

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 6 June 2023

Pathways

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 note the achievements and next steps in DYW (Pathways) at City of Edinburgh schools
 - 1.1.2 note the continued hard work of teams across departments within City of Edinburgh, our staff in schools, and partners to improve employability skills and positive destinations of our children and young people.

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Report

Pathways

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report summarises the main areas of focus and approaches to improving curriculum pathways, employability skills and positive destinations of our children and young people, across City of Edinburgh's schools. It identifies key strengths and outlines our strategic next steps in response to emerging need and educational reform.

3. Background

- 3.1 Developing the young workforce and ensuring flexible curriculum pathways are in place for all learners are fundamental to the Edinburgh Learns strategy for raising the attainment and achievement of our young people. This includes access to appropriate vocational learning with parity of esteem.
- 3.2 Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people is one of the key priorities within the National Improvement Framework.
- 3.3 Edinburgh Learns DYW (Pathways) Board has been reconfigured. All sectors, and a range of partners, are represented in the membership of this Board. This board will provide governance in the delivery of this workstream.

4. Main report

Strengths

- 4.1 We have established a shared vision that is focussed on the importance of tackling the poverty related attainment gap, particularly school leaver destinations. The gap between leavers from the least and most deprived areas in a positive initial destination in 2021/22 is 3.2%. This has narrowed from 5.1% in 2020/21. The Youth Employment Partnership provides the bridge between school and post-school destinations. Over the last three years there has been an improving trend in our school leaver destination Results.

- 4.2 Young people at risk of a negative destination are known and tracked through the 16+ system with relevant partners so that appropriate follow-up is in place. Positive destinations for school leavers for session 21-22 was 96.1%. This is Significantly above the national average (95.7%) and above the virtual comparator (95.9%).
- 4.3 There is a better understanding of the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) and now a broader range of options in schools. In the Senior Phase we offer 64 vocational whole course awards in the form of National Progression Awards (NPAs) or Skills for Work Courses. The NPAs are particularly suited to learners whose post school destination will be college as the curriculum content and mode of assessment articulates better with the college curriculum offer. The number of NPA passes have increased from 623 in 2020 to 765 passes in 2022.
- 4.4 Our success in integrating employer engagement continues to grow. We have 138 young people with employer mentors through Career Ready Internships, 200 in the JET programme and 345 engaging with MCR Pathways (MCR report is here; [Edinburgh 2021-22 Impact Report \(2.pdf\)](#)).
- 4.5 Across Edinburgh, Mid and East Lothian DYW have continued to progress our employer engagement strategy. Report is here; [Looking at 2022-2023.pdf](#)
- 4.6 The Edinburgh Learns professional learning offer has skills as a core component of the Teachers' Charter. The PL is structured to offer an introduction webinar, self-led professional learning and a final reconnect session. Between August 2022 and May 2023 28% of CEC teaching staff have engaged with skills professional learning. All probationer teachers attend the introduction webinar.

5. Next Steps

Next Steps

- 5.1 We will fund additional leadership capacity across the school estate to develop our universal and targeted offer around the needs of our learners, taking cognisance of developmentally appropriate pedagogy and the emerging themes from the Education Reform agenda.
- 5.2 We will develop and publish Senior Phase offers from all Secondary schools. This will focus on, course choice and personalised pathways, transitions, employer engagement and the development of a digital learning offer.
- 5.3 We will be expanding our Foundation Apprentice uptake through maximising and expanding our existing contract and flexible delivery partnership arrangements with Edinburgh College.
- 5.4 We will develop targeted pathways to meet the specific needs of identified learners. This work will include nurture, enhanced transitions, accredited and vocational pathways for learners in special schools, wellbeing hubs and enhanced support bases.

- 5.5 We will engage with the educational, financial & cultural institutions in our city, asking them to work with us in the co-production of personalised vocational pathways that nurtures ambition in all Edinburgh's children and young people.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications contained in this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Edinburgh Learns DYW (Pathways) Board meets each term. All sectors, and a range of partners, are represented in the membership of this Board.

8. Background reading/external references

None

9. Appendices

None