

6. INITIAL DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS 2014/2015

Councillor Moohan left the chamber during consideration of this item of business.

The Education Executive considered a presentation by Stuart McKay, Opportunities for All Officer, on 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. Details of the annual trends and how West Lothian compared to other local authorities in Scotland were provided. Members were advised of the continuing improvement in positive destinations obtained by pupils leaving West Lothian schools.

The positive results have demonstrated that the key strategies put in place were proving to be effective and successful in targeting key groups of young people in West Lothian in supporting them to attain positive destinations.

The Opportunities for All Officer then responded to questions from members. In response to a question relating to the occupational areas split by gender the officer confirmed that strategies were being put in place to encourage more females into construction work and more males into social, caring and advisory services.

The Chair, on behalf of the Education Executive, thanked Mr McKay for his presentation.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance). Details of the initial destinations for mainstream secondary schools in West Lothian for 2014/2015 (SDS) and initial destinations for Scottish Local Authorities 2014/2015 (SDS) were attached as appendices to the report. The report also outlined the key points to note from the figures provided in the presentation.

The Education Executive was asked to:

1. Note the continuing improvement in positive destinations obtained by pupils leaving West Lothian schools; and
2. Note that MCMC keyworkers, Transition to Work Coordinators, SDS staff, West Lothian College and other stakeholders would continue to help, support and encourage all leavers who have still to obtain a positive destination.

Decision

Noted the contents of the presentation and report.