



**Glasgow City Council**

**Education Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Education Services**

**Contact: Jean Miller Ext: 70204**

**SCHOOL LEAVER FOLLOW-UP  
GLASGOW DESTINATIONS**

**Purpose of Report:**

To report to the committee on Glasgow's school leaver follow-up destinations and how our Towards Better Future strategy is continuing to improve our support of young people as they leave school.

**Recommendations:**

Committee is invited to consider the report, note the comments and ask officers to continue sharing the best practice across the City.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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*If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale*

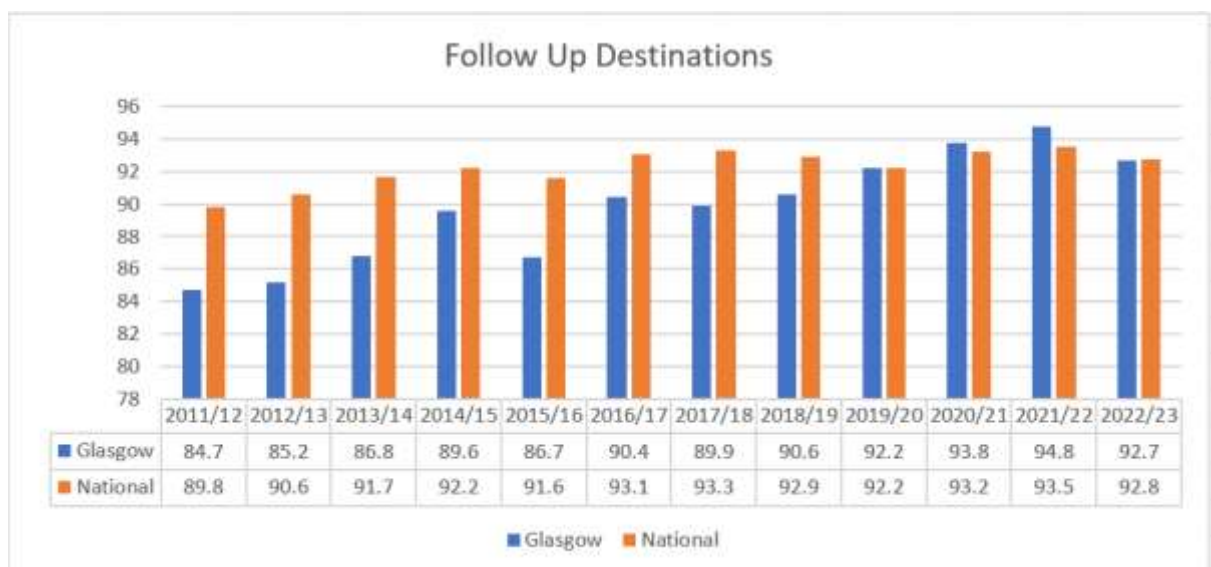
## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The School Leavers Follow Up (SLFU) Follow up Destinations is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The return follows up on the young people whose destinations were collected in October 2023.
- 1.2 The follow up destinations for all young people who left school in 2023 were collected in April 2024 and published in June 2024. It provides a comparison between the initial destination for Glasgow's school leavers and their destination six months later. The statistics are for all destination categories in the School Leavers Follow Up.

## 2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 Overall, the number of young people sustaining their positive destination is 92.7% which is 5% lower than our initial destination figure of 97.7%. The latter was our highest ever initial leaver destination statistic. The final statistic captured in April 2024 is slightly down on the previous two years and a 5% difference is higher than the national difference which was 3.1%.
- 2.2 The final Glasgow figure of 92.7% is only slightly below (0.1%) the national figure of 92.8%. However, the graph also shows the significant progress over many years of closing the gap in comparison to the national figures.

*This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 1***



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-follow-up-leaver-destinations-no-6-2024-edition/>

2.3 In the national statistical analysis a drop in school leaver staying on rates from S4-S5 is attributed as part of the reason for the national drop since the longer young people stay on at school does correlate with a stronger likelihood of being in a positive sustained destination. In Glasgow there was a reduction in the staying on rate S4 -S5 from 92.5% to 90.5%. There was a slight increase in the S5-S6 staying on rate from 70.3% to 71.6%. All these Glasgow statistics are more in line with the pre covid statistics with in 2018-19 an S4-S5 staying on rate of 90.6% and S5-S6 of 71.6%. Glasgow secondary schools continue to promote that our young people should stay as long as possible at school to ensure their best opportunities. This has led to significantly changed curriculum offers in a number of schools which are more reflective of the skills young people are looking to develop (see previous report to ESEY committee in May 24 on wider achievement).

2.4 The next table shows the difference between the initial statistics in October 2023 and then the follow up in April 2024.

*This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 2***



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-follow-up-leaver-destinations-no-6-2024-edition/>

2.5 As was stated earlier, the drop off of 5% is higher than the national difference of 3.1% and is one of our highest. This is explored in our next sections and it is not as straightforward as assuming that schools in areas of more significant deprivation will have lower positive destinations than those in less deprived. Two of our schools with the highest positive destinations have significantly higher deprivation whilst one school with less deprivation has a lower positive destinations.

2.6 The next table shows the actual destinations of our school leavers and how they have changed over the years.

This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 3**

Glasgow Follow-up Destinations												
	Total Leavers	Positive Destination	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Personal Social Development	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Unknown
13/14	4659	86.8%	32.6%	25.6%	3.5%	23.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	10.9%	1.4%	0.9%
14/15	4624	89.6%	32.1%	24.8%	4.3%	26.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	7.4%	2.2%	0.8%
15/16	4542	86.7%	31.2%	24.1%	2.9%	26.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	8.5%	2.6%	2.2%
16/17	4472	90.4%	34.0%	28.6%	2.8%	23.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	6.3%	2.2%	1.1%
17/18	4345	89.9%	36.8%	25.5%	2.9%	23.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	6.0%	2.8%	1.4%
18/19	4346	90.6%	36.6%	26.7%	3.1%	23.1%	0.4%	NA	0.6%	6.7%	2.4%	0.3%
19/20	4294	92.2%	40.0%	26.5%	5.5%	16.0%	0.5%	NA	3.6%	4.7%	3.0%	0.1%
20/21	4569	93.8%	38.7%	21.6%	5.4%	26.2%	0.6%	NA	1.2%	3.9%	2.4%	0.0%
21/22	4975	94.8%	36.4%	25.0%	6.5%	25.4%	0.6%	NA	1.0%	3.1%	2.0%	0.1%
22/23	4998	92.7%	37.9%	23.7%	4.5%	25.4%	0.5%	NA	0.7%	4.9%	2.3%	0.0%

2.7 You will notice that the Higher Education figure is an improvement on last session. The national figure for Higher Education has decreased from 39% in 2017/18 and now sits at 37.1%. This means that Glasgow sitting at 37.9% is higher than the national average. It is a huge reflection on our relentless focus to continually raise attainment and our partnership programmes to widen access for our young people (highlighted in a previous paper to the ESEY committee in October 2023).

2.8 We still have an above national average amount of young people going into Further Education at 23.7% compared to 21.2% nationally. However, this is down on the previous session which was 25%. Our employment statistic remains quite steady at 25.4% and this is similar to only a slight increase at national level. However, the national level is higher at 31.8%. Our figure for unemployed seeking has increased from 3.1% to 4.9% and whilst not the pre-covid stat of 6.7%, this remains an increase in young people needing to support.

2.9 The next table shows the changes in relation to the difference between the initial destinations and the follow up destinations regarding specific areas.

This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 4**

Destination	Initial Survey 2019/20	Follow Up Survey 2019/20	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2020/21	Follow Up Survey 2020/21	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2021/22	Follow Up Survey 2021/22	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2022/23	Follow Up Survey 2022/23	Remained Original Destination
Higher Education	1783	1718	96.4%	2012	1767	87.8%	1998	1809	90.5%	2071	1895	91.5%
Further Education	1308	1139	87.1%	1278	988	77.3%	1511	1243	82.2%	1523	1184	77.7%
Training	259	238	91.9%	334	245	73.4%	321	321	100.0%	296	223	75.3%
Employment	462	689		659	1199		934	1264		864	1270	
Voluntary Work	22	21	95.5%	28	28	100.0%	20	30		30	25	83.3%
PSD	166	155	93.4%	94	57	60.6%	72	48	66.7%	109	37	33.9%
Unemployed Seeking	220	203	92.3%	107	176		89	154		61	247	
Unemployed Not Seeking	85	Small numbers not published		Small numbers not published	109		54	101		52	117	
Unknown	6	3	50%	Small numbers not published	0		4	5		1	0	0.0%

2.10 It is positive to see an increase in young people who are in Higher Education sustaining their place. However, the drop off at Further Education is more concerning and a decrease on the previous session. This is despite a project funded through our Local Employability Partnership for three Action for Children workers in three FE colleges to support Glasgow young people at risk of disengaging from their courses in FE.

### 3 EQUALITIES

3.1 The table below shows the percentage of young people from the most deprived postcodes who are in positive destinations. It should be noted that this is 57.02% of the overall leavers.

*This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 5***

Year	LA code	Local Authority	SIMD Quintile [note 5]	Positive Destination (Number)	Number of leavers	Positive Destination (Percentage)
2022-23	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,594	2,850	91.0
2021-22	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,699	2,885	93.6
2020-21	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,397	2,599	92.2
2019-20	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,349	2,573	91.3
2018-19	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,194	2,474	88.7
2017-18	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,172	2,462	88.2
2016-17	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,286	2,597	88.0
2015-16	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,238	2,663	84.0
2014-15	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,306	2,638	87.4
2013-14	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,126	2,539	83.7
2012-13	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,043	2,494	81.9
2011-12	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	1,952	2,385	81.8
2010-11	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	1,938	2,503	77.4
2009-10	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	1,928	2,592	74.4

3.2 Since the overall Glasgow percentage is 92.7%, this shows that young people from our most deprived post codes are 1.7% less likely to be in a positive destination. This compares with a difference of 1.2% in 2021-22, 1.6% in 2020-21, 0.9% in 2019-2020, 1.9% in 2018-2019 and 1.7% in 2017-18. The more targeted work over the previous five years has resulted in a significant lowering of this gap especially when considering it was 3.1% in 2013-14, 2.9% in 2011-12 and 5.9% in 2009-2010.

3.3 This table shows the difference in the statistics for young people living in lesser deprived post codes all of which are above the Glasgow average.

*This table is replicated in the Appendix as **Table 6***

6	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	0-20% (Most Deprived)	2,594	2,850	91.0
7	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	20-40%	835	893	93.5
8	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	40-60%	487	511	95.3
9	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	60-80%	408	427	95.6
10	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	80-100% (Least Deprived)	310	317	97.8
11	2022-23	260	Glasgow City	Total	4,634	4,998	92.7

- 3.4 A number of figures are not yet available to drill down to other protected characteristics and indeed when examining a range of areas there is no clear picture. However, you were less likely to be in a positive destination nationally and in relation to our negative statistics is you had an additional support need and/or a disability.



## 4 TOWARDS BETTER FUTURES

- 4.1 Glasgow Education Services continues to have a team dedicated to supporting our young people to positive sustained destinations. They work in closely to support schools and with a range of partnerships including Glasgow's Chamber of Commerce and its DYW regional team, Skills Development Scotland, our partners in Glasgow Colleges and Universities and Glasgow's Local Employability Partnership. Their approach is universal and the DYW coordinators in school specifically support greater employer engagement to help ensure that our young people are more work aware and know more about the changing employment landscape particularly in relation to our local economy.
- 4.2 The Towards Better Futures team also works to support schools with interventions which are more targeted and can offer a range of more bespoke opportunities depending on the needs of young people. Schools have much better tracking and monitoring of young people in place and they regularly have case management meetings to discuss young people particularly those at risk of not going into a positive destination. Their approach, supported by the TBF team is forensic and every single young person matters.
- 4.3 At a conference held in February 2024 colleagues involved in supporting employability in our secondary schools met to discuss a new strategic action plan for the coming years. It involves training to improve support to young people with additional support needs, continues to development og Glasgow's Framework incorporating skills development and work aware opportunities and continuing the aspiration of 100% positive and sustained destinations for all our young people!
- 4.4 More information on the Towards Better Futures strategy and team activities can be accessed using the following link;

<https://www.towardsbetterfutures.com/>

## 5 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* Within existing resources, effective deployment and management of grant funding.

*Legal:* N/A

*Personnel:* Staf team related to Towards Better Futures Strategy

*Procurement:* N/A except in relation to elements of grant funding

**Council Strategic Plan:** Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

Grand Challenge 1-Reduce poverty and Inequality in our city  
Mission 3 - Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's children and young people

Grand Challenge 2 - Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens  
Mission 1 - Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

Outcome 14 - Glasgow City Council (Education Services) has continued to improve outcomes in relation to attainment and achievement for children and young people including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, those for whom English is not their first language, those who identify as black and minority ethnic, and disabled children and young people

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

The importance of young people leaving school to a positive destination and understanding where they may be barriers to the success of this.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

The work in schools supported by the Towards Better Futures team is making a significant difference to improving outcomes and opportunities for young people.

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

N/A except that we work with Glasgow's Chamber of Commerce and link with employers who are committed to supporting climate action.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

N/A

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

N/A

### **Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N

No

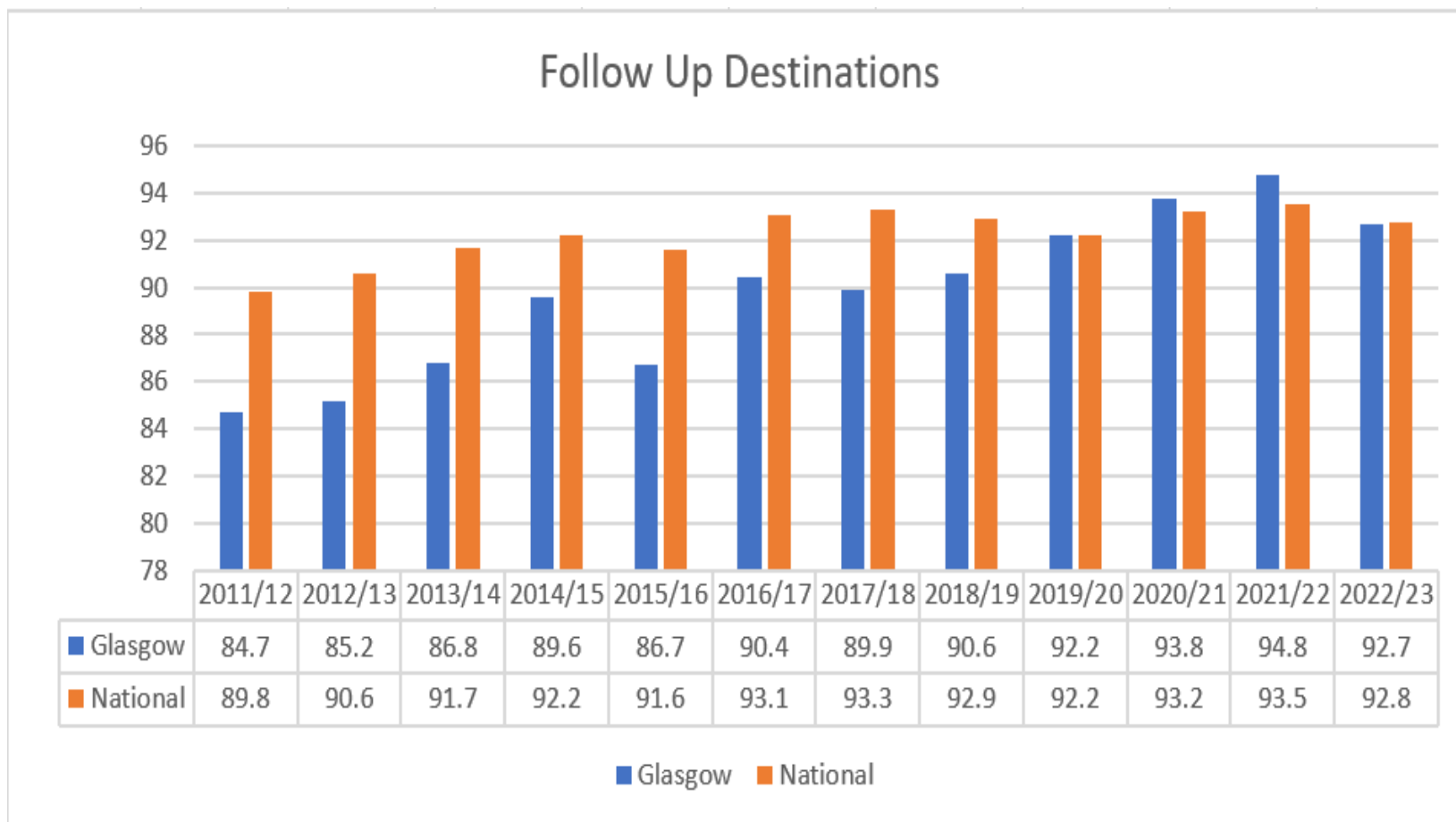
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Committee is invited to consider the report, note the comments and ask officers to continue sharing the best practice across the City.



**Table 1 Report area 2.2**



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-follow-up-leaver-destinations-no-6-2024-edition/>

**Table 2 Report area 2.4**



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-follow-up-leaver-destinations-no-6-2024-edition/>

**Table 3 Report area 2.6**

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**Table 4 Report area 2.9**

Destination	Initial Survey 2019/20	Follow Up Survey 2019/20	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2020/21	Follow Up Survey 2020/21	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2021/22	Follow Up Survey 2021/22	Remained Original Destination	Initial Survey 2022/23	Follow Up Survey 2022/23	Remained Original Destination
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**Table 5 Report area 3.1**

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**Table 6**      **Report area 3.3**

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