

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 1 FEBRUARY 2005
DESTINATION OF LEAVERS STATISTICS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the destinations of leavers from East Ayrshire schools 2003/04, as published on the National Priorities web-site.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive presents annual national and education authority level statistical information on the destinations of young people leaving Scottish schools. This report updates the Scottish Executive News Release "Destinations of Leavers from Scottish schools: 2002/03".
- 2.2 For the second year school level data has been released in a new format on a website in December 2004. Information is now given according to gender.
- 2.3 The Statistics Publication Notice and accompanying tables can be found on the Scottish Executive Web Site: www.scotland.gov.uk

3. MAIN FINDINGS

- 3.1 The main findings from East Ayrshire schools show that this year the proportion of school leavers entering higher education rose by 3% from last year to 31%. This means that nearly one in 3 young people are obtaining a place at University or an equivalent establishment. This figure is 2% above the national average for the same period.

Simultaneously, the picture for young people entering full-time further education has remained steady at 22% from last year which is 1% above the national average.

Taken together these figures mean that last year 53% of East Ayrshire's young people entered a full-time educational placement following school, which is 3% above the national average. This marks the continuation of a trend over the years, with a movement away from training placements.

- 3.2 For purposes of self evaluation and benchmarking , Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education group East Ayrshire with Falkirk, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire. In terms of entrance to higher education, this year a higher proportion of East Ayrshire pupils entered higher education than any of our benchmark authorities. Only one other authority had a higher proportion of young people entering further education. Two authorities had higher proportions of young people entering employment.

- 3.3** Many factors affect the destinations of leavers, including:
- the increasing number of school leavers taking a year out before continuing their education;
 - the rural nature of school leavers' home locations;
 - economic factors affecting the availability of employment in the local area;
 - the pattern of destinations may be affected by the implementation of Skillseekers, education-business partnership or special arrangements for entry to higher education;
 - there may be a strong local tradition for pupils to stay on at school or to leave school as early as possible;
 - fluctuations in year to year figures are likely.

The most important point is perhaps the last one. These statistics tend to be very unstable from year to year, but simultaneously tend to vary about the same mean points both at local authority and national levels.

- 3.4** It continues to be the policy of the authority to work with schools and Careers Scotland to ensure that all young people, including those with additional support needs gain a meaningful placement following full-time statutory education. East Ayrshire gives a high a high priority to enterprise education and world of work experiences. Such initiatives assist the personal development of young people equipping them for further or higher education and ultimate employment.

4. LEGAL/POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Nil.

5. LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLAN

- 5.1** The statistics provided in this report, and the associated analysis are relevant to the Improving Opportunities section of the Community Plan

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report:

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/MG
15 January 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Destinations of Leavers Statistics, Education Committee 04 February 2004

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement, Tel: (01563) 576192

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT