

School Leaver Destination Report

2009 – 2010

East Dunbartonshire Council

Contents

Section 1: Overview – Main Findings	3
<i>Table 1: Destination Totals</i>	4
<i>Table 2: Local Authority Comparison to Scotland</i>	4
Section 1.1 - Annual Trends	5
<i>Table 3: Trends 2000 – 2010 of Positive Destinations</i>	5
<i>Table 4: Trends 2000 – 2010 of Negative Destinations</i>	5
<i>Table 5: Destinations from 2000 to 2010</i>	6
Section 1.2: Client Characteristics	6
<i>Table 6: Destination split by Gender</i>	6
<i>Table 7: Gender split within each destination</i>	7
<i>Table 8: Destination by SIMD</i>	7
<i>Table 9: Destination by Stage Left School</i>	8
Section 2: Positive Destinations	8
Section 2.1 Higher and Further Education	8
<i>Table 10: HE Entrants by Institution Type</i>	8
<i>Table 11: HE Students by Institution</i>	9
<i>Table 12: HE Students by FE Colleges</i>	9
<i>Table 13: FE Students by FE Colleges</i>	9
<i>Table 14: Higher Education Course Information</i>	9
<i>Table 15: Further Education Course Information</i>	10
<i>Table 16: Course Information by Gender</i>	10
<i>Table 17: Gender split within the course areas in both FE/HE</i>	11
Section 2.2: Employment	11
<i>Table 18: Those entering Employment by Occupational Area</i>	11
<i>Table 19: Gender split within the top employment areas</i>	12
Section 3: Other Destinations	13
Section 3.1 Unemployed Seeking	13
<i>Table 20: Client Characteristics</i>	13
<i>Table 21: Leavers by Intermediate Data zone</i>	14
<i>Table 22: Destinations of School Leavers: % Unemployed Seeking, 2009/10</i>	15
Section 3.2 Unemployed NOT Seeking	16
<i>Table 23: Individual Circumstances of those Unemployed NOT Seeking</i>	16
Section 3.3 Unknown	16
<i>Table 24: Destinations by School, Percentage</i>	17
<i>Background Notes:</i>	18

Background

The School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The Return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between the 1st of August 2009 and the 31st of July 2010. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2010.

The Scottish Government use the data produced from the Return to report against the National Indicator and target, “increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)”. Partners, particularly Local Authorities, use the data to inform initiatives developed as part of the More Choices More Chances Strategy, to evidence the success of initiatives, measure progress against targets, and to identify areas to target resources to improve the post school outcomes for young people.

Methodology

The return is carried out during the month of September with staff across Skills Development Scotland following up over 55,000 school leavers. Destinations are confirmed throughout the follow up period and the destination that is reported is the destination that is known at the snapshot date. This year, we reported the information as known to us on 2nd October 2010. Destinations of young people are fluid in nature, therefore, it is possible that a leaver entered employment or training on leaving school but by the time the snapshot was taken this destination may have changed to another destination.

The information that is gathered is recorded within the SDS CMS system (Insight) which enables us to produce MIS reports and populate the data fields to be sent to the Government. This data is transferred at an individual level and undergoes a matching & validation process until a cohort is agreed. This allows the government’s analytical services unit to match the client’s individual outcome with other indicators such as social economic background, additional support needs and stage of leaving, etc. All information in this report, however, is based upon data held within the SDS Insight database which has been analysed to produce the graphs and tables contained within this report.

Analysis

Only leavers from publicly funded secondary schools are within the scope of the SLDR. This report relates to **1,312** leavers from publicly funded secondary schools. This relates to approximately a **5%** reduction in the number of leavers reported in the SLDR in 2008-09.

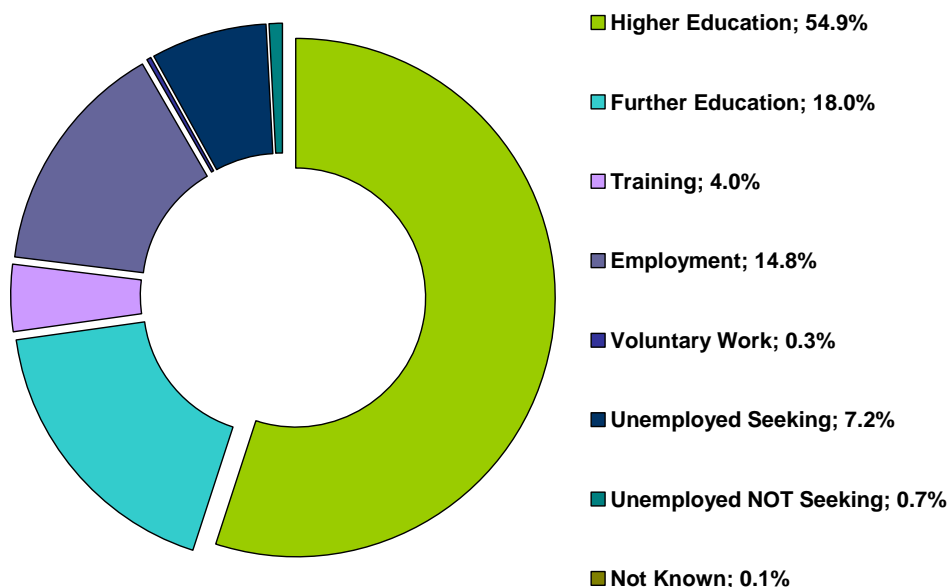
Section 1: Overview – Main Findings

- Overall the percentage of leavers entering a positive destinationⁱ is **92%**, a rise of **1.3%** on last year and for the second year running the authority has the 4th highest level of positive destinations in Scotland.
- The proportion of leavers entering further and higher education witnessed a slight reduction this year to **72.9%**, a fall of **2.1%** compared to last year. The percentage of leavers entering higher education has decreased by **1.8%** in comparison to last year to **54.9%** but this is still just over 19% higher than the Scottish average. For the second year running East Dunbartonshire has the 2nd highest level of leavers entering higher education, in Scotland.
- The percentage of leavers entering further education has also decreased very slightly since last year to **18%** which is just over **9%** lower than the Scottish average.
- The percentage of leavers entering employment has risen since last year from **12.1%** to **14.8%** but this is still just over **11%** lower than 2006-07. The percentage entering training has also increased slightly (**0.6%**) from last year to **4%**.

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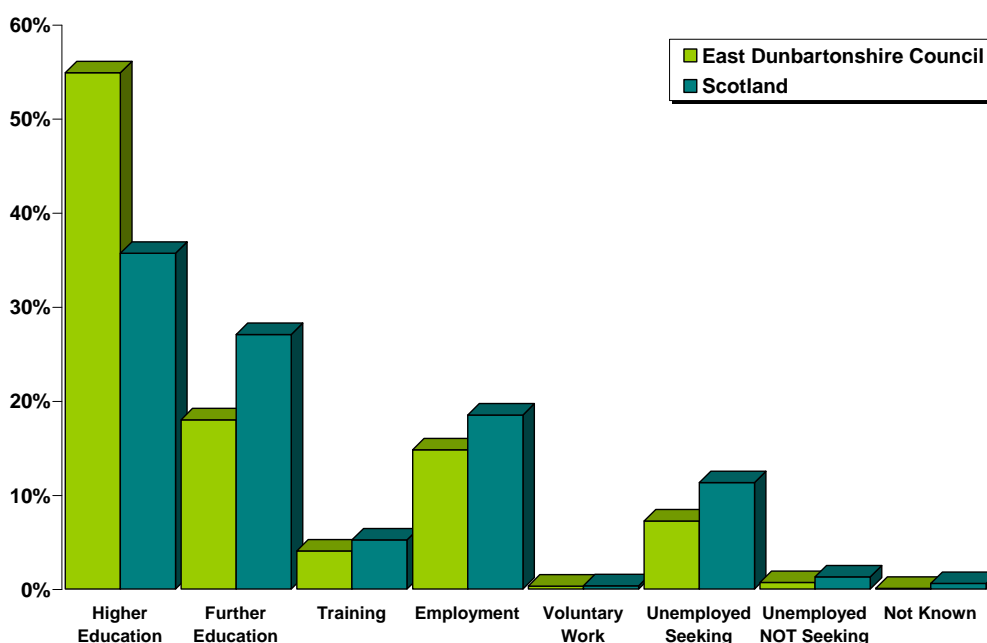
- The percentage of leavers who are unemployed seeking has remained static at **7.2%**, around **4%** lower than the national average.
- School leavers whose destination is unknown to SDS has fallen to its lowest recorded level at **0.1%**.

Table 1: Destination Totals



Area	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known
East Dunbartonshire	1,312	54.9% 720	18.0% 236	4.0% 53	14.8% 194	0.3% 4	7.2% 95	0.7% 9	0.1% 1
Scotland	54,097	35.7% 19,309	27.1% 14,637	5.2% 2,822	18.5% 10,005	0.3% 187	11.3% 6,117	1.3% 696	0.6% 324

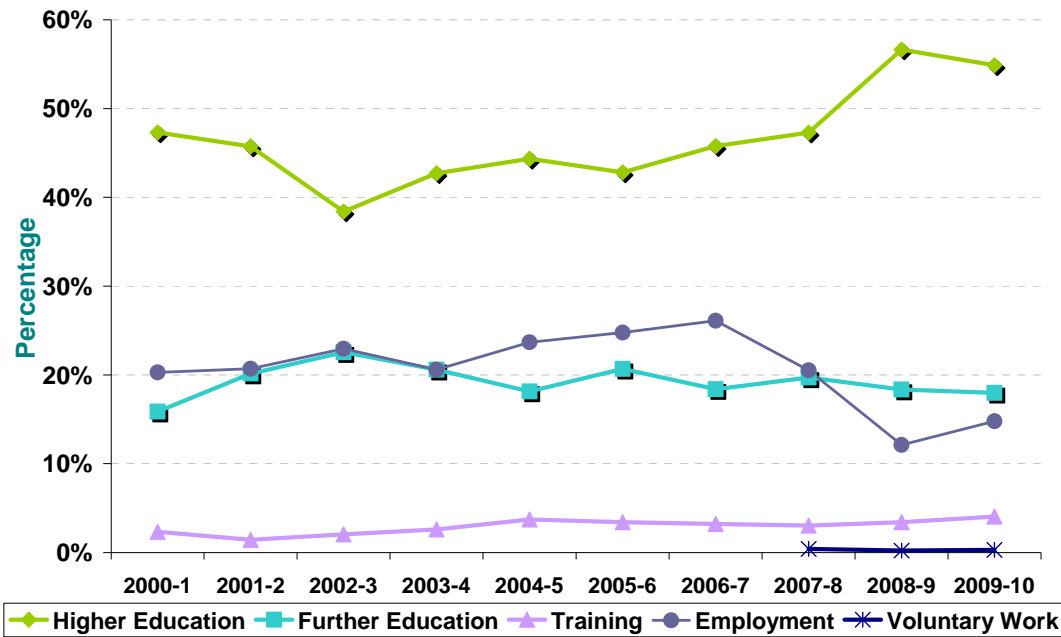
Table 2: Local Authority Comparison to Scotland



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Section 1.1 - Annual Trends

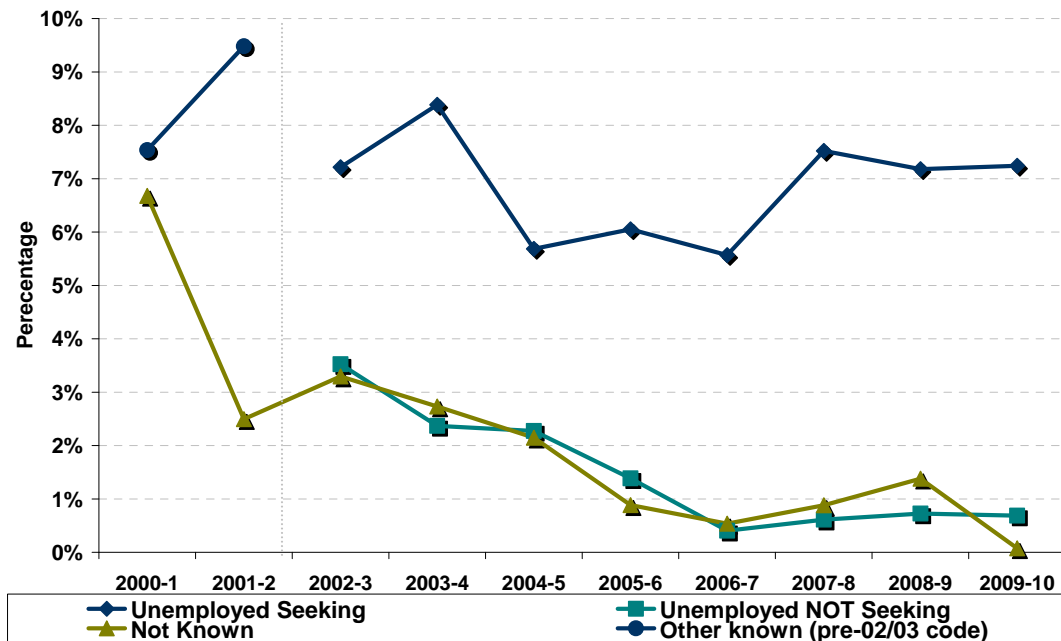
Table 3: Trends 2000 – 2010 of Positive Destinations



Note: Voluntary Work has been included as a separate destination category since the 2007-08 SLDR return but was reported within the unemployed not seeking category previously.

Over the previous four school leaver destination returns the percentage of leavers entering Higher Education had risen year on year but this year it witnessed a slight decline. There was a dramatic fall in the percentage of leavers entering employment between 2006-7 and 2008-9 but there was a slight rise this year. The proportion of leavers entering training and voluntary work have both remained relatively even.

Table 4: Trends 2000 – 2010 of Negative Destinations



The proportion of leavers reported as unemployed seeking dropped dramatically in 2004-5 but rose sharply in 2007-08. It has been static for the last 2 years at 2002-03 levels (7.2%). The

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percentage of leavers unknown had been rising from a low of **0.5%** in 2006-07 but this year it has fallen to the lowest level ever at **0.1%**.

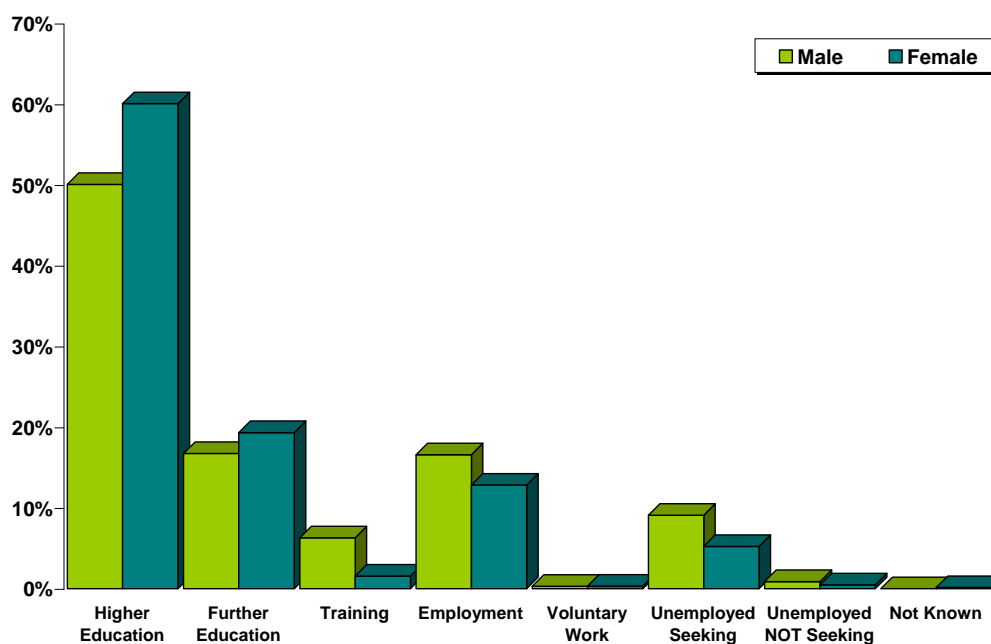
Table 5: Destinations from 2000 to 2010

Year	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Other Known
2000-1	1,632	47.3%	15.9%	2.3%	20.3%				6.7%	7.5%
2001-2	1,603	45.7%	20.1%	1.4%	20.7%				2.5%	9.5%
2002-3	1,760	38.4%	22.6%	2.0%	23.0%		7.2%	3.5%	3.3%	
2003-4	1,646	42.7%	20.6%	2.6%	20.6%		8.4%	2.4%	2.7%	
2004-5	1,583	44.3%	18.1%	3.7%	23.7%		5.7%	2.3%	2.1%	
2005-6	1,586	42.8%	20.7%	3.4%	24.8%		6.1%	1.4%	0.9%	
2006-7	1,490	45.8%	18.4%	3.2%	26.1%		5.6%	0.4%	0.5%	
2007-8	1,476	47.3%	19.7%	3.0%	20.5%	0.4%	7.5%	0.6%	0.9%	
2008-9	1,379	56.6%	18.3%	3.4%	12.1%	0.2%	7.2%	0.7%	1.4%	
2009-10	1,312	54.9%	18.0%	4.0%	14.8%	0.3%	7.2%	0.7%	0.1%	

Note: Prior to 2002-03 both the unemployed seeking and unemployed not seeking categories were reported in a separate category called Other Known. This is reflected in the table and graph above.

Section 1.2: Client Characteristics

Table 6: Destination split by Gender



Gender	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known
Male	681	50.1%	16.7%	6.3%	16.6%	0.3%	9.1%	0.9%	0.0%
Female	631	60.1%	19.3%	1.6%	12.8%	0.3%	5.2%	0.5%	0.2%

Female leavers (**94.1%**) are more likely than male leavers (**90%**) to enter positive destinations on leaving school. The proportion of female leavers who continue their education in either higher or further education is **79.4%** compared to **66.8%** of males. The percentage of males entering employment and training (**22.9%**) is approx **8.5%** higher than that for females (**14.4%**). Males are more likely to become unemployed and seeking than females with over **65%** of leavers reported as unemployed seeking being male.

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Table 7: Gender split within each destination

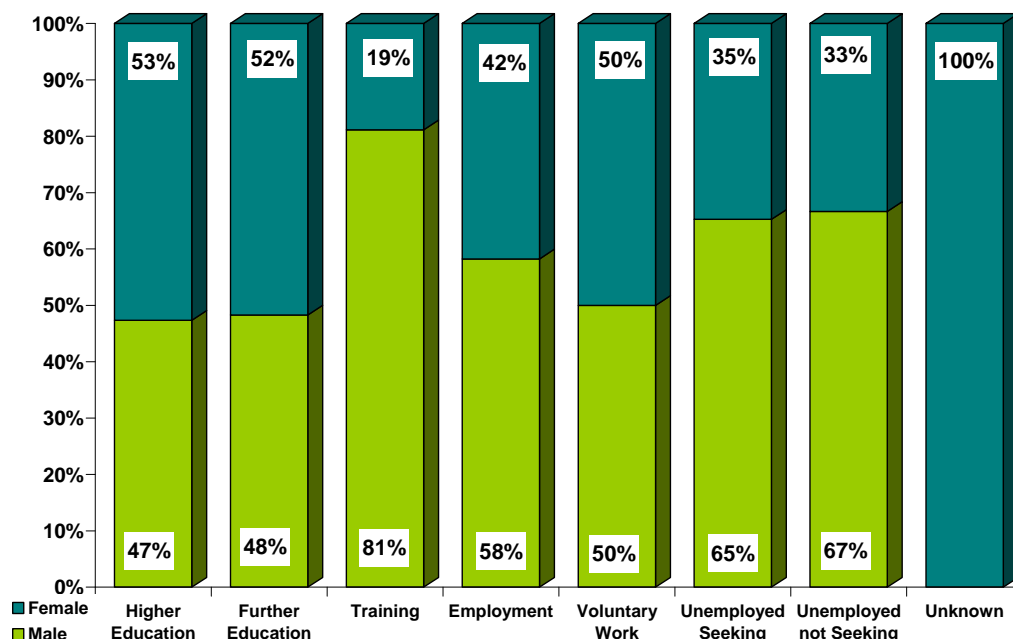


Table 8: Destination by SIMD

SIMD Decile ⁱⁱ	Most Deprived → Least Deprived									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Higher Education	31%	27%	39%	49%	45%	43%	47%	56%	63%	67%
Further Education	26%	21%	25%	19%	24%	18%	26%	18%	14%	14%
Training	10%	11%	8%	13%	5%	*	*	*	*	*
Employment	19%	27%	14%	9%	16%	23%	16%	17%	15%	10%
Voluntary Work	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployed Seeking	14%	14%	11%	5%	11%	11%	7%	5%	5%	7%
U/E Not Seeking	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unknown	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Positive Destinations	86%	86%	86%	92%	89%	86%	93%	94%	95%	93%
Total	58	56	64	99	102	56	57	201	299	320
% of Total Leavers	4%	4%	5%	8%	8%	4%	4%	15%	23%	24%

Percentages based on 5 or less have been suppressed due to disclosure reasons.

- Across the SIMD areas there is not a marked difference in the proportion of leavers entering positive destinations.
- Leavers who live in the least deprived areas are more likely to enter Higher Education in comparison to leavers who live in the most deprived areas. The proportion of leavers entering higher education from the least deprived area (**67%**) is more than double the proportion for leavers from the most deprived areas (**31%**)
- The majority of leavers from all SIMD Decile areas enter higher education.
- Leavers from the most deprived areas are more likely to be unemployed seeking than leavers from the least deprived areas.

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Table 9: Destination by Stage Left School.

Stage of Leaving ⁱⁱⁱ Destination	Statutory Summer Leaver	Statutory Winter Leaver	Post Statutory Leaver
Higher Education	*	*	64%
Further Education	33%	19%	17%
Training	22%	18%	1%
Employment	25%	34%	12%
Voluntary Work	*	*	*
Unemployed Seeking	19%	21%	5%
Unemployed Not Seeking	0%	4%	1%
Unknown	*	*	*
Positive Destinations	81%	74%	94%
Total Leavers	102	85	1,125
% of Total Leavers	8%	6%	86%

Percentages have been suppressed due to disclosure reasons.

- It can be noted that the majority of school pupils choose to remain at school past their statutory leave date and this has an impact on their positive progression from school. Leavers who stay on past their statutory leave date are more likely to progress to positive outcomes on leaving school with the majority entering higher education.
- Statutory winter leavers are less likely to enter positive destinations and the majority are reported as being in employment. Statutory winter leavers are around four times more likely to be reported as unemployed seeking than a post statutory leaver.
- The majority of statutory summer leavers enter further education.

Section 2: Positive Destinations

Section 2.1 Higher and Further Education

Higher Education (HE): This category includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. **8** young people with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education for next year have also been included in this year's figures.

Further Education (FE): This category includes leavers undertaking non advanced further education which is not higher education.

From those reported in the SLDR, **720** leavers entered Higher Education and **236** entered Further Education. Detailed analysis can be provided on **99.4% (950)** of this cohort for whom we hold information on institution and course chosen – Higher Education **99.7% (718)** & Further Education **98.3% (232)**.

Table 10: HE Entrants by Institution Type

Institution Type	Total	%
University / HE College	520	72%
FE College	185	26%
Other ¹	13	2%

¹ Other Category includes institutions out with Scotland and other private institutions

Skills Development Scotland East Dunbartonshire Council School Leaver Destination Report 2009-10

Table 11: HE Students by Institution

Institution ^{iv}	Total	%	Institution	Total	%
Strathclyde University	141	20%	Aberdeen University	7	1%
Glasgow University	109	15%	The Robert Gordon University	7	1%
Glasgow Caledonian University	98	14%	Heriot Watt University	6	1%
West of Scotland University	61	8%	Glasgow School of Art	5	1%
Stirling University	36	5%	Napier University	5	1%
Edinburgh University	13	2%	Outwith Scotland	11	2%
Dundee University	12	2%	FE Colleges	185	26%
St Andrews University	10	1%	Other Institutions	12	2%

Institutions with less than 5 leavers are included in "Other Institutions" in the table above.

Table 12: HE Students by FE Colleges

Institution	Total	%	Institution	Total	%
Glasgow Metropolitan College	33	5%	Cardonald College	14	2%
Central College of Commerce	26	4%	Clydebank College	8	1%
Anniesland College	22	3%	Langside College	6	1%
Stow College	21	3%	Reid Kerr College	6	1%
Glasgow College of Nautical Studies	18	3%	Cumbernauld College	5	1%
North Glasgow College	17	2%	Other Institutions	13	2%

Institutions with less than 5 leavers are included in "Other Institutions" in the table above.

Table 13: FE Students by FE Colleges

Institution	Total	%	Institution	Total	%
North Glasgow College	40	17%	Central College of Commerce	18	8%
Anniesland College	39	17%	Glasgow Metropolitan College	17	7%
Cumbernauld College	30	13%	Langside College	11	5%
Clydebank College	27	12%	Stow College	10	4%
Cardonald College	18	8%	Other Institutions	22	9%

Institutions with less than 5 leavers are included in "Other Institutions" in the table above.

It can be noted from tables 11, 12 & 13 that the majority of leavers who continue their studies post school, chose to attend local institutions.

Table 14: Higher Education Course Information

Course Area	Total	%	Course Area	Total	%
Arts & Social Sciences	97	14%	Finance	26	4%
Health & Medicine	84	12%	Construction	23	3%
Science & Mathematics	71	10%	Teaching	20	3%
Administration & Management	65	9%	Communications & Media	17	2%
Engineering	65	9%	Hospitality, Catering & Tourism	17	2%
Sport, Leisure & Sport Science	45	6%	Languages	13	2%
Art and Design	40	6%	Sales & Marketing	11	2%
Computing & ICT	38	5%	Social, Caring & Advisory Services	11	2%
Law	34	5%	Animals, Land & Environment	9	1%
Performing Arts	30	4%	Hairdressing & Beauty	*	*

**Skills Development Scotland East Dunbartonshire Council School Leaver Destination
Report 2009-10**

Table 15: Further Education Course Information

Course Area	Total	%	Course Area	Total	%
Art and Design	38	16%	Hospitality, Catering & Tourism	13	6%
Social, Caring & Advisory Services	25	11%	Garage Services	10	4%
Hairdressing & Beauty	23	10%	Administration & Management	9	4%
General Education (Highers, etc)	22	9%	Engineering	9	4%
Sport, Leisure & Sport Science	17	7%	Animals, Land & Environment	8	3%
Performing Arts	15	6%	Communications & Media	5	2%
Construction	15	6%	Other	9	4%
Computing & ICT	14	6%			

This is the 3rd year that SDS has gathered fuller data, across Scotland, about the course areas entered by school leavers. It shows that Arts & Social Sciences has replaced Science and Mathematics based subjects as the most popular subject area chosen by leavers entering higher education. The 2nd most popular subject area was Health and Medicine which was the same as last year.

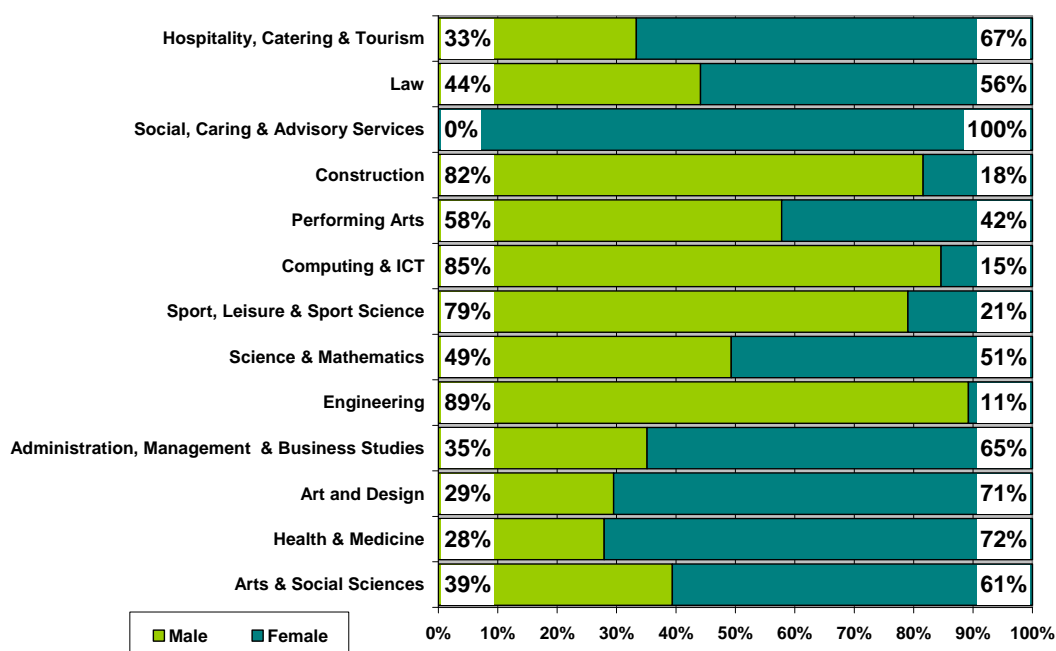
Within further education, leavers studying subjects related to art and design remained the most popular choice. Social/caring occupations, e.g. childcare courses were the 2nd most popular course choice. There has been little change in the actual number of leavers studying in the top 5 course areas.

Table 16: Course Information by Gender

Course Area	Male		Female	
	Total	%	Total	%
Arts & Social Sciences	39	9%	60	12%
Health & Medicine	24	5%	62	12%
Art and Design	23	5%	55	11%
Administration & Management	26	6%	48	10%
Engineering	66	15%	8	2%
Science & Mathematics	35	8%	36	7%
Sport, Leisure & Sport Science	49	11%	13	3%
Computing & ICT	44	10%	8	2%
Performing Arts	26	6%	19	4%
Construction	31	7%	7	1%
Social, Caring & Advisory Services	*	*	36	7%
Law	15	3%	19	4%
Hospitality, Catering & Tourism	10	2%	20	4%
Finance	18	4%	8	2%
Hairdressing & Beauty	*	*	25	5%
General Education (Highers, etc)	10	2%	12	2%
Communications & Media	14	3%	8	2%
Teaching	*	*	18	4%
Animals, Land & Environment	5	1%	12	2%
Sales & Marketing	*	*	12	2%
Languages	*	*	13	3%
Garage Services	10	2%	*	*

Skills Development Scotland East Dunbartonshire Council School Leaver Destination Report 2009-10

Table 17: Gender split within the course areas in both FE/HE



There has been a slight change in comparison to last year with the top three course areas for male leavers being engineering, sport and leisure and computing & IT. Last year Science and Mathematics was the 3rd most popular subject area but this is now the 5th most popular subject for males. In comparison female leavers have opted to enter subjects in health & medicine, arts & social sciences and art and design. This is similar to the situation last year with around a third of female leavers entering these subject areas. The most popular area for all leavers is arts and social sciences with the majority of entrants being female (**61%**). Subjects in engineering and construction remain male dominated although there is a higher proportion of females studying construction related courses than the national average. Social/caring related courses are female dominated.

Section 2.2: Employment

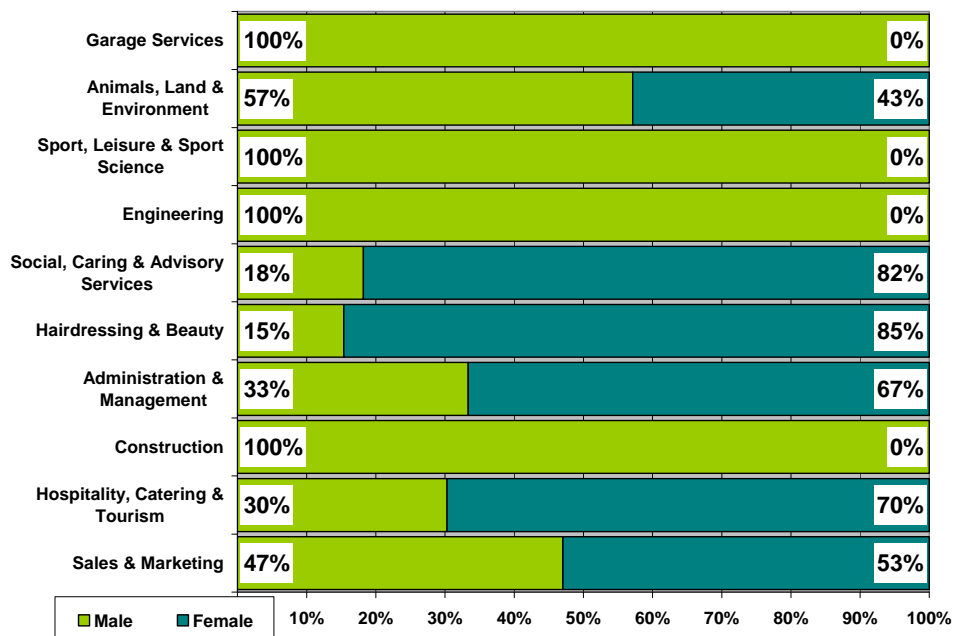
Employment: This category includes those who are employed and who are in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through Skillseekers and Modern Apprenticeships. **194** young people entered Employment and analysis can be provided on **99% (192)** of those entering employment for whom we hold information about the occupational area entered.

Table 18: Those entering Employment by Occupational Area

Occupational Area	Male		Female	
	Total	%	Total	%
Sales & Marketing	16	14%	18	23%
Hospitality, Catering & Tourism	10	9%	23	29%
Construction	30	27%	*	*
Administration & Management	6	5%	12	15%
Hairdressing & Beauty	2	2%	11	14%
Social, Caring & Advisory Services	2	2%	9	11%
Engineering	10	9%	*	*
Sport, Leisure & Sport Science	8	7%	*	*
Animals, Land & Environment	4	4%	*	*
Garage Services	6	5%	*	*

Skills Development Scotland East Dunbartonshire Council School Leaver Destination Report 2009-10

Table 19: Gender split within the top employment areas



This is the 3rd year that SDS has gathered fuller data, across Scotland, about the employment areas entered by school leavers. The most popular area of employment entered by school leavers continues to be sales & marketing which includes retail operations. The majority of males enter construction with 27% of male leavers gaining employment in this occupational area which is a similar level to last year. The 3 most popular occupational areas with female leavers entering employment are hospitality, catering & tourism, sales and administration related occupations with around two thirds of female leavers who enter employment working in these areas. All the leavers who enter the occupational areas of construction, engineering and garage services are male and hairdressing and social caring roles remain female dominated.

Section 3: Other Destinations

School leavers who do not achieve a positive destination on leaving school are known as the MCMC group and are key customers for Skills Development Scotland and our partner organisations. The SLDR is a snapshot in time and should only be used as an indicator.

Unemployed and seeking employment or training: This category includes those who are in contact with SDS and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between SDS and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates. In 2009-10 it also included those individuals undertaking personal skills development^v (2)

Unemployed and not seeking employment or training: This category includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. These individual circumstances may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

Section 3.1 Unemployed Seeking

The table provides a comparison of the percentage of unemployed seeking clients with specific characteristics as opposed to the rate of the full SLDR cohort

Table 20: Client Characteristics

Characteristics	% of Full SLDR	% of Unemployed Seeking
Gender		
Male	52%	65%
Female	48%	35%
Ethnic Background		
White	93%	94%
White – Other	*	*
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	4%	4%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	1%	1%
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	*	*
Other Ethnic Group	1%	1%
Not known / Disclosed	1%	0%
Stage Left School		
Statutory Summer Leaver	8%	20%
Statutory Winter Leaver	6%	19%
Post Statutory Leaver	86%	61%
Qualifications on Leaving School^{vi}		
Access 1 / No formal Qualifications	*	*
Access 2&3/Foundation Stand. Grade	*	*
General Standard Grade/ Intermediate1	8%	27%
Credit Standard Grade/ Intermediate 2	22%	42%
Highers/Advanced Higher	68%	26%
Unknown	1%	*

Skills Development Scotland East Dunbartonshire Council School Leaver Destination Report 2009-10

Table 20: Client Characteristics (cont)

Characteristics		% of Full SLDR	% of Unemployed Seeking
Health And Additional Support Needs			
Looked After at Home/ Looked after away from home ^{vii}		1%	6%
Additional Support Plan Recorded ^{viii}		2%	*
Health Factor/Additional Support Need Identified ^{ix}		9%	11%
SIMD Decile Ranking /Deprivation (SIMD 2009)			
Most deprived	1	4%	8%
	2	4%	8%
	3	5%	7%
	4	8%	5%
	5	8%	12%
	6	4%	6%
	7	4%	4%
	8	15%	12%
	9	23%	15%
Least Deprived	10	24%	22%
	Unknown	0%	0%

- Although male leavers account for only 52% of the leaving cohort they account for almost 65% of leavers reported as unemployed seeking.
- The majority of unemployed seeking leavers have credit level standard grades. Although they account for around 22% of the full SLDR they account for 42% of the unemployed seeking cohort.
- Those who have had a period of care only account for 1% of the SLDR cohort but are over represented in the unemployed seeking cohort, as they represent 6% of those reported as unemployed seeking.

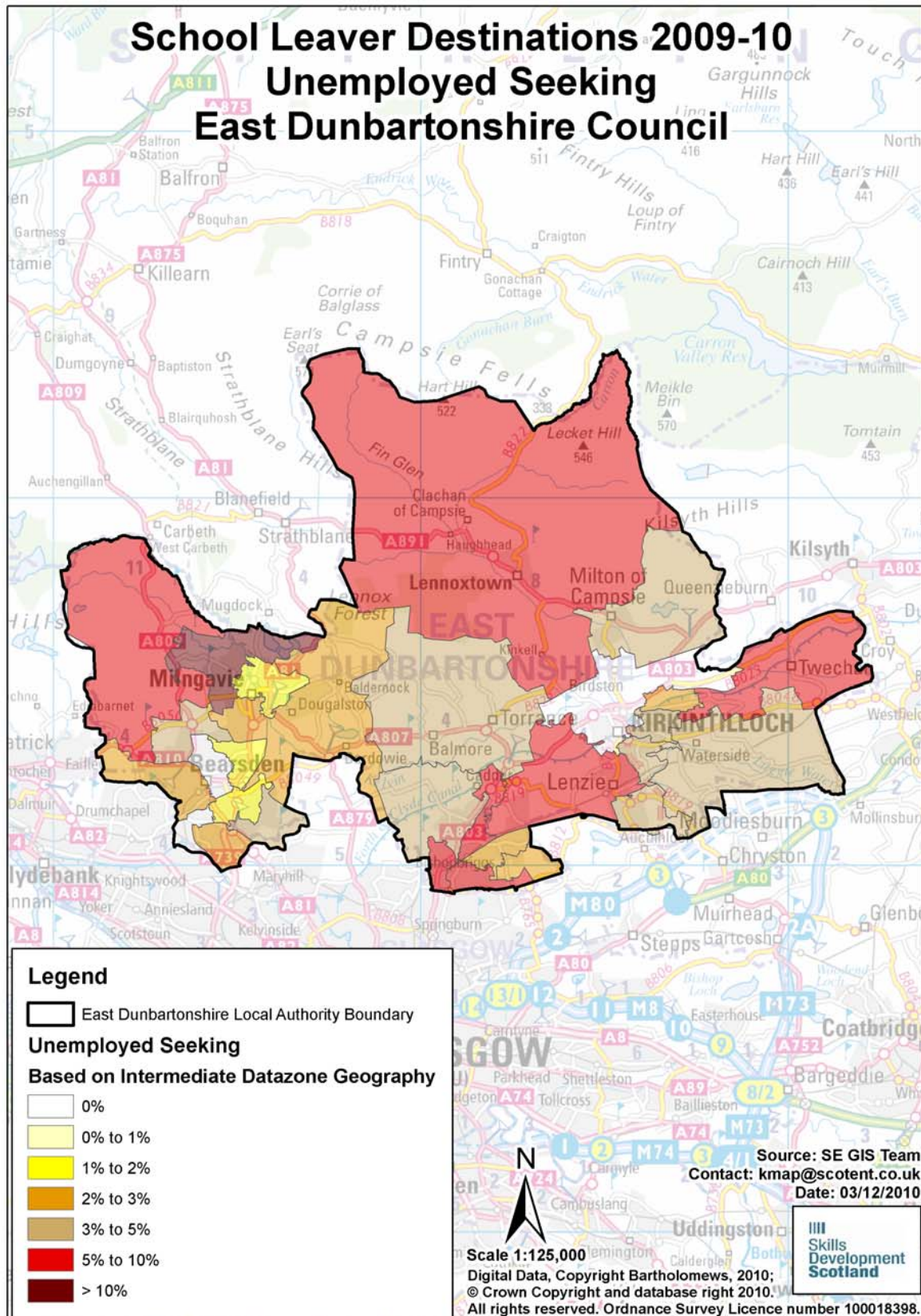
Table 21: Leavers by Intermediate Data zone

There were **95** leavers from East Dunbartonshire schools who were reported as unemployed seeking in the SLDR. By using postcodes, we were able to identify areas within the authority where unemployed school leavers were living. However, at the snapshot, **20** of the leavers were living outside the local authority area but a further **13** unemployed seeking school leavers from other local authority areas were residing within the local authority boundaries. The analysis below is based on **88** leavers residing in the authority and who SDS held postcode information for. The table below shows the intermediate data zones with the highest percentage of unemployed leavers.

Intermediate Data zone ^x	Total	%
East Clober and Mains Estate	9	10%
Auchinairn	7	8%
Lennoxton	7	8%
Twechar and Harestanes East	6	7%
Bishopbriggs West and Cadder	5	6%
Lenzie North	5	6%

Table 22: Destinations of School Leavers: % Unemployed Seeking, 2009/10

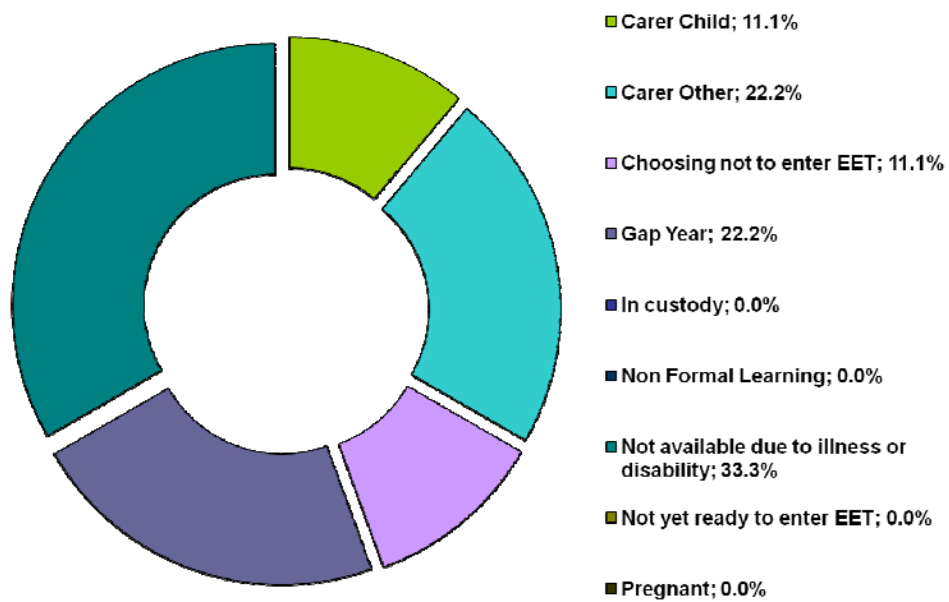
The map shows the intermediate data zones where the 88 leavers who were residing within the local authority boundary reside. Percentages have been calculated as a proportion of the number of leavers reported.



Section 3.2 Unemployed NOT Seeking

There were **9** school leavers within this category.

Table 23: Individual Circumstances of those Unemployed NOT Seeking



Section 3.3 Unknown

There was **1** school leaver whose current destination was unknown at the time of SLDR.

Table 24: Destinations by School, Percentage

School	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Total Leavers	% Pos	% Other
Bearsden Academy	62.3%	16.6%	0.6%	13.7%	1.1%	5.1%	0.6%	0.0%	175	94.3%	5.7%
Bishopbriggs Academy	50.9%	17.0%	2.8%	20.2%	0.0%	8.3%	0.5%	0.5%	218	90.8%	9.2%
Bocclair Academy	61.0%	17.6%	1.9%	13.8%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%	159	94.3%	5.7%
Douglas Academy	53.8%	24.6%	1.2%	8.8%	0.0%	11.1%	0.6%	0.0%	171	88.3%	11.7%
Kirkintilloch High School	36.8%	20.5%	16.2%	17.1%	0.0%	7.7%	1.7%	0.0%	117	90.6%	9.4%
Lenzie Academy	64.8%	16.0%	1.9%	9.9%	0.0%	7.0%	0.5%	0.0%	213	92.5%	7.5%
St Ninian's High School	43.6%	18.0%	7.5%	22.6%	0.8%	5.3%	2.3%	0.0%	133	92.5%	7.5%
Turnbull High School	57.1%	14.3%	6.3%	14.3%	0.8%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	126	92.9%	7.1%
East Dunbartonshire	54.9%	18.0%	4.0%	14.8%	0.3%	7.2%	0.7%	0.1%	1,312	92.0%	8.0%

Background Notes:

ⁱ **Positive Destinations:** includes higher education, further education, training, employment and voluntary work. See text above for explanation of each destination heading.

ⁱⁱ **The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD):** SIMD identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. SDS uses a file created by Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics to identify SIMD based on an individual leaver's postcode. The leaver's postcode is based on the last known address of the leaver as recorded on our client management system. Where there were gaps in the data held on our CMS, the last known address supplied in the annual import of pupil details has been used. As the last known postcode is used it may be that a leaver from one local authority was living in another local authority at the time of the return. Therefore, the SIMD relates to where a leaver was living and not the concentration of SIMD within a local authority.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Stage of Leaving:** A **statutory summer leaver** is a school leaver who chooses to leave school at the earliest opportunity (31st May) when they become eligible to leave school i.e. their 16th birthday falls on or between 1st March and 30th September in their year of leaving. A **statutory winter leaver** is a school leaver who chooses to leave school at the earliest opportunity when they become eligible to leave school i.e. their 16th birthday falls between 1st October and the last day in February. A **post statutory leaver** is a school leaver who chose to remain at school past their statutory leave date e.g. a winter leaver who would have been eligible to leave at the winter leave date but choose to remain at school until the summer leave date. Included in this group are leavers who have past their statutory leave date and have left school at any stage throughout the year.

^{iv} **Institutions:** through our follow up of leavers, we confirm Further and Higher Education destinations and as part of the process we request further information about the institution a leaver is attending. This is not a requirement of the Scottish Government and the information displayed is based on the recorded detail on Insight, the SDS

^v **Personal Skills Development:** - Some leavers are not yet ready, or in a position to make an immediate transition to a formal positive destination. In such cases leavers may participate in learning opportunities / personal and social development activities with the aim of improving their confidence and employability. These programmes can be viewed as a stepping stone towards a more formal positive destination. They are often delivered by a community learning and development or third sector organisation and can include the activity agreement pilots. It was agreed, with the Scottish Government, that individuals undertaking these activities would be reported within the unemployed seeking SLDR category.

^{vi} **Qualifications on leaving school:** This information is based on pre-appeal information from the Scottish Qualifications Agency where SDS received information about a leaver's qualifications and a robust match of records was made. Where no match was made the qualification level has been gathered through our interaction with individuals.

^{vii} **Looked After at Home/ Looked after away from home:** This refers to recent school leavers that SDS has recorded information that they had an episode of being looked after at home or looked after away from home. This information is gathered in a variety of ways including local SDS contact with Social Work departments, data received through the school import process or via direct contact with individuals. It is recognised that this information may not be complete when compared with similar data from social work services departments. However SDS is working with the Scottish Government and local authorities to look at improving the sharing of information in respect of these young people therefore the figures used are indicative.

^{viii} **Additional Support Plan Recorded:** SDS receives data from all local authority schools and school centres with pupils in stages S1-S6 or special schools to import into our client management system. We receive information about those who have co-ordinated support plans (CSP) and individualised educational programmes. We also gather information directly from individuals and via our ongoing work with schools. We acknowledge that the data may vary from that held by local authorities therefore the figures used are indicative.

^{ix} **Health Factor/Additional Support Need Identified:** SDS receives data from all local authority schools and school centres with pupils in stages S1-S6 or special schools to import into our client management system. We receive information about those who have identified additional support needs. We also gather information directly from individuals and via our ongoing work with schools. We acknowledge that the data may vary from that held by local authorities therefore the figures used are indicative.

^x **Intermediate Data zone Geography:** The data zone is the key small area statistical geography in Scotland. The intermediate geography is built up from data zones and can be used to disseminate statistics that are not suitable for release at the data zone level. Due to the small number of individuals it has been decided to use the intermediate level geography. There are 1235 intermediate zones in Scotland, containing on average 4000 household residents and these have been designed to respect local authority boundaries as at 2001 Census.