

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2007

DESTINATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of the destinations of leavers from East Ayrshire schools in 2005/06, as published by the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive publishes annual national and education authority level statistical information on the destinations of young people leaving Scottish schools. These reports are available through the National web-site and additionally are issued electronically as statistical bulletins. The previous practice of issuing, annual, printed statistical bulletins has been discontinued.
- 2.2 The Statistics Publication Notice and accompanying tables (Appendices 1 and 2) can be found on the Scottish Executive Web Site: www.scotland.gov.uk
- 2.3 For purposes of self evaluation and benchmarking, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) group East Ayrshire with Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, West Lothian, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire.

3. MAIN FINDINGS

- 3.1 The main findings for leavers from East Ayrshire schools compared to the national average are:
- The proportion of young people entering employment has increased from 19% in 2004-05 to 21% in 2005-06. Nationally the percentage of young people entering employment has decreased from 27% to 26% during the same period.
 - The proportion of young people who entered full-time further education has increased from 21% in 2004-05 to 23% in 2005-06. The national picture also shows an increase from 21% in 2004-2005 to 23% in 2005-06 during the same period.
 - The proportion of young people who entered training has remained consistent at 9% in 2005-06 compared to similar national stability at 5% during the same period.
 - The proportion of young people who entered full-time higher education has fallen from 30% in 2004-05 to 25% in 2005-06 compared to a national decrease from 31% to 30% during the same period.

- The proportion of young people with other known destinations in 2005-06 was 20% compared to a national average of 13%.
- The proportion of young people the destination of whom was unknown was 2% which is in line with the national average (2%).

3.2 Increasing emphasis is being placed nationally on the numbers of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Over the past 3 years there has been a reduction of 3% in the NEET population for East Ayrshire. It remains an Authority objective, as reflected in the response to the national priorities in education to further reduce this figure. This will be achieved by a range of services and agencies working in partnership with secondary schools on specific projects which are targeted at the young people most at risk.

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;
- 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-on-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.

4. EAST AYRSHIRE'S NEET STRATEGY

4.1 In June 2006 the Scottish Executive launched "More Choices, More Changes: A Strategy to Reduce the Proportion of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Scotland". Over the next two years funding will be made available to support local authorities to address a 39 point action plan.

4.2 Seven local authorities (Clackmannanshire, Dundee, East Ayrshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire) where NEET is a particular challenge will receive £400,000 in 2006/07 and in 2007/08. Every other local authority area will receive £75,000 in each of these years.

4.3 The seven local authorities will take the lead role in putting in place a strategy to reduce the risk of young people heading towards NEET (pre-16) and to assist those in the NEET group (16 to19) to achieve a positive outcome.

4.4 The authority has produced a NEET strategy document entitled "Supporting Meaningful and Real Transition for Young People" which is outlined in the relevant committee agenda item.

5. POLICY/LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This paper demonstrates the Department's contribution to Promoting Community Learning and Improving Opportunities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) invite the Director to continue to provide an annual report on leavers' destinations and to provide an update in due course on the authority's NEET strategy.
- (ii) note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)
KMCK/MR

19 January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools, Scottish Executive Statistical Publication Notice, 6 December 2006

Members wishing further information should contact Kenneth McKinlay, Principal Quality Improvement (Tel: 01563 555650)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : KENNETH MCKINLAY

Appendix 1

Destinations of Leavers 2005/06: The East Ayrshire Family Group

2005/06	Number of leavers	Full-time higher education (%)	Full-time further education (%)	Training (%)	Employment (%)	Other known destinations (%)	Destination unknown (%)
Clackmannanshire	522	25	25	6	25	19	**
East Ayrshire	1465	25	23	9	21	20	2
Falkirk	1556	24	18	7	32	18	1
North Ayrshire	1689	28	29	7	20	14	1
North Lanarkshire	3926	29	19	7	30	14	1
West Lothian	1890	32	18	3	27	18	1
Comparator Family Av	9583	28	21	6	28	16	1
Scottish Av	56,619	30	23	5	26	13	2

Notes:

**the number of leavers entering this destination is less than 5 individuals.

Appendix 2

Destinations of Leavers 2001/02 to 2005/06: East Ayrshire

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Full-time higher education (%)	East Ayrshire	30	28	31	30	25
	Scotland	32	31	29	31	30
Full-time further education (%)	East Ayrshire	17	22	22	21	23
	Scotland	20	21	21	21	23
Training (%)	East Ayrshire	15	7	6	9	9
	Scotland	6	5	5	5	5
Employment (%)	East Ayrshire	15	19	19	19	21
	Scotland	23	23	25	27	26
Other known destinations (%)	East Ayrshire	20	21	20	19	20
	Scotland	16	16	16	13	13
Destination unknown (%)	East Ayrshire	3	3	2	2	2
	Scotland	3	4	4	3	2