



West Lothian Council

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS RESULTS 2011/2012

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the School Leaver Destination Results (SLDR) for 2011/12 based on the School Leavers' Destinations Review carried out by Skills Development Scotland in September 2012.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Panel note the continuing increase in the proportion of young people achieving a positive destination on leaving school.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Providing equality of opportunities; Making best use of our resources; and Working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The percentage of school leavers moving into a positive destination in West Lothian increased from 89% to 89.8% in 2011/2012.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The raising of the number of young people entering a positive destination on leaving school
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The Council's More Choices More Chances and Education budgets.

VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 The School Leaver Destination Results are published annually by Skills Development Scotland, with results of a follow up survey published around six months later. The 2011-12 survey was carried out in the period 5 September to 5 October 2012 and the results released in January 2013.

The January figures are based on the information gathered by SDS in contacting all school leavers; Appendix 1 gives the SLDR figures for each mainstream secondary school, West Lothian and Scotland. These are based on returns from 98.8% of leavers, with the destination of only 0.2% "not known". The total number of leavers was 1,854 with only four unknowns.

The survey gives the number and proportion of young people in positive destinations (Higher Education, Further Education, Training, Employment, Voluntary Work and Activity Agreements) plus those unemployed or whose destination is not known.

D2 Key points to note in the January 2013 results are:

- In 2011/12, 89.8% of West Lothian's school leavers progressed into positive destinations, an increase of 0.8% on the 2010/11 level. This is the highest ever level of positive destinations for West Lothian.
- West Lothian's performance overall is on a par with the Scottish average of positive destinations for school leavers.
- Over the last five years, West Lothian has seen year on year improvements in the numbers of school leavers achieving a positive destination.
- Since 2007/08, the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination (higher education, further education, training, volunteering or employment) has increased by 9.0%.
- Negative destinations in West Lothian are now at the lowest level since 2000/01.
- Analysis of individual schools appears to show a distinct north/east to south/west split, with schools in the south and west of West Lothian achieving lower than average positive destinations.
- Out of 32 local authorities, West Lothian is in joint 18th position, a fall of two places on the position in 2010/11.
- West Lothian is placed 2nd equal in the rank order of comparator authorities.

A more detailed analysis of the 2011-12 School Leaver Destination Results across the authority is given in Appendix 2.

E. Conclusion

A full analysis of our positive results has been carried out and this demonstrates that the key strategies which have been put in place over the past four years are proving to be effective and successful in targeting key groups of young people in West Lothian, in raising their aspirations for the future and in supporting them to attain positive destinations. Strategies have included:

- Enhancement of the Key Worker support, allocated on the basis of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and SLDR information, has been provided to targeted schools.
- Improving the choice and number of options available to young people through the provision of additional support funding to enable schools to expand the availability of vocational experiences for young people.
- The allocation of support funding to enable each school to appoint a Development Post-holder with responsibility for improving links between the school and local businesses.
- The re-appointment of a dedicated Development Officer: MCMC to replace the previous post holder, following retirement.
- Continuing development of the partnership with West Lothian College under which joint delivery of Higher National units and courses is currently being developed for inclusion within the West Lothian Campus provision next session.
- Targeted visits to schools which did not contribute positively to West Lothian's SLDR performance in 2011/12 to identify areas for improvement.

In seeking to meet the challenges of the ever changing education and economic landscapes, schools are continuing to develop further programme so ensuring that young people will be equipped with the necessary Skills for Learning, Life and Work in the 21st century and to extending their provision of vocational experiences for young people as part of the 16+ Senior Phase West Lothian Campus.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: three

Appendix 1 –SLDR 2011-12 by local authority

Appendix 2 – SLDR 2011-12 Initial destinations by school

Appendix 3 – SLDR 2011-12 Analysis

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