

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE 2 APRIL 2015

POST-SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

Background

The People Directorate's annual evaluation report was discussed at the last Children and Learning Committee (Report 79/15). The report summarised our performance in relation to ensuring positive destinations for our young people as:

Overall the percentage of leavers entering a positive destination in 2013/14 is, at 91.0%, markedly down on 2012/13 and is now below the national average. In 2013/14, Angus Council was 28th out of 32 local authorities for the percentage of leavers entering a positive destination in contrast to 5th out of 32 in 2012/13. The percentage of leavers entering higher education (HE) is lower than the national average. The percentage entering further education (FE) has also fallen but remains above the national average. In contrast, there has been an increase in the percentage entering directly into employment.

The destination data detailed in the annual evaluation report was based upon the Initial School Leaver Destination Return 13/14. It was noted that a further exercise will be conducted by Skills Development Scotland in March 2015 to update these figures. Clearly the difference in our performance in this area from 2012/13 to 2013/14 is concerning.

Outcome

There continue to be concerns about the reliability of the data analysed by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and further discussion with this organisation has taken place and an exercise to review the original data is underway. Unfortunately this will take some time and the results of this will likely only be available in June 2015. In the meantime the latest data is now available in the new Senior Phase benchmarking tool Insight which is available to schools. The Insight data was updated on 27 February 2015 and shows:

Percentage of Angus young people in positive destinations: 92.62%

Virtual Comparators: 93.2%

National Data: 92.57%

This indicates some improvement in the figure reported in the annual evaluation report which is now in line with the national data although slightly below our virtual comparators. We will continue to work in partnership with SDS to ensure the accuracy of this data. This will be a key focus of our work in session 2015-2016.

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