

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 4 FEBRUARY 2004**

**DESTINATION OF LEAVERS STATISTICS**

**Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the destinations of leavers from East Ayrshire schools 2002/03, as published in a recent national statistical bulletin.

**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: 2001/02".
- 2.2 This year school level data has been released in a new format on a website in December 2003. Information is now given according to gender. The 'other known' category has been replaced by two 'unemployed' categories; one for individuals seeking employment or training, and one for people who are not looking for work or training for a variety of reasons.
- 2.3 The Statistics Publication Notice and accompanying tables (Appendix 1) can be found on the Scottish Executive Web Site: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

**3. MAIN FINDINGS**

- 3.1 The main findings for leavers from East Ayrshire schools compared to national averages are:
- The proportion of young people who entered into full-time higher education has fallen from 31% in 2000-2001 to 28% in 2002-2003 compared to a national drop from 32% to 31% during the same period.
  - The proportion of young people who entered into full-time further education has risen from 20% in 2000-2001 to 22% in 2002-2003 compared to a national rise from 20% to 21% during the same period.
  - The proportion of young people who entered training has dropped from 12% in 2000-2001 to 7% in 2002-2003 compared to a national drop from 6% to 5% during the same period.
  - The proportion of young people entering employment has risen from 18% in 2000-2001 to 19% in 2003-2003 compared to a national drop from 24% to 23% during the same period.
  - The proportion of young people unemployed and seeking employment or training in 2002-2003 was 20% compared to a national average of 12%.

- The proportion of young people unemployed and not seeking employment or training was 1% compared to a national average of 4%.

**3.2** A summary table for all local authorities is attached as Appendix 1.

**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.

**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**

None

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

DF/MR  
19/12/03

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT**

## APPENDIX 1