 made up 16.5% of the school leavers cohort in East Lothian. Those living in the least 30% deprived areas made up 33.5% of the school leavers' cohort in 2016/17.

Figure 7 below details the breakdown of initial destinations of East Lothian school leavers in 2016/17 from the most deprived 30% areas compared to leavers from the least deprived 30% areas.

**Figure 7: Breakdown of Initial School Leaver Destinations in 2016/17 by SIMD Category**



- Of the various types of positive destinations, the most notable difference is the proportion entering further or higher education. 54% of leavers from the 30% most deprived areas entered further or higher education compared to 71.3% of leavers from the 30% least deprived areas.