

REPORT TO: Council Committee for Education

MEETING DATE: 16 March 2010

BY: Executive Director of Education & Children's Services

SUBJECT: More Choices More Chances (MCMC) – Opportunities for School Leavers

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee regarding current opportunities for school leavers, in particular, those in the More Choices More Chances (MCMC) client group.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In May 2009 the Government introduced '16+ Learning Choices' as a strategy to encourage all young people to stay in learning beyond S4 stage, whether that is at school, college, or other less formal learning settings. Positive and sustained progressions beyond S4 are one of the indicators in the national performance framework. 16+ Learning Choices is the national model for supporting this within Curriculum for Excellence and it is seen as part of the MCMC partnership structure in local authorities.

In response to this East Lothian has increased opportunities and support for school leavers, in particular for those within the MCMC client group.

Up until June 2009, all training providers which were accessible to East Lothian's young people were delivered outwith the local Authority; there has however, been a significant change in this availability as detailed below. Further, there is enhanced partnership working through the MCMC strategy and the Scottish Government's 16+ Learning Choices Strategy.

3.2 Available Destinations

Training providers now deliver programmes within East Lothian:

- East Lothian Skill Centre at Meadowmill delivering an employability programme in partnership with Midlothian Training Service supporting a maximum of 16 young people at any one time.
- Rathbone Training deliver *Get Ready for Work* in Dunbar and Musselburgh (currently 19 places) and *Life Skills* in Musselburgh (8 places). Both programmes give priority to Looked After Children/ Looked After and Accommodated Children (LAC/LAAC) and those leaving care.
- There are a number of other training providers in Edinburgh and Midlothian to which East Lothian young people have access.
- East Lothian Council offer 11 apprenticeships with Property Maintenance.
- Jewel and Esk College and the other Edinburgh based colleges offer a variety of further education options.

3.3 Additional Support into Positive Destinations (including in-school)

- Careers Scotland currently offer a one-to-one interview for all statutory school leavers.
- All S4 secondary school pupils receive work experience as part of their Personal Social Education Programme.
- Extended work experience placements and shadowing is available to S5 and S6 pupils.
- An extended work experience pilot programme was run in Ross High School. 13 young people took part supported by 24 local employers and East Lothian Council departments.
- The Transition for People Leaving Care (TLC) programme offers LAC/LAAC and those leaving care additional support to access further education. 19 young people had used this support as at December 2009.
- *TWO* (Targeting Work Opportunities) Programme at the Skill Centre works with targeted winter leavers and offers extra support in preparing for work, training or further education. Last year 11 young people used the service.
- *Girls Aloud* programme at the Skill Centre helps girls who are still at school and at risk of disengaging to prepare for employment, training or further education. 11 girls are currently on the programme.

3.4 Other Support

- All schools are now holding 16+ Hubs meetings (multi-agency) during which young people, who are less likely to secure a positive destination, are discussed and allocated a lead professional to support them.
- The Bridges Project offers a variety of support to vulnerable young people who have a range of issues, which are preventing them from achieving employment/training opportunities. Last year in excess of 166 young people used this service.
- The School College Collaboration supports the careers guidance need of all S2–S5 pupils involved in college related activities whilst still on the school roll, with a particular focus on those at risk of not going into a positive destination.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – MCMC work is currently funded largely through Scottish Government Determined to Succeed Funding. This is ring-fenced funding which ends in March 2011. Scottish Government funding for the 16+ Learning Choices Officer ends in March 2011.

6.2 Personnel – None.

6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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