

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services Committee

MEETING DATE: 18 June 2024

BY: Executive Director, Education & Children's Services

SUBJECT: Positive School Leaver Destinations 2022/23

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the current School Leaver Destination Return report (SLDR) and Participation Measure, including an overview of the interventions implemented to sustain and improve East Lothian Council (ELC) positive destinations.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the significant proactive work currently underway to support improved outcomes for learners leading to positive destinations.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A glossary has been created to explain the acronyms contained within this committee report (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The initial destination of school leavers' data (SLDR) is used by schools and Education Authorities across Scotland to monitor progress in improving the proportion of school leavers into positive and sustained destinations.
- 3.3 The data for initial post school destinations (SLDR) referred to in this report is taken from the February 2024 release of the senior phase benchmarking tool, Insight. The data provides information on the outcomes for young people as recorded in October 2023, approximately three to ten months after leaving school.

- 3.4 The data on initial post-school destinations for 2022/23 was reported nationally and published by the Scottish Government on 28th February 2024: [Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations, no. 6: 2024 edition \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- 3.5 This report compares East Lothian initial school leaver destinations (SLDR) 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 similar pupils from schools in other local authorities across Scotland.
- 3.6 This report will explore how the Education Authority has performed over the three-year period since 2020/21 to 2022/23, in relation to the national average and the Virtual Comparator. The main highlights for East Lothian in 2022/23 are provided below -

Summary of Results for East Lothian 2022-2023:

- Our initial Positive Destinations Report (SLDR), for the 2022/23 cohort was 96.3% (0.7% increase on 2021/22) against a national picture of 95.9%. This is the highest recorded positive destination for East Lothian. An analysis of the recent statistics shows an increase of 1.4% of the number of young people moving directly into higher education, an increase of 1.2% moving into further education and a decrease of 4.8% in the number of young people moving directly into employment. However, East Lothian continues to maintain a much higher trend of young people moving into employment versus that of the national picture.
- Staff within East Lothian Works (ELW), in partnership with colleagues within Skills Development Scotland (SDS) have followed up with all leavers from the 2022/23 cohort. The service is currently awaiting the follow up SLDR statistics. These relate to sustained destinations at a point 6 months beyond leaving school. All young people have been offered a range of supports from ELW in order to help them identify an appropriate onward positive destination.
- Our current Annual Participation Measure (APM), measures the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment over a 3 year period. Currently the APM is 96.1% an increase of 2.8% (93.3%) on the 2021/22 statistic. Whilst East Lothian remains above the national rate, which was 94.3%, the stretch aim for the next 3 years is 96.4%.
- East Lothian is slightly behind the national average for those aged 16 and 17 however above for both 18 and 19 year olds; Age 16: ELC 99.1% National 99.2%; Age 17: ELC 95.6% National 96.1%; Age 18: ELC 94.8% National 92.6%; Age 19: 92.8% National 88.9%.

- 3.7 To support attainment and post school destinations, the Education Service, through East Lothian Works, offers a portfolio of work-based Level 6 Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs), in partnership with businesses across Edinburgh, East and Midlothian. These work-based pathways, equivalent to two Higher level qualifications are currently offered in the following vocations - Business Skills, Accountancy, Scientific Technologies, IT Software and Social Services Children and Young People. Pupil numbers continue to increase across all frameworks. In academic session 2023/24, 148 ELC students enrolled in an East Lothian delivered Foundation Apprenticeship. This was an increase from 95 students in academic year 22/23 due to a one-year pilot model delivered alongside the traditional 2-year duration. Due to its success, both delivery durations will remain a feature of the 24/25 offer.
- 3.8 The East Lothian Works School Team continues to support young people to engage with a variety of vocational programmes, all certificated, including Construction Crafts, Rural Skills, Summer and Winter leaver provision and Personal Development Awards. During academic session 2022/23, 54 young people achieved a SCQF Level 4/5 award in Construction Crafts delivered by our partners The Ridge. In addition, 6 young people obtained SCQF Level 4 in Rural Skills, and 21 young people achieved a Personal Development Award Level 3-5. Of these 21 young people, 8 students achieved a further SCQF Level 6 qualification in First Aid and Mental Health First Aid. Academic session 2022/23 also offered engagement programmes to young people within BGE (S1-S3), including 33 young people engaged with Boxing, 12 attended a Working with People course and 21 young people participated in a 1-year pilot programme 'QMU Creates' delivered in partnership with East Lothian Council Arts Colleagues and Queen Margaret University.
- 3.9 For academic session 2023/24, over 140 young people are enrolled in certificated courses coordinated by East Lothian Works, including Construction Crafts, Rural Skills, Make Up Artistry, Personal Development Award and The Saltire Awards
- 3.10 The Regional Construction Skills Academy based within Wallyford Learning Campus opened in June 2023, delivering vocational and industry led courses to young people, and adults across East Lothian. Partnering with Edinburgh College, to deliver a pilot programme in 2022/23, 14 senior phase students achieved SCQF Level 4 Construction Crafts with an additional 12 students undertaking this within session 2023/24. Recruitment has commenced to continue this delivery for session 2024/25. Edinburgh College also delivered a year-long 'Introduction to Construction' course for school leavers, and young people up to age 24.
- 3.11 In partnership with Edinburgh College, 200 East Lothian senior phase students attained qualifications from the School to College Partnership (SCP) offer during 2022/23. Attending courses on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon within Edinburgh College campuses, East Lothian students

successfully engaged in a variety of certified courses, including, Automotive, Professional Cookery, Hair and Beauty, Early Learning and Childcare, Criminology and Games Development Design. This was an increase from 150 students from academic session 2021/22. For session 2023/24, circa 240 students are planning to undertake an SCP to complement their course choices at school and help plan for their post-school future.

3.12 ELW has also allocated funding to employers through:

- LACER ERI (Employer Recruitment Incentive) 8 opportunities continued to be supported in 2023.
- UKSPF ERI (Employer Recruitment Incentive) £89,569 was allocated in 2023-24, which created 20 opportunities. For 2024-25 £100,000 is available to create new job opportunities.
- Parental ERI (Employer Recruitment Incentive) created 11 opportunities in 2023-24 totalling £61,818. A new offer for 2024-25 is being developed.

3.12 The Parental Employability Support Team have received 118 referrals, with 224 enquiries for Paid Work Experience resulting in 80 Paid Work Experience placements and 47 job outcomes during 2023/24. Paid Work Experience placements were delivered in Hospitality, Administration, Classroom Assistant, Catering Assistant and Early Years Support Worker job roles. In addition to the job outcomes, 151 qualifications were achieved ranging from First Aid to SCQF level 5 in Business Administration.

3.13 During 2022/23 the Income Maximisation service received 81 referrals this was an increase of 27 from the previous year. The number of residents benefitting from financial gains was 61, totalling £117,860.

3.14 **Next Steps**

For session 2024/25, ELW continues to work with Edinburgh College to maximise the Regional Construction Academy, and to offer more local course to East Lothian young people. Plans are underway to include delivery of Future Skills for S4-S6 students, a year long course based on Automotive and Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. We are also planning to introduce a Pre-Apprenticeship Fabrication and Welding course for post school. Both courses will be delivered as part of our ongoing partnership with Edinburgh College.

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 – All school age activities are predicated upon the continuation of existing core funding being allocated to East Lothian Works. Any reduction in funding will lead to a decrease in capacity and therefore a drop in the service’s ability to continue with existing activities and interventions. All post school activity is reliant upon external grant funding and therefore parameters of activity are dictated by strict grant conditions. External funding fluctuates on an annual basis.
- 6.2 Personnel - Is reliant upon maintenance of existing budget allocations, both core and external.
- 6.3 Other - none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Glossary and Appendix 2 – School Leaver Destinations 2022/23.

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Appendix 1

Glossary:

School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) - Data relating to school leavers (S4-S6) and their initial destination upon leaving school.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) – Is the national skills agency for Scotland, supporting people and businesses of Scotland to develop and apply their skills.

Education Scotland – Is a Scottish Government executive agency responsible for supporting quality and improvement in Scottish Education.

Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) – Developed over the course of several years to improve and transform Scotland's Education systems, by a more flexible and coherent curriculum from 3-18 years.

Broad General Education (BGE) – Begins in early learning and childcare until the end of S3 (the third year of secondary school).

Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) - Foundation Apprenticeships at SCQF Level 6 provide work-based learning opportunities for learners in their senior phase of secondary education (S4 – S6). The delivery of the qualification is a mixture of classroom and work based learning with employer and forms part of the pupil's timetable alongside their other qualifications such as National 5 and Highers.

No One Left Behind (NOLB) – Is Scottish Government's Employability Strategy to transform employment support in Scotland.

Modern Apprenticeships (MA's) - Is a job which lets people earn a wage and gain an industry-recognised qualification.

Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) – forming part of the NOLB strategy, this fund is collaboratively managed by Scottish and Local Government, providing dedicated support for low-income families. Taking a holistic Key Worker approach parents are supported to upskill and/or re-train, increasing family income, lifting themselves and their families out of poverty. For 2024/25 this activity will form part of the No One Left Behind employability funding for local authorities.

Appendix 2

School Leaver Destinations 2022/23

School	% Employed	% Further Education	% Higher Education	% Not known	% Personal Skills Development	% Training	% Unemployed Not Seeking	% Unemployed Seeking	% Voluntary Work
Dunbar Grammar School	28.95	19.3	43.42		1.75	1.32	2.19	1.75	1.32
Virtual Comparator for Dunbar Grammar School	27.24	20.79	47.94	0.26	0.22	1.27	0.79	1.23	0.26
Knox Academy	23.97	23.97	39.73		5.48	0.68	2.05	1.37	2.74
Virtual Comparator for Knox Academy	23.42	26.1	42.95	0.21	0.75	2.26	2.12	1.78	0.41
Musselburgh Grammar School	33.87	24.19	28.49	0.54	2.15	5.38	1.08	4.3	
Virtual Comparator for Musselburgh Grammar School	25.81	30.86	33.33	0.27	0.75	4.09	1.67	2.9	0.32
North Berwick High School	21.51	12.9	61.83			1.08	1.08	1.08	0.54
Virtual Comparator for North Berwick High School	19.73	15.91	61.18	0.16	0.11	0.97	0.7	0.75	0.48
Preston Lodge High School	40.98	21.31	30.05		0.55	5.46	0.55	1.09	
Virtual Comparator for Preston Lodge High School	26.83	30	30.55	0.44	0.77	3.93	2.95	3.99	0.55
Ross High School	32.39	26.32	30.36	0.4	4.45	1.21	0.4	4.05	0.4
Virtual Comparator for Ross High School	23.77	30.2	34.21	0.53	1.01	4.98	2.19	2.79	0.32

