

## Background

The School Leaver Destination Return is a statistical exercise undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. Information on the latest known destination of school leavers in September, referred to as the school leaver's initial destination is collated by SDS. This is approximately 3 months after they left school (although some may have left school in the previous winter). This return is published in December of each year by the Scottish Government. Local authority reports compiled by SDS on the initial destinations of the 2007/08 school leavers can be found on our website here:

<http://www.careers-scotland.org.uk/AboutCS/Initiatives/SLDR.asp>

During March and April 2009, SDS contacted the 2007/08 cohort of leavers from publicly funded schools to update their destination from the initial survey. The results have been used, by the Scottish Government, to monitor the national indicator on increasing the proportion of school leavers in sustained positive destinations. The Government has published these results and they can be found here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/follow>.

The initial destinations data provides information on the outcomes for young people leaving school approximately 3 months after leaving while the follow up survey provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately 9 months after leaving school. These publications should be seen as complementary to one another however it should be noted that different factors may affect the results at the different time periods.

## Methodology

The SLDR cohort was contacted to establish their current destination. SDS managed to successfully contact 94% of the cohort to establish their current destination, 0.4% of the original cohort were excluded from this follow up exercise as they had either returned to school or had moved outwith Scotland. SDS was therefore unable to establish the current destination of 5.5% of the 2007/08 school leavers. Our analysis which follows is based solely on those destinations which we were able to establish and will therefore not match exactly with the Scottish Government's analysis which uses statistical techniques to provide a Scotland level estimate of positive and sustained destinations for the whole leaving cohort. SDS has agreed with the Scottish Government that the Local Authority level analysis presented in this paper will be based only on those leavers contacted by SDS during the follow-up survey.

Positive destinations relate to all young people from publicly funded secondary schools whose current status is Higher Education, Further Education, Training, Voluntary Work and Employment.

## Analysis

This year there were **980** young people reported in the SLDR within the Argyll & Bute local authority area. **9** of these leavers have since returned to school or moved outwith Scotland and have therefore been excluded from the return leaving a total of **971**. Skills Development Scotland was able to contact **927 (94.6%)** and this analysis relates only to these young people for whom their current destination is known.

## Positive Destinations

### Higher Education

There were **305** young people in Higher Education in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **96.8%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **93.1%** had sustained and remained within Higher Education
- **3.9%** had moved into another positive destination
- **3.0%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

### Further Education

There were **189** young people in Further Education in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **96.9%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **84.7%** had sustained and remained within Further Education
- **7.4%** had moved into another positive destination
- **7.9%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

### Training

There were **27** young people in Training in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **96.4%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **11.1%** had sustained and remained within Training
- **40.7%** had moved into another positive destination
- **48.1%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

### Employment

There were **303** young people in Employment in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for **94.7%** of the full cohort. SDS found that:

- **83.8%** had sustained and remained within Employment
- **4.6%** had moved into another positive destination
- **11.6%** had dropped out and are currently in a negative destination

### Voluntary Work

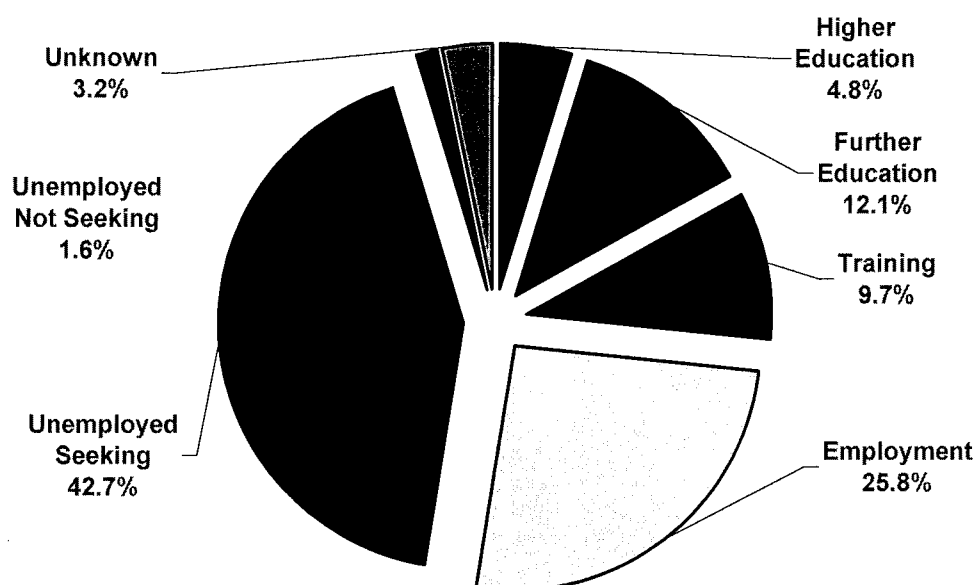
There was **1** young person in Voluntary Work in the original SLDR in September who was successfully followed up in March and has sustained this destination.

## Negative Destinations

### Unemployed Seeking

There were 87 young people who were unemployed seeking in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for 91.6% of the original unemployed seeking cohort.

However, there were 124 individuals from Argyll & Bute secondary schools who had a status of unemployed seeking at the time of the SLDR follow up and SDS was able to contact all of them. 52.4% of this cohort were in a positive destination in the SLDR in September. The graph below shows the breakdown of the September destinations of those recorded as unemployed seeking in the March/April follow up.



As shown this group is very fluid and in addition to those who were reported in a positive destination in September a further 18.5% of those reported as being unemployed seeking in the SLDR follow up had already been in at least one positive destination since leaving school but had been unable to sustain it.

46% of all young people reported as unemployed seeking in the March/April follow up left school at their statutory leave date and the majority of those reported (62.1%) are male.

### Unemployed Seeking in both Surveys

42.7% (53) of young people were reported as unemployed seeking in both surveys and the following table indicates the number of weeks this group have been in a negative destination between the SLDR in September and the follow up survey around 6 months later.

Number of Weeks	Total	%
0 to 12 weeks	2	4%
13 to 25 weeks	6	11%
26 weeks and over	45	85%

39.6% had individual circumstances that put them into the "At Risk" category as detailed with the Scottish Government's More Choices More Chances strategy and SDS was aware of these indicators for 42.9% of this cohort prior to them leaving school. 56.6% of these young people have engaged with SDS at some point over the period and had been allocated a SDS case manager. 20.8% of them have received support from a SDS key worker.

By the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 15.1% of this cohort had already secured a positive destination.

### Intermediate Data zones analysis for Unemployed Seeking:

By using a leaver's last known postcode we were able to analyse the areas of the authority where unemployed leavers were living. In the SLDR follow up there were 114 unemployed seeking leavers from Argyll & Bute secondary schools who were still residing within the local authority area, with the other 7 living out with the authority boundaries. However, there were a further 11 leavers who attended other local authority secondary schools who had moved into the area, leaving a total of 125 leavers in the follow up exercise residing in Argyll & Bute. 2 individuals have been excluded from the intermediate data zone analysis as SDS does not hold a current address for them, although they were receiving support from an SDS centre in the Argyll & Bute area.

The table below shows the unemployed leavers by intermediate data zone. There are unemployed seeking leavers residing within 21 intermediate data zones within the authority but only those with the highest 10 percentages are displayed:

Intermediate Datazone	Total	%	Intermediate Datazone	Total	%
Oban South	15	12.2%	Kintyre Trail	7	5.7%
Campbeltown	14	11.4%	Rothesay Town	7	5.7%
Hunter's Quay	14	11.4%	Helensburgh East	6	4.9%
Dunoon	13	10.6%	Helensburgh North	6	4.9%
Garelochhead	7	5.7%	Whiskey Isles	6	4.9%

### Unemployed Not Seeking

There were 10 young people who were Unemployed Not Seeking in the original SLDR in September who were successfully followed up in March. This accounted for 76.9% of the full cohort. 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 and as such it is not anticipated that many will become economically active between the two surveys. It can be noted however, that 30% (3) did progress into a positive destination.

### Unknown

13 young people were unknown in the SLDR and 61.5% (8) were still unknown at the time of the SLDR Follow Up. A further 10 young people have become unknown since the original SLDR exercise in September. None of these young people could be followed up.