

# ITEM 4

**REPORT TO:** EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 25 JANUARY 2016

**REPORT ON:** DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL'S INITIAL SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS 2014/2015

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 30-2016

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the progress made in Dundee towards increasing the number of young people leaving school and entering a positive destination for the period August 2014 to September 2015.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the improvement in school leaver destination results and that the percentage of Dundee school leavers in positive destinations is now above the national average.
- acknowledge the impact of the Secondary and Post School Strategic Planning Group in implementing partnership responses to support young people's transitions from school into education, employment or training.

## 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications contained within this report.

## 4.0 MAIN TEXT

### 4.1 Background

The School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) is an annual statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The SLDR is based on young people who left publicly funded schools between August 2014 and September 2015. SDS analysed this leaver information on the 5th October 2015 and published the results on 16th December 2015.

### 4.2 Positive Destinations

During the reporting period there were 1,283 leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in Dundee of which 1200 (93.5%) entered a positive destination; higher education, further education, employment or training. This represents a 2.2% rise from last year's result.

Based on this percentage result, Dundee City Council is now ranked 15th out of 32 local authorities and is 0.6% above the national average.

The majority of school leavers (71%) continued with their studies; 450 (35.1%) moved into higher education and 461 (35.9%) into further education. Whilst there is a rise of 2.9% in the annual rate of those entering higher education, this remains 2.89% below the national average. However, Dundee continues to have a higher than national average of leavers entering further education.

Across the city, 222 (17.3%) leavers entered employment which is a rise of 0.8% from last year but still remains 4.4% below the national average.

Dundee retains its above average position in relation to those entering training at 4.1%.

#### **4.3 Negative Destinations**

The percentage of leavers who are classed as unemployed and seeking work is 5.0% which is 1.5% lower than the previous year and 0.4% lower than the national average. There is 1.3% unemployed and not seeking with 0.2% unconfirmed.

#### **4.4 Trend information**

In 2003/4 only 77.8% of Dundee's school leavers entered positive destinations compared to 93.5% this year. Dundee has therefore moved from being placed in the bottom three local authorities to 15th of the 32 local authorities.

In 2003/04 the percentage of leavers in employment was at its highest point at 21.6%. This remained reasonably steady until 2006/07 but due to the effect of the global economic downturn this fell year on year and reached its lowest point in 2009/10 at 11.3%. Since then this has again been steadily improving and this year's figure is 6.0% higher than the low point of 2009/10.

In 2003/04 the proportion of leavers reported using the term 'unemployed and seeking employment' was 17.5%. This year's figure of 5% represents a reduction of 12.5% on this original figure.

#### **4.5 Partnership Approaches**

The successful rise in destination trends has in part been achieved due to the establishment of DCC's Youth Employability Team and also a strong commitment within the Community Planning Partnership to prioritise and co-ordinate responses to youth employment opportunities. This work supports the increased focus on employability skills and work related learning being undertaken in schools.

The establishment of the Secondary/Post School Strategic Planning Group, part of the Integrated Children's Services structure, has also been instrumental in ensuring that partners, including Skills Development Scotland, Dundee & Angus College, Third Sector organisations and NHS Tayside, are sharing information effectively and working together to prioritise support and activities.

The group are developing and delivering on joint actions in the key target areas of early identification; transition & support; tracking; employer engagement and developing employment and learning opportunities. In addition, specific initiatives have been developed, such as Activity Agreements and the Family Firm, which provide a high level of targeted support to the most vulnerable groups of young people in Dundee.

### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 6.2 The School Leaver Destination results have been reported and discussed within the Secondary/Post School Strategic Planning Group.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Skills Development Scotland: Dundee City Council Community Planning Partnership Report (December 2015).

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