

NEET Group

Capital City Partnership Working Paper Series

Working Paper 1

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Monitoring and Evaluation



Working Paper 1

NEET Group

Summary

This paper looks at the NEET –Not in Education, Employment or Training- group of young people. It highlights recent work that has been undertaken by the Scottish Executive’s Employability Workstream that looked into the characteristics of this group. Their study highlighted that Scotland has a poor record in terms of young people leaving school into unemployment and there are a range of features that seem to be common for young people who become NEET.

The discussion then moves on to look at the situation in Edinburgh where the NEET group has been growing over recent years. It indicates that a number of schools see a high proportion of their school leavers becoming NEET, and although schools in the areas of deprivation are amongst these, it is also a characteristic of other schools.

The final section discusses some of the interventions and programmes that have been developed to try and reduce the number of young people leaving school and becoming NEET.

Key Points:

- Overall schools in Edinburgh have been witnessed increasing proportions of school leavers going into ‘negative destinations’ and decreasing proportions going into ‘positive destinations’ from around 2000/01 (*p 6*).
- Over the past 2 years, overall schools in Edinburgh have seen increasing proportions of school leavers go into higher education as well as training, but also unemployment and not known. Decreasing proportions have been entering further education and employment (*p 7*).
- In 2004/05, a total of 5 secondary schools had over **20%** of their leavers being unemployed and seeking work; Broughton, Castlebrae, Craigmyston, Drummond, and WHEC (*p 9*).
- Both Broughton and Craigmyston (2004/05) in the north of the city have seen increases in over **10%** of their school leavers being unemployed and seeking work from previous school years (*p 8*).
- The Viewfinder Survey (2004) of young people found that **76%** of respondents in Edinburgh wanted more opportunities for work experience, **66%** wanted more training at school to develop skills employers want, **52%** said it would be useful to have more information on jobs and careers (*p 10*).
- There are a variety of initiatives to help this group, including; Activate, Worknet, Key Worker Service, Gallery 37, JET (*p 10*).
- Many young people who are NEET have particular issues, for example; caring responsibilities, offending, care leavers, disabilities, substance abuse, truancy, low levels of qualifications (*p 4*).

Purpose of this Paper

This working paper is the first in a regular series of papers compiled by CCP that look at issues of relevance to Joined up for Jobs. This paper looks at the NEET group and future working papers will examine topics around issues such as migrant workers, a specific focus on Incapacity Benefit, outcomes and outputs from projects supported under the getting people into work heading of the ROA, etc. We are open to suggestions from JU4J partners for future topics.

Overall these working papers are intended to be useful background resources that can be used for base lining programs or simply providing context. In other instances the papers will provide a 'literature review' type function, distilling information and informing the group of what research and data that has recently become available. They are not necessarily documents that reach conclusions or provide answers, nor will they necessarily call for future research.

National Situation

In 2003 in Scotland 11% of 16-19 year olds were not in education, employment or training – these are the so called NEET group. Research (Social Exclusion Unit, 1999) indicates that young people aged 16-19 who are NEET for a prolonged period are most likely to encounter consistent problems in later life. For instance investigation of the 1970 British Birth Cohort study has shown that being NEET for six months is likely to mean that by the age of twenty one a young man is:

- More than four times likely to be out of work
- Three times more likely to have depression and mental health issues
- Five times more likely to have a criminal record
- Six times less likely to have any qualifications

Against a background of historically high levels of employment and low levels of unemployment, Scotland has the highest proportion of 16 -19 year olds not in education, employment and training in the OECD (Employability Framework for Scotland, 2005). Conversely recent demand side research conducted by Futureskills Scotland (2004) and cited in the Employability Framework for Scotland (2005) has confirmed that finding young people with the right skills mix on leaving school is a major challenge for employers, and that this mismatch is adversely affecting the economy.

The NEET Workstream within the Employability Framework for Scotland estimated that the number of NEET young people at any one time is around 35,000 or 13.7% of Scottish 16-19 year olds. The report goes on to break down this 35,000 and highlights that

- 62% of the NEET group (21,700) were claiming 'key' benefits (JSA, IB and IS); with 32% (11,300) claiming JSA (2004 figures)
- 80% (28,000) have low level qualifications (SVQ level 2 and below), including 26% (9,000) who have no qualifications
- 38.6% (13,500) of the NEET group have never worked

These are figures that present the Scottish situation, but there is nothing to suggest that the NEET group in Edinburgh would be significantly different from this. The one thing that might be different is that the NEET group as a proportion of 16-19 year olds in the city may be smaller than the Scottish average due to the role Edinburgh plays in further and higher education.

Calculations based on estimates from different data sources¹ suggest that around 21,000 of the NEET group were actively seeking work - based on actual JSA claimant levels, and then adding a proportion of 16-17 year olds who are ineligible for this benefit. Up to 14,000 are economically inactive because they are sick or disabled, or have family or caring responsibilities. A higher proportion of females are inactive, with an estimated 1 in 5 inactive young women who are NEET caring for children and families

The Workstream team who developed the Employability Framework found that a short term NEET period is not the core problem that needed to be addressed, instead the focus should be on (a) either sustained NEET status over an extended period (with 3 months commonly cited as significant), or (b) frequent repetition of NEET status between short, episodic spells of labour market engagement. They found that

- In the UK as a whole 56% of those young people who were NEET in 2003 were still NEET in 2004. Of the others 14% had moved to further education, and 30% to jobs
- 48% of people who were 'inactive' in 2004, had been inactive the previous year.
- In Scotland of those that were in the NEET group in 2004, their status 12 months previously was: 12% in full time education; 34% jobs; 21% unemployed; and 32% economically inactive
- Of people unemployed in 2004, 27% had been unemployed, 26% in jobs and 26% in education in 2003

The Scottish School Leaver Surveys² (SSLS) suggest very significant fluctuations in NEET numbers during the year. The findings from the study indicated that the peak months were in the summer, shortly after people have left school, with the study indicating that 27% of school leavers were NEET. Between September and May the survey found that of their sample only 4% could still be seen as NEET (Anderson, et al. 2004)

The SLSS also found that over a 16 month period 36% of all young people may be NEET for some period of time. Whilst this suggests that over a third of young people may at one time or another be classed as NEET the majority of this group would appear to find work or college places relatively quickly. That said the study found that 7% of the 2003 survey group were NEET for 6 months or more. This figure was higher for women than men, but the researchers suggest that it is likely to be an underestimate because particularly disengaged young people may not have participated in the research process.

To illustrate what this may mean in Edinburgh we can apply these percentages to Edinburgh. Based on the population from the 2001 census³ we could see the NEET group increase to as many as 6,100 in the summer months and this may fall to around 1,000 during the winter (based on the 27% and 4% figures from the SLS). These are just indications and it is likely that the figures would be lower given seasonal work through tourism in Edinburgh and the impact of FE and HE in the city. In terms of long term NEET we estimate, using the SLS percentage, that around 1,600 young people in the NEET category in Edinburgh may have been NEET for 6 months or more. What we can

¹ Including the Scottish Executive Analytical Services reports, and the Scottish School Leavers survey

² This is a cohort study and the 2003 study sent 12,007 questionnaires to 16-17 year olds young people and 5,088 were completed and returned. All of the young people contacted were in their 4th year of secondary school in June 2002 (Anderson, et al , 2004)

³ The 2001 Census found that there were 22,772 young people aged between 16-19 in Edinburgh

say with certainty is that in 2004/05, 815 young people left Edinburgh schools and didn't find work or take up education or training places (see below).

The Workstream team found that whilst the snapshot number remains broadly static, the actual individuals within the group change at a rapid rate. They concluded that overall, a much better understanding of these NEET 'flow' issues is essential as this allows a better targeted policy response. To do this they did encounter significant limitations in terms of the information available and action on improving intelligence about the group itself was one of their key recommendations.

Practically and at a very broad level, three sub-categories of the NEET group are generally recognised:

- ***The hardest to help young people*** - with complex needs, which are often clearly defined and which require intensive levels of support
- ***An intermediate group of young people*** - the quietly disaffected, commonly with issues around motivation, confidence, and soft skills, and normally requiring more limited support
- ***The transition/gap year group*** - containing young people taking time out before progressing to a clearly defined further or higher education opportunity

Lack of data means that we can't accurately split the NEET group into these three categories, however we can make some estimates that may be useful until better data is available. Careers Scotland estimate that in their statistics the 'unemployed not seeking work' group is the one that contains transition or gap year young people. In Edinburgh of the 3,618 young people who left school in 2004/05 only 96 school leavers were in this category. Careers Scotland also suggest that the 'not known group will contain young people that are amongst the most difficult to assist and in Edinburgh as a whole 221 school leavers were recorded as destination not known.

The Workstream team found that the last group are recognised as not 'problematic' NEET, and policy and related interventions should focus on the first two categories. They also suggest that cutting across these general definitions is the need to understand the characteristics and categories of young people most likely to experience sustained and problematic NEET status. Evidence suggests that the two principle factors relating to the NEET group are:

- ***Disadvantage*** - young people from disadvantaged families, deprived communities, or from homes with at least one unemployed parent
- ***Educational disaffection*** - persistent truants or those excluded from school, young people with low attainment levels, and poor or no qualifications (Social Exclusion Unit, 1999)

NEET status is also closely aligned to a series of individual circumstances and barriers. Based on the available evidence, the Workstream group recommended that sub groups which should form the basis for targeted interventions include:

- ***Young people leaving care*** - who experience a very high incidence of NEET status, and for whom there is already a priority to improve NEET performance within Closing the Opportunity Gap. Across Scotland as a whole care leavers are estimated as 10% of the NEET group (Employability Framework for Scotland, 2005)
- ***Lone parents and other carers*** - including a high percentage of females who are NEET, and who will need specific types of interventions to reflect their caring

responsibilities. Scottish Executive figures estimate that 4,000 of the NEET group across the country are carers

- *Young people with a criminal record* - whilst no direct statistics are available cross referencing NEET status and crime, a high percentage of young offenders are of unemployed status when they appear in court.
- *Young people with physical and mental health problems* - Scottish Executive figures estimate that around 3,000 of the NEET group are inactive due to illness or disability.
- *Young people with persistent truancy records* - recognised as a key contributory factor in future NEET status, but no detailed figures on numbers are available
- *Young people with a history of drug and alcohol abuse* - a further well recognised issue contributing to NEET status, and likely to be linked to some of the health related problems noted above

And one which would appear to be relevant for all of the above.

- *Young people with low levels of qualifications* - suggested as SVQ level 2 or below. A characteristic of 80% of the NEET group

Given the well recognised incidence of multiple barriers to labour market engagement, it is likely that many of the young people targeted in this way will be in more than one of the above categories.

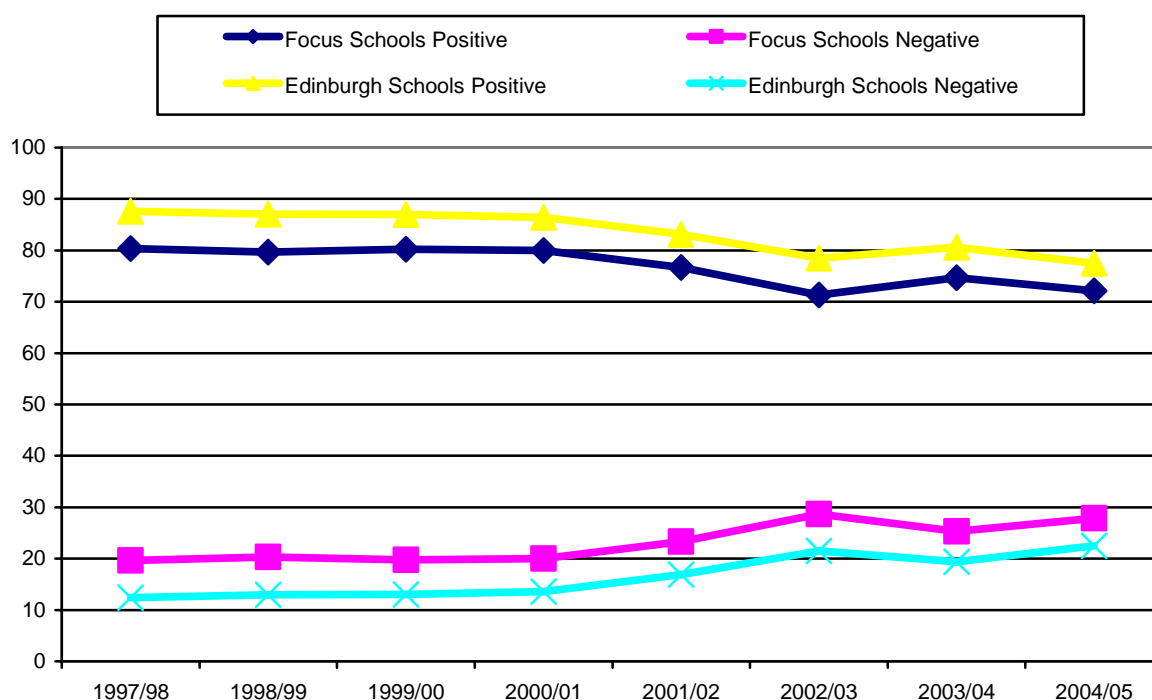
The Workstream study is very useful in highlighting the heterogeneous nature of the NEET groups, and suggesting an approach in which policies can be targeted at the group. Much of the discussion in their report focuses on the situation in Scotland as a whole, although they do look at how services may be delivered in a local area that could impact on this group. The reference for this report is given at the end of this paper.

The Situation in Edinburgh

School leaver data relates to the latest known destination of leavers in October. For example, a school leaver who left in June 2005 and travelled for several months but who is known to have taken up employment prior to October will be counted under 'employment'. If we accept that using school leaver destinations is a reasonable proxy very detailed information on the NEET group in the city is available. The figure below shows how school leaver destinations have changed over the last 8 years. It compares school leaver destinations from state schools in Edinburgh as a whole with data from those schools located within the focus wards⁴ for the ROA.

⁴ This information is not available at data zone level so is based on secondary schools situated in the 12 focus wards. These are: Castlebrae, Holyrood, Portobello, Craigroyston, Trinity, Gracemount and Wester Hailes Education Centre.

Figure 1 School Leaver Destinations



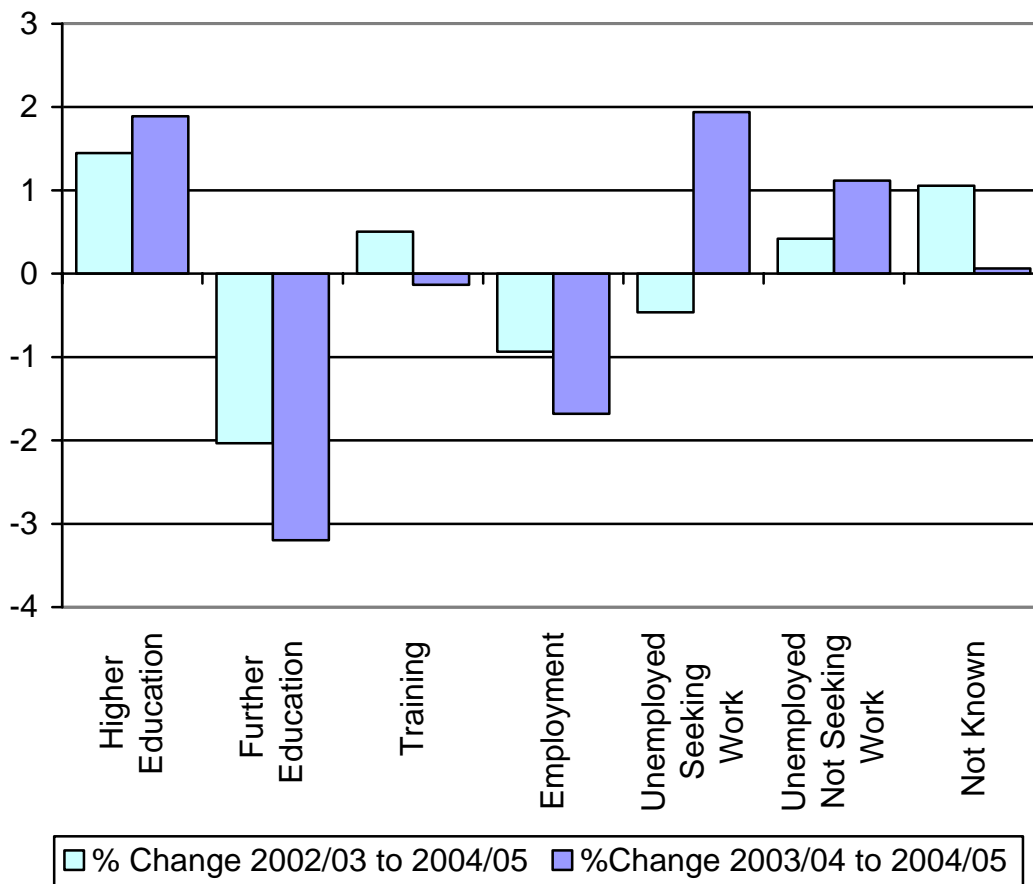
Source: Scottish Executive, December 2005

As can be seen from about 2000/01 onwards the proportion of pupils leaving school into ‘negative’ destinations has been increasing, whilst ‘positive’ destinations have been declining⁵. This is the case in schools in the city as a whole as well as the schools in the focus areas. There has been a decline in the positive destinations for both Edinburgh as a whole and for the focus schools – roughly around a 10 percentage point drop for both Edinburgh as a whole and the focus schools.

What we can see is that the increase in the NEET group of school leavers in Edinburgh is not wholly confined to the focus schools- it is something that is happening in all schools in the city. Also the fact that Scotland tops the OECD league in terms of the proportion of 16-19 year olds who are NEET (Employability Framework for Scotland, 2005), illustrates that it isn’t simply a problem in Edinburgh.

⁵ For the purposes of this discussion positive outcomes are seen as ones where an individual moves on to: Full time higher education; Full time further education; Training (Includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as Skillseekers, but who are not employed. It should be noted that a large proportion of leavers entering employment may also be participants in training such as Modern Apprenticeships); or Employment. By comparison negative destinations comprise: Unemployed and seeking employment and training; Unemployed and not seeking employment or training; and Unknown.

Figure 2 Percentage Change in School Leaver Destinations



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Source: Scottish Executive, December 2005

The chart above highlights the change in the percentage of school leavers leaving schools in the city as a whole in terms of their destination. The time period for comparison is 2002/03 through to 2004/05. Prior to this date the data was collated and presented differently - the unemployed seeking work, unemployed not seeking work and not known were classed together as 'other'.

Looking at the positive movements first, we can see that across the city as a whole the proportion of school leavers going onto higher education has increased, as has the proportion going onto training. Also positive is the fact that the proportion of school leavers who are unemployed and seeking work has fallen by about -0.5% since 2002/03.

More worrying are the negative trends. We can see that the proportion going on to further education has fallen by almost 2%, whilst those into employment has fallen by almost 1%. The proportion who are unemployed and not seeking work has increased by 0.5% across the city as a whole and we can also see that the increase in pupils leaving school and their destination isn't known is has also increased in a number of schools. Could this increase be caused by more students taking gap years? If so does this mean that the increase is a result of an increase in the transition, gap year group- the group that the Workstream report recognised as being non-problematic NEET? Careers Scotland think that this is **unlikely and** suggest that they are aware of students who have taken a gap year prior to going to college (they get information on University places from the schools) and when this is the case the young person is classed in the HE destination. This

report has already referred to the fact that where this isn't the case, and a young person is taking time out before entering employment or applying for college, it is usually shown in the 'unemployed not seeking work category'. There may well be some individuals who slip through the net, but careers Scotland suggest that it would be rare for students on gap years or are off travelling to be recorded as destination not known. We shouldn't therefore assume that the 'not known' group is therefore made up of less 'problematic' NEET. In fact the opposite may be the case as it may not only contain young people who face all the barriers described by the Workstream group above, it will also have the added difficulty of being difficult to reach – by virtue of its destination being not known.

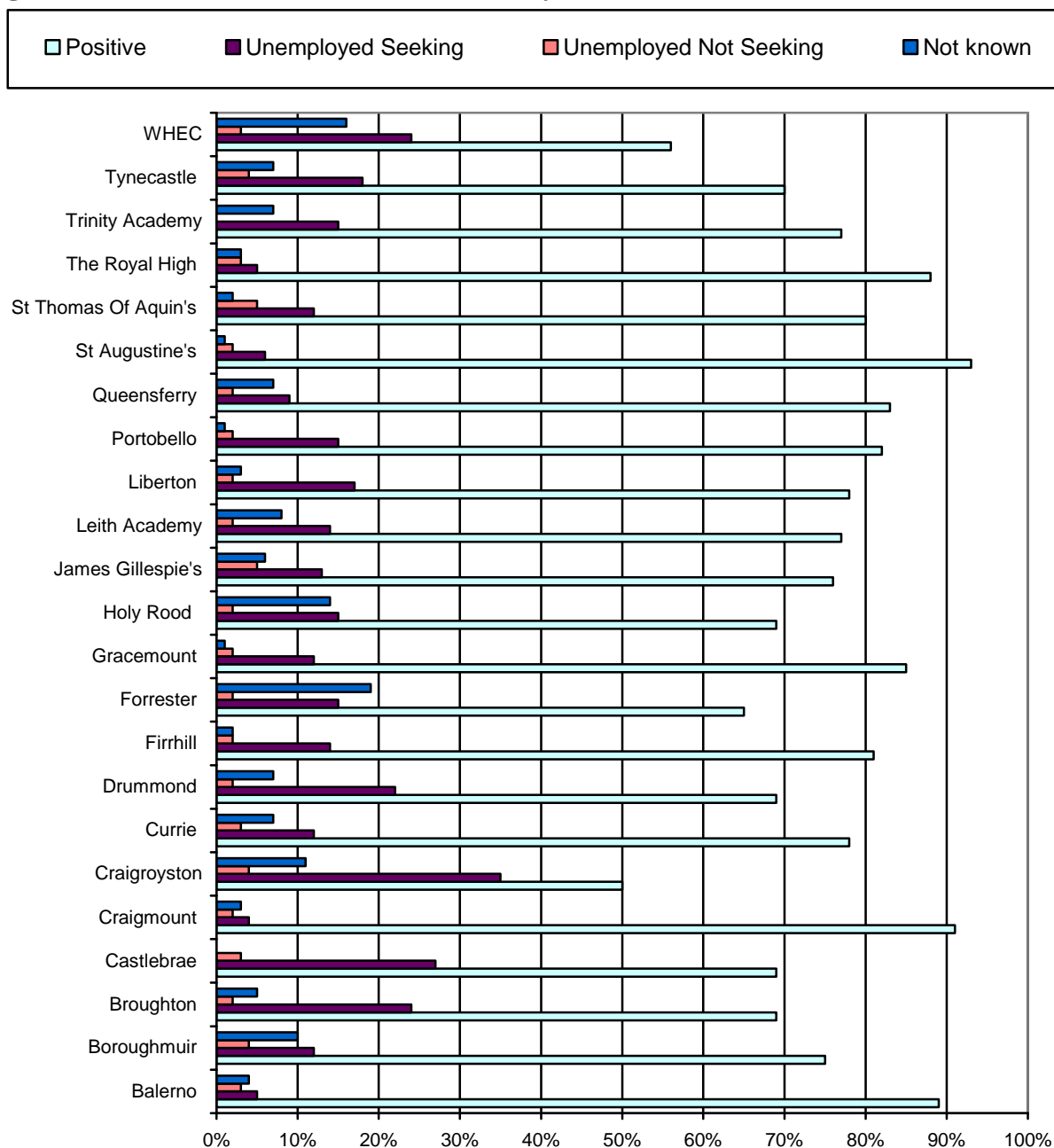
Table 1 Percentage Change in School Leaver Destinations 2002/03- 2004/05

High School	Unemployed Seeking Emp	Unemployed Not Seeking Emp	N/K
Balerno	-2.6	-0.1	3.0
Boroughmuir	3.7	2.8	10.0
Broughton	12.2	0.1	-2.4
Castlebrae	-2.1	1.0	-1.2
Craigmount	-5.2	1.8	-5.1
Craigroyston	10.8	-3.6	2.8
Currie	4.1	1.2	6.7
Drummond	1.6	-0.2	0.5
Firrhill	3.9	1.5	2.2
Forrester	-8.8	1.1	7.4
Gracemount	2.6	-1.0	-1.0
Holy Rood	-8.8	1.8	4.4
James Gillespie's	1.5	-0.7	-0.2
Leith Academy	3.9	-1.6	1.7
Liberton	-3.2	0.7	1.3
Portobello	2.0	-0.8	-9.5
Queensferry	-5.3	1.0	3.4
The Royal	-3.1	-1.4	-6.0
St Augustine's	4.2	1.9	-1.4
St Thomas Of Aquin's.	-3.9	2.5	-2.1
Trinity Academy	-1.7	0.0	2.9
Tynecastle	-6.3	0.7	4.3
WHEC	-3.5	1.5	11.3

The table presents the change in percent of school leavers between 2002/03 and 2004/05. Although schools in the deprived areas feature, it is not simply a situation in these schools, and it also is affecting schools such as Boroughmuir and Currie.

The chart below highlights the destination of school leavers by school. It's presented as proportions of leavers from a school and refers to the situation in 2004/05. Positive destinations include FE, HE, Training or employment, these have been combined as putting all of these on the graph makes it difficult to interpret.

Figure 3 2004/05 School Leaver Destinations by School (%)



Source: Scottish Executive, December 2005

It can be seen that for all schools the majority of pupils leave to one of the positive destinations- this is highest for St Augustine's 93% and lowest for Craigroyston at 50%. What should be taken from this is the proportion leaving school to 'negative destinations. Of these the least problematic, as it were are, unemployed not seeking employment. According to Careers Scotland these tend to be made up of school leavers who are taking time out before going to college- gap year students. What should be looked at are those that leave school and become unemployed and are seeking work - 5 schools had over 20% of school leavers in 2004/5 in this category whilst another 12 had over 10% of leavers becoming unemployed and seeking work.

Surveys

The Viewfinder study, which surveyed 5,728 young people aged between 11-21 years of age in 2004, found that 27% of young respondents from across Edinburgh were worried about getting a job or had concerns about the job that they already had. There was a clear demand amongst those that responded for - more opportunities for work experience (76%) and - more training at schools on the skills that employers look for (66%). Over half (52%) said that they would find it useful to have more information on jobs and careers (MORI, 2005). The study found that young people who responded and were in the NEET group were more likely to disagree that they learnt a lot at school than young people generally. This seems to support the assertion made earlier that the NEET group consists of a higher proportion of people who didn't achieve from their educational experience – higher levels of truants and lower qualifications. There are many factors which affect a young person's engagement with the education system. Overall children from poorer households are more likely to feel less engaged with education and as a result are less likely to achieve their potential. This is due to a wide range of factors which can include low parental qualifications and aspirations; a culture of worklessness; poor health and inadequate housing.

The LLMU study carried out in 2004 interviewed 169 people in Lothian who were in the NEET group. They found that since the majority of this group have insufficient qualifications to enter standard Higher National college courses, or university degree-level study, they are likely to confront fewer school to work transition options than their school leaver cohort. They also found that in a competitive labour market, and given the potential for raised qualification requirements of many jobs, a lack of qualifications imposes an immediate barrier to entering some traditional forms of employment for many young people.

Less than half of those interviewed considered that their proficiency in English, numbers, and information technology was "good". One in seven of the group considered he/she needed help with English, while one in eight felt they needed help with numbers. More importantly from the point of view of being able to compete in an increasingly technological and knowledge based economy, one quarter of the group considered they needed help to improve their proficiency in information technology. In terms of their soft skills, the group considered themselves to be competent in working with others and in communications – although only 40% considered themselves to be competent in problem solving. (LLMU, 2004)

Projects Being Delivered

Practically to tackle the increase in the NEET group in Edinburgh in 2006/07 there are a number of initiatives that focus on young people and school leavers.

Activate is an employability programme delivered by Careers Scotland staff to pupils who are in their last school term and are in danger of disengaging. The Activate Programme runs in 8 Edinburgh Secondary Schools, six of which are part-funded by Capital City Partnership, involving about 120 pupils annually. The most recent figures show that 88% of participants entered a positive destination (employment, training or FE).

Worknet is a motivational programme designed to help participants who have difficulties gaining and sustaining a job. Part-funded by ESF, 6 Worknet programmes will be

delivered by Careers Scotland in Edinburgh over the coming year reaching approximately 50 NEET young people.

Key Worker Service is a core service of Careers Scotland which provides one to one intensive employability support for in excess of 200 of the 'hardest to help' NEET young people each year.

In 2005 Edinburgh delivered a Gallery 37 programme. This approach which was developed in Chicago aims to work with young people who may for one reason or another have not reached their full potential at school or since leaving school. It worked intensively with 22 young people over the course of four weeks using arts as the medium. In the first year the project has been very successful with 68% of participants completing the programme, and of these 86% reporting a positive outcome in terms of education, employment or training in the six months following the programme. The intention is to run the program again in 2006

Another project to try and get more 16-19 year olds into employment, education or training, has been developed in South Edinburgh. Here a Partnership between the Council- in the form of Gracemount High School-, the employment academies collective, Careers Scotland and NHS Lothian has led to the creation of the JET programme. The aim of this programme is to connect schools and employers – providing all students with relevant learning experiences, marketable skills and qualifications (academic and vocational). It is due to start August 2006 and will be offered to 25 S4 pupils, who will attend the Edinburgh Employment and Training Academy for a half day a week and will undertake a work experience placement one full day per week. The programme will run over the whole academic year. As can be seen in Figure 3 above Gracemount is one of the 11 schools that have seen an increase in the number of its school leavers who have been leaving school into unemployment. Research shows that we can identify those young people in the school system who are most at risk of becoming NEET through indicators of attendance, behaviour and attainment (Croxford and Raffe, 2000 and SEU, 1999). Capital City Partnership have funded a development officer to look at the approach being planned and piloted in South Edinburgh with a view to delivering similar programmes in other schools in the city.

A complementary program has developed through the Youth Strategy for Edinburgh. An Action Plan was agreed in March 2006 that has helped develop an employment strategy for young people. The intention is that this will result in additional support being made available for young people leaving school who have additional needs- one of the groups identified in the Workstream paper on Employability. It will also improve arrangements for work placements, to allow young people to gain more work experience- something asked for in the Viewfinder survey. In practice this means that the council have agreed to provide 10% of the placements needed by schools in their various departments. In total the intention is that by the start of the school year 2007/08 there will be 320 placements available.

Both this and the JET programme should ensure that young people gain valuable employment experience before leaving school. The aim is that this should contribute to the reduction in the number of young people in the NEET group. It should be pointed out that a range of other projects throughout the city are also focusing on this group. For instance in North Edinburgh the Pilton Youth and Children Project (CRF funded) worked with 24 school leavers in 2005/06 to help give employment and housing advice.

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Appendixes

SEE&L Response

16-19 YEAR OLD UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS

Thank you for the opportunity to feed in our views and opinions on the issues surrounding the increasing numbers of 16-19 year olds in Edinburgh who are unemployed. Gaining an understanding of the complexity of the causes of youth unemployment and the associated impact it can have on the individual and on the economy as a whole is of the utmost importance.

Statistics produced by Careers Scotland on a monthly basis demonstrate that the number of unemployed young people can fluctuate dramatically month by month with peak figures being reached during the months following school leaving dates (June/July and January/February) and dropping to their lowest levels during the months immediately prior to this (April/May and November/December). A large proportion of people in the NEET category are relatively short term unemployed and progress onto a positive destination within 6 months of leaving school. The young people facing significant problems are those in the 'sustained NEET' group who tend to leave school without the required standards of numeracy, literacy and core skill abilities. Figures from Careers Scotland, from April 2001, demonstrate that City of Edinburgh monthly unemployment figures through 2004 and 2005 were consistently lower in comparison to figures from the same month in the previous year. The variances were not dramatic but do suggest that the upward trend in numbers of unemployed young people in Edinburgh are levelling. The figures used in these reports do not count the number of individuals leaving private Schools.

As I stated in my previous note to you earlier this week, it should be noted that Careers Scotland figures exclude private school data. Edinburgh has a disproportionately high number of secondary school pupils at private schools – around 25% of total secondary population - with 85% of these school leavers moving onto full time higher education. Although private school leavers do not contribute significantly to recorded NEET numbers, by considering those from private schools in the overall leavers figures, the relative percentage of those leaving school and moving into the NEET group would reduce to give a more accurate reflection of the position in Edinburgh overall.

The labour market in Edinburgh has witnessed significant changes over the years which also impacts on the opportunities for young people to access employment and training initiatives. Over the years the number of people travelling into Edinburgh for work from surrounding areas has increased, thus creating increased competition in the labour market. Similarly there is fierce competition to school leaver job applicants from an increased number of migrant workers who are able, reliable and happy to fill entry level jobs that potentially would otherwise have been open to school leavers. Feedback from training providers of the GRFW programme and our experience in dealing with this client group suggests that it is often the perception of young people that many entry level jobs open to school leavers with low level qualifications are not attractive in terms of the type of work or the wages being offered. However, although Edinburgh enjoys a very buoyant labour market there is anecdotal evidence - mainly from Careers Scotland - that suggests that many of the employment opportunities available in Edinburgh are not suited to/ being tailored to suit school leavers, especially those with no or low level qualifications. You will be aware that Futureskills Scotland undertakes regular surveys of employers and has asked questions regarding their attitudes to the recruitment of young people. From these surveys, there is certainly a much more positive attitude to the recruitment of college and university graduates in comparison to school leavers, due in the main, to the perceived lack of core skills and motivation within the school leaving client group. Perhaps a concerted positive campaign of selling young people to employers could help address this.

The 16-18 year old age group remains a priority for the Scottish Enterprise National Training Programmes. Over the past 4 to 5 years the focus of Scottish Enterprise Training Programmes

has been to increase modern apprenticeship participation and achievement. The focus on MA delivery has increased due to the requirements of the labour market in Edinburgh and Lothian and our commitment to Get Ready for Work clients has remained constant. The number of non-employed Skillseeker places have reduced over the same period reflecting the fact that employers are looking for staff who will be employed and participate in training from day 1.

There are also a number of anecdotal issues that may be contributing to the levels of unemployed 16-19 year olds in the city. With the comparatively high levels of employment young people may be experiencing less pressure or encouragement from parents to immediately move into further learning or employment and instead being provided with more time to consider their options and plan for their future activities before committing. The increasing numbers amongst this group taking a gap year – whether this means travelling, participating in voluntary work or simply taking a year out before thinking about university or college has the potential to impact on the unemployment figures. Furthermore the Lothian Labour Market Unit report on the destination of school leavers, produced in 2004, shows that absolute numbers of 16/17 year olds has been increasing since 2000/2001 and as a result will have an impact on the overall number of school leavers and also young people who are unemployed as their first destination upon leaving school.

For Scottish Enterprise, young people in the NEET group continue to be a concern and a priority. Our Modern Apprenticeship, Skillseeker and GRFW programmes will continue to be the vehicles that we use to help address the issue of youth unemployment / disengagement. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues in Careers Scotland and target our resources at the NEET group to maximise the impact we make on the reducing relative and absolute NEET numbers by focusing the Get Ready for Work programme on linking young people with the opportunities within the job market. We look forward to working with partners like Capital City Partnership to do so.

*may wish to append the table?

Point made by Careers Scotland

Careers Scotland considered that the response from SEE&L did not accurately reflect the difference between the CSMR forms and school leaver destination statistics. They also felt that it was important to contrast Edinburgh with Scotland; in as much that Edinburgh has a higher ratio of school leavers entering employment than Scotland but a lower level entering education.

Qualifications and Outcomes of Schools in Edinburgh

2002/03

	Leavers	School Leavers with 5+ SCQF level 3 or better*	HE	FE	TRAIN	EMP	OTHERS (unemployed)	NK
Edinburgh	3,584	3,287 (91.7%)	1,012 (28.2%)	689 (19%)	77 (2.1%)	1,035 (28.9%)	590 (16%)	181 (5.1%)
Castlebrae	82	51 (62.2%)	1 (1.2%)	13 (16%)	13 (16%)	28 (34.2%)	26 (32%)	1 (1.2%)
Craigroyston	115	85 (73.9%)	3 (2.6%)	26 (23%)	2 (1.7%)	38 (33%)	37 (32%)	9 (7.8%)
Gracemount	94	83 (88.3%)	17 (18.1%)	16 (17%)	3 (3.2%)	44 (46.8%)	12 (13%)	2 (2.1%)
Holy Rood	184	144 (78.3%)	44 (23.9%)	33 (18%)	7 (3.8%)	38 (20.7%)	45 (24%)	17 (9.2%)
Leith	185	166 (89.7%)	33 (17.8%)	30 (16%)	3 (1.6%)	83 (44.9%)	24 (13%)	12 (6.5%)
WHEC	105	74 (70.5%)	5 (4.8%)	22 (21%)	7 (6.7%)	35 (33.3%)	31 (30%)	5 (4.8%)
Balerno	162	156 (96.3%)	68 (42%)	29 (18%)	3 (1.9%)	44 (27.2%)	17 (10%)	1 (0.6%)
Boroughmuir	189	182 (96.3%)	110 (58.2%)	26 (14%)	1 (0.5%)	35 (18.5%)	17 (9%)	0
Broughton**	221	181 (81.9%)	54 (24.4%)	50 (23%)	2 (0.9%)	68 (30.8%)	31 (14%)	16 (7.2%)
Craigmount	170	160 (94.1%)	62 (36.5%)	48 (28%)	0	31 (18.2%)	26 (8.8%)	14 (8.2%)
Currie	158	155 (98.1%)	77 (48.7%)	24 (15%)	1 (0.6%)	40 (25.3%)	16 (10%)	0
Drummond	90	75 (83.3%)	11 (12.2%)	21 (23%)	6 (6.7%)	26 (28.9%)	20 (22%)	6 (6.7%)
Firrhill	149	139 (93.3%)	59 (39.6%)	36 (24%)	2 (1.3%)	36 (24.2%)	16 (11%)	0
Forrester	115	111 (96.5%)	15 (13%)	21 (18%)	3 (2.6%)	35 (30.4%)	28 (24%)	13 (11%)
Gillespie's	156	153 (98.1%)	78 (50%)	20 (13%)	1 (0.6%)	21 (13.5%)	27 (17%)	9 (5.8%)
Liberton	165	141 (85.5%)	16 (9.7%)	46 (28%)	3 (1.8%)	61 (37%)	36 (22%)	3 (1.8%)
Portobello**	279	250 (89.6%)	76 (27.2%)	30 (11%)	6 (2.2%)	92 (33%)	45 (16%)	30 (11%)
Queensferry	144	134 (93.1%)	41 (28.5%)	30 (21%)	0	47 (32.6%)	21 (15%)	5 (3.5%)
Royal High	199	184 (92.5%)	81 (40.7%)	36 (18%)	4 (2%)	41 (20.6%)	24 (12%)	13 (6.5%)
St Augustine	168	161 (95.8%)	42 (25%)	45 (27%)	2 (1.2%)	54 (32.1%)	19 (11%)	6 (3.6%)
St Thomas	121	107 (88.4%)	40 (33.1%)	27 (22%)	1 (0.8%)	35 (28.9%)	12 (9.9%)	6 (5%)
Trinity	198	168 (84.8%)	58 (29.3%)	33 (17%)	6 (3%)	58 (29.3%)	34 (17%)	9 (4.5%)
Tynecastle	135	113 (83.7%)	21 (15.6%)	27 (20%)	1 (0.7%)	45 (33.3%)	37 (27%)	4 (3%)

* Not reliable ** Children from focus areas attend in large numbers

2004/05

	Leavers	School Leavers with 5+ SCQF level 3 or better*	HE	FE	TRAIN	EMP	OTHERS (unemployed)	NK
Edinburgh	3,618	2,864 (79.2%)	1,074 (29.7%)	622 (17%)	96 (2.7%)	1,011 (27.9%)	594 (16%)	221 (6.1%)
Castlebrae	59	32 (54.2%)	4 (6.8%)	15 (25%)	5 (8.5%)	17 (28.8%)	18 (31%)	0
Craigroyston	94	55 (58.5%)	4 (4.3%)	20 (21%)	5 (5.3%)	18 (19.2%)	37 (39%)	10 (11%)
Gracemount	90	75 (83.3%)	22 (24.4%)	19 (21%)	5 (5.6%)	30 (33.3%)	13 (14%)	1 (1.1%)
Holy Rood	212	180 (84.9%)	50 (23.6%)	26 (12%)	1 (0.5%)	69 (32.6%)	37 (17%)	29 (14%)
Leith	183	162 (88.5%)	41 (22.4%)	38 (21%)	12 (6.6%)	49 (26.8%)	28 (15%)	15 (8.2%)
WHEC	87	57 (65.5%)	2 (2.3%)	20 (23%)	4 (4.6%)	23 (26.4%)	24 (28%)	14 (16%)
Balerno	168	160 (95.2%)	76 (45.2%)	29 (17%)	3 (1.8%)	41 (24.4%)	13 (7.7%)	6 (3.6%)
Boroughmuir	180	162 (90%)	77 (42.8%)	27 (15%)	2 (1.1%)	28 (15.6%)	28 (16%)	18 (10%)
Broughton**	205	183 (89.3%)	38 (18.5%)	43 (21%)	5 (2.4%)	55 (26.8%)	54 (26%)	10 (4.9%)
Craigmount	220	204 (92.7%)	78 (35.5%)	30 (14%)	2 (0.9%)	91 (41.4%)	12 (5.5%)	7 (3.2%)
Currie	195	160 (82.3%)	74 (38%)	30 (15%)	4 (2.1%)	44 (22.6%)	30 (15%)	13 (6.7%)
Drummond	97	70 (72.2%)	22 (22.7%)	22 (23%)	5 (5.2%)	18 (18.6%)	23 (24%)	7 (7.2%)
Firrhill	136	127 (93.4%)	57 (41.9%)	18 (13%)	3 (2.2%)	33 (24.3%)	22 (16%)	3 (2.2%)
Forrester	150	117 (78%)	23 (15.3%)	24 (16%)	1 (0.7%)	49 (32.7%)	25 (17%)	28 (19%)
Gillespie's	215	174 (80.9%)	72 (33.5%)	37 (17%)	3 (1.4%)	52 (24.2%)	39 (18%)	12 (5.6%)
Liberton	161	115 (71.4%)	25 (15.5%)	36 (22%)	11 (6.8%)	53 (32.9%)	31 (19%)	5 (3.1%)
Portobello**	249	221 (88.8%)	79 (31.7%)	35 (14%)	8 (3.2%)	81 (32.5%)	43 (17%)	3 (1.2%)
Queensferry	117	105 (89.7%)	39 (33.3%)	23 (20%)	0	35 (29.9%)	12 (10%)	8 (6.8%)
Royal High	210	190 (90.5%)	104 (49.5%)	34 (16%)	3 (1.4%)	45 (21.4%)	18 (8.6%)	6 (2.9%)
St Augustine	185	165 (89.2%)	61 (32.9%)	38 (21%)	7 (3.8%)	64 (34.6%)	14 (7.6%)	1 (0.5%)
St Thomas	92	88 (95.7%)	46 (50%)	14 (15%)	0	14 (15.2%)	16 (17%)	2 (2.2%)
Trinity	175	153 (87.4%)	48 (27.4%)	23 (13%)	4 (2.3%)	60 (34.3%)	27 (15%)	13 (7.4%)
Tynecastle	138	123 (89.1%)	32 (23.2%)	21 (15%)	3 (2.2%)	42 (30.4%)	30 (22%)	10 (7.2%)

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Change between 2002/03 – 2004/05

	Leavers	School Leavers with 5+ SCQF level 3 or better*	HE	FE	TRAIN	EMP	OTHERS (unemployed)	NK
Edinburgh	+34	-12.5%	+1.5%	-2%	+0.6%	-1%	-	+1%
Castlebrae	-23	-8%	+5.6%	+9%	-7.5%	-5.4%	-1%	-1.2%
Craigroyston	-21	-15.4%	+1.7%	-2%	+3.6%	-13.8%	+7%	+3.2%
Gracemount	-4	-5%	+6.3%	+4%	+2.4%	-13.5%	+1%	-1%
Holy Rood	+28	+6.6%	-0.3%	-6%	-3.3%	+11.9%	-7%	+4.8%
Leith	-2	-1.2%	+4.6%	+5%	+5%	-18.1%	+2%	+1.7%
WHEC	-18	-5%	-2.5%	+2%	-2.1%	-6.9%	-2%	+11.2%
Balerno	+6	-1.1%	+3.2%	-1%	-0.1%	-2.8%	-2.3%	+3%
Boroughmuir	-9	-6.3%	-15.4%	+1%	+0.6%	-2.9%	+7%	+10%
Broughton**	-16	+7.4%	-5.9%	-2%	+1.5%	-4%	+12%	-2.3%
Craigmount	+50	-1.4%	-1%	-14%	+0.9%	+23.2%	-3.3%	-5%
Currie	+37	-15.8%	-10.7%	-	+1.5%	-2.7%	+5%	+6.7%
Drummond	+7	-11.1%	+10.5%	-	-1.5%	-10.3%	+2%	+0.5%
Firrhill	-13	+0.1%	+2.3%	-11%	+0.9%	+0.1%	+5%	+2.2%
Forrester	+35	-18.5%	+2.3%	-2%	-1.9%	+2.3%	-7%	+7%
Gillespie's	+59	-17.2%	-16.5%	+4%	+0.8%	+10.7%	+1%	-0.2%
Liberton	-4	-14.1%	+5.8%	-6%	+5%	-4.1%	-3%	+1.3%
Portobello**	-30	-0.8%	+4.5%	+3%	+1%	-0.5%	+1%	-9.8%
Queensferry	-27	-3.4%	+4.8%	-1%	-	-2.7%	-5%	+3.3%
Royal High	+11	-2%	+8.8%	-2%	-0.6%	+0.8%	-3.4%	-3.6%
St Augustine	+17	-6.6%	+7.9%	-6%	+2.6%	+2.5%	-3.4%	-3.1%
St Thomas	-29	+7.3%	+16.9%	-7%	-0.8%	-13.7%	+7.1%	-2.8%
Trinity	-23	+2.6%	-1.9%	-4%	-0.7%	+5%	-2%	+2.9%
Tynecastle	+3	+5.4%	+7.6%	-5%	+1.5%	-2.9%	-5%	+4.2%

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