EDUCATION EXECUTIVE

INITIAL DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS 2014/2015

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE)

A.   PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Education Executive about the Initial Destination of School Leavers Results for 2014/2015 based on the work of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the new method of data collection from the Participation Measure undertaken by SDS and key stakeholders.

B.   RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Note the continuing improvement in positive destinations obtained by pupils leaving West Lothian schools.

2. Note that MCMC keyworkers, Transition to Work Coordinators, SDS staff, West Lothian College and other stakeholders will continue to help, support and encourage all leavers who have still to obtain a positive destination.

C.   SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; Developing employees Making best use of our resources; 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**	School leavers positive destinations statistics.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	The increasing 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 core and time limited funding budgets.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	5 January 2016
VIII	Other consultations	None

D   TERMS OF REPORT

D.1   Introduction

The School Leaver Destination Results (SLDR) are published annually by Skills Development Scotland, with results of a follow up survey published around six months later. The data in the SLDR is derived from the Participation Measure and is based on young people who left school between the 1st August 2014 and the 15th September 2015. The Participation Measure contains data on the destinations of all young people aged from 16 to 20.

Appendix 1 gives the SLDR figures for each mainstream secondary school in West Lothian. Appendix 2 gives Scottish Local Authority SLDR figures. These are based on returns from 100.0% of leavers. The number of leavers in this survey is 1,962, a drop of 24, compared to the previous SLDR report for leavers 2013/2014 which was 1,986.

The status reported is the last known status recorded for the leaver within the shared dataset using the reporting date of Monday 5th October 2015. It 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

Information in relation to West Lothian and the national data was published as Official Statistics by Skills Development Scotland on 16th December 2015.

D2   Key Points

Key points to note from the figures for the period are:

- The overall percentage of pupils in a positive destination has increased from 93.0% to 93.4%. This is the highest level ever of positive destinations for West Lothian.
- West Lothian's performance overall is 0.5% above the Scottish Average of positive destinations for school leavers.
- Over the last eight years, West Lothian has seen year on year improvements in the number of school leavers achieving a positive destination.
- Since 2007/08, the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination (Higher Education, Further Education, Training, Employment, Voluntary Work and Activity Agreements) has increased by 12.7%
- Analysis of individual schools no longer shows a distinct east to west split, previously schools in the west of West Lothian achieved lower positive destinations than other school.

- The percentage going into Higher Education has decreased from 41.1% to 37.1% and the numbers into Further Education have increased from 26.4% to 29.6%.
- Those entering Training has increased by from 4.5% to 4.7%.
- The percentage of leavers entering into Employment has increased from 19.4% to 21.4%.
- Those involved in voluntary work has decreased from 0.3% to 0.1% and in activity agreements from 1.3% to 0.5%.
- The number of leavers unemployed and seeking employment has fallen from 5.9% of leavers to 5.6% with the number unemployed and not seeking has slightly increased from 0.9% to 1.1%.
- Out of 32 local authorities, West Lothian is in 17th position, a rise of 12 places in five years.

A more detailed analysis of the 2014/15 School Leavers Destination Results across the authority are given in Appendix 1.

A comparison of the 2014/15 School Leavers Destination Results by authority are 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 eight 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:

- Key Worker allocation has been targeted using the SEEMiS Risk Matrix and Data Hub to provide increased support to secondary schools, with the largest number of pupils identified as being most at risk of a negative post school destination.
- A Pilot Programme of a Positive Participation Key Worker who has been based in West Lothian College to support school leavers has resulted in more students sustaining college courses, 100% of West Lothian School Leavers being accounted for and a quicker and appropriate response to leavers who have issues with their destinations after leaving school.
- More robust data is being used to allocate resources efficiently across the authority. School staff also use this data to track, monitor and support pupils well in advance of their statutory leaving date.
- The partnership with West Lothian College provides a wide range of high quality options for school pupils and helps to create a successful transition from school to Higher and Further Education.
- 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.
- Targeted visits to schools with lower SLDR to provide support and identify areas for improvement.
- Systems are being put in place to ensure continuity of support for all students in every West Lothian secondary school.
- Review Visits to internal Hubs to identify examples of good practice. A Transition to Work Coordinator from another school is part of the review team to encourage sharing of good practice.

- A wider and more varied range of short life vocational programmes available to students who are approaching their official leaving date. These programmes are designed to develop their personal and employability skills and to help them with the transition from school.
- Strategies to raise attainment as well as prepare young people for the world of work and developing Scotland's young workforce continue to prove successful in helping pupils from West Lothian's secondary schools to enter into a positive destination after leaving school.
- Schools and partners on the Developing Scotland's Workforce Steering Group are continuing to work with a range of organisations and stakeholders to develop and extend provision of vocational experiences for young people as part of the Senior Phase.

F   Background References

None

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Table of Initial Destinations by School 2014/2015 (SDS)
Appendix 2 – Table of Initial Destinations by Authority 2014/2015 (SDS)

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Date of meeting: 19 January 2016