

South East Scotland Academies Partnership**Report by Mary Smith, Director of Education, Communities and Economy****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the South East Scotland Academies Partnership and to advise of the involvement of Midlothian Council High School students.

2 South East Scotland Academies Partnership**2.1 Background**

The South East Scotland Academies Partnership (SESAP) has developed four pioneering academies for senior school pupils within East Lothian, Midlothian, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders Council areas which maximise educational opportunities and develop transferable skills. The academies aim to smooth the transition between school, college, university and employment, and to support the development of Scotland's key growth industries.

The four academies established by the Partnership are:-

- The Hospitality and Tourism Academy
- The Food, Science and Nutrition Academy
- The Health and Social Care Academy
- The Creative Industries Academy

The South East Scotland Academies Partnership is led by Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College in collaboration with East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, Scottish Borders Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Borders College and key industry partners.

The South East Scotland Academies Partnership was expanded following a highly successful initial collaboration between Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and East Lothian Council which, in 2012, launched the East Lothian Hospitality and Tourism Academy.

Initially involving three local secondary schools, the East Lothian Hospitality and Tourism Academy not only helped to provide skills development opportunities for young people, it also aimed to raise standards within Scotland's hospitality and tourism industry. The partnership between the schools, the college and the local authority was recognised by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding

Council. This cumulated in the academy model being recognised as an initiative that delivers real solutions for Scotland's young people.

Building on the success of the initial award-winning partnership with East Lothian Council, funding from the Scottish Funding Council has enabled Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College to develop and offer three new academies to all schools within East Lothian and to offer places to suitable students from Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders Council areas.

The South East Scotland Academies Partnership is also supported by a range of committed industry partners which provide academy students with an insight into various industries.

In some academies, industry partners also offer work placement opportunities providing young people with vital hands-on practical experience.

All organisations involved in the South East Scotland Academies Partnership are totally committed to its success and to its mission of helping Scotland's young people secure promising futures.

A report to Council on 25 June 2013 entitled Positive Destinations by the Chief Executive outlined the actions being taken by the Council to improve positive destinations of school leavers across Midlothian. The development of the academies model is one facet of the Council's overall approach to improving positive destinations for young people across the Council area.

2.2 Academies

[A] HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM ACADEMY

Presently the Hospitality and Tourism sector in Scotland employs 203,000 people across 16,400 premises and this number is expected to increase by 14,800 jobs over the next four years.

As a major industry sector Hospitality and Tourism employs one job in every 13 in Scotland.

Subject areas studied

YEAR 1

REHIS Elementary Hygiene

Skills for work intermediate 2 in hospitality

Practical cooking and food service modules from the HNC Hospitality course

YEAR 2 – Modules include supervision, managing hospitality organisations, marketing and intermediate hygiene. Students who successfully complete Year 2 achieve an HNC in Hospitality.

Jobs available in Hospitality and Tourism

Hospitality and tourism provides a wide variety of jobs in areas such as hotel and restaurant management, customer services, tourism visitor attractions, marketing and public relations, human resources and events organisation and management. Opportunities exist in the UK, Scotland and the industry also offers many possibilities for travel and employment abroad.

[B] FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION ACADEMY

Scotland is known worldwide for its high-quality food and drink. The industry employs more than 330,000 people with 50,000 involved in food manufacturing alone. This is the largest manufacturing sector in Scotland. Accordingly a large number of talented young people are required to support this important and developing sector.

The industry is one of seven key growth sectors identified by the Scottish Government as having the potential to increase Scotland's rate of economic growth. Currently, it has a turnover of £12.4bn per year. However, there is currently a shortage of skilled people needed to work in the industry.

Subject areas studied

Year 1 – National Progression Award in Laboratory Science. This involves developing practical science skills while studying chemistry, maths, microbiology and health and safety.

Year 2 – Higher National Certificate in Applied Sciences. This year involves studying Chemistry, cell biology, microbiology, statistics, IT and the completion of a research project.

Jobs available in Food and Drink industry

Food scientists not only develop new food products and ways to manufacture and transport food, but also are involved in food safety, quality assurance, food preservation, labelling, and the creation of new food products. Career choices in the industry are varied.

[C] HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACADEMY

With more than 300 different types of job in the healthcare sector alone, a career in health and social care can be challenging, and rewarding. Scotland's health and social care sector is one of the country's biggest employers and it relies on individuals who are passionate about working with others to support the country's health and wellbeing.

In addition to the hospital environment, there are many community-based jobs including health visitors, childcare specialists and support workers. Opportunities exist to work in private practice e.g. small

physiotherapy clinics, podiatry clinics or care homes. Opportunities are also available within the voluntary sector e.g. Children's charities, international aid agencies and organisations caring for the elderly.

Subject areas studied

The qualifications on offer are National 4 or 5 in Care leading to a Higher in Health and Social Care. Delivery is flexible and participants can access the course that most suits their interest, needs and other priorities.

Jobs available in Health and Social Care

Career choices in the health and social care sector are vast and cover many different areas of hospital work, community work, administration and management. Examples of job opportunities include: audiologist, mental health worker, pharmacist, occupational therapist, trainer, support worker, dental nurse, midwife, nurse, medical secretary, counsellor, health promotion officer, ambulance driver, health visitor, music therapist, radiographer, paramedic, podiatrist, dietician, or chiropractor.

[D] CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ACADEMY

Scotland's arts and creative industries sector is a major industry. It is estimated to be worth up to £3.2 billion a year to the Scottish economy and employs up to 130,000 people based on a report by Creative Scotland and Scottish Enterprise. It has been selected by the Scottish Government as an area that has the potential to substantially grow and provide further jobs in the future.

Subject areas studied

Media and Communication (HNC – SCQF level 7)

Year 1

Photography: An Introduction
Creative Industries: An Introduction
Writing for the Media

Year 2

Personal Development Planning
Complex Oral Presentation
The Media: Features and Trends
English Language Skills: Correcting Creative Text
Law and the Media
Research Skills
Creative Industries: Graded Unit project
Video Production
Narrative in Fiction and Film
Public Relations: Principles and Practice

Jobs available in Creative Industries

TV, film, performing arts, music, software, fashion, costume design, set design, and digital services are all sectors of interest that involve the creative industries. Further creative industries career choices include, copywriter, photographer, journalist, multimedia designer or games designer, or being involved in either theatre or filmmaking.

2.3 Midlothian Council Student Participation

The following table details the Midlothian Council students who attended the Academies in 2013

School	Hospitality Tourism	Food Science Nutrition	Health Social Care	Creative Industries	TOTAL
Beeslack High	0	0	2	0	2
Dalkeith High	0	0	0	0	0
Lasswade High	0	0	0	0	0
Newbattle High	0	0	0	0	0
Penicuik High	2	0	6	0	8
St David's High	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	8	0	10

The following table details the Midlothian Council students who are attending the Academies as at Monday 25 August 2014

School	Hospitality Tourism	Food Science Nutrition	Health Social Care	Creative Industries	TOTAL
Beeslack High	0	7	1	8	16
Dalkeith High	4	0	1	3	8
Lasswade High	3	3	8	2	16
Newbattle High	4	3	12	3	22
Penicuik High	1	0	10	3	14
St David's High	1	0	6	6	13
TOTAL	13	13	42	29	89

As outlined in the tables above the participation by Midlothian students has increased significantly year on year.

Midlothian schools have worked closely with Edinburgh College and Queen Margaret University to harmonise timetables and to agree the academy programmes. School guidance and pupil support staff promoted the academies with students and their parents as well as helping and supporting young people to prepare for selection interviews. Almost 150 Midlothian students applied for places on the various academy courses, and 89 were offered places as detailed in the table above.

2.4 Transport Co-ordination

To facilitate transport for students across the South East of Scotland area, mainly from East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas to;

- Queen Margaret University
- Edinburgh College
- Borders College

A transportation group has been established involving the following officers:-

- John Blair, Director Resources, Midlothian Council (Chair)
- Andrew McLellan, Transport Officer, East Lothian Council
- Karl Vanters, Principal Officer – Public Transport, Midlothian Council
- Alan Gilloran, Deputy Principal, Queen Margaret University,
- Richard Butt, Dean of School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management Executive, Queen Margaret University
- Wendy Stewart, Academies Administrative Officer, Queen Margaret University
- Christina Port, Assistant Director, Estates and Facilities, Queen Margaret University
- Gordon Smith, Public Transport Officer, Scottish Borders Council

The purpose and remit of the group is to examine existing transport options and to increase the access ability to University and colleges by students.

Public transport has been used where possible for Midlothian students, supported by the pre-purchase of DAYtickets from Lothian Buses which has been facilitated by the Council's Travel Team. Daytime frequencies of relevant bus routes in Midlothian are within two to six buses an hour. Students travelling to/from academies are 15 years of age or older and capable of travelling by bus without supervision.

Exceptions to travel by scheduled bus services include:-

- Too many students travelling the same route at the same time would overwhelm the normal service bus and inconvenience other regular passengers in such situations. Charter hire coach[es] are arranged instead.
- More than one change between buses to complete the journey. Private transport arranged via coach or taxi.
- Sighthill Campus, part of Edinburgh College can only be reached by bus via Edinburgh City centre. A charter hire coach uses the quicker A720 City Bypass to reach West Edinburgh.
- Buses outwith daytime frequencies [generally between 0730 and 1830] will be less frequent than during the day and can involve a substantial wait for the next service. Classes finishing after 1800 utilise private transport via coach or taxi.

- Where private transport has been arranged, any spare capacity arising are utilised and allocated to students who might otherwise have travelled by scheduled bus.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The principal issues associated with encouraging uptake by Midlothian students to register for the academies is, officer time in developing suitable transportation arrangements which coincide with school and university/college timescales.

The cost of transport to the academies amounts approximately to £28,000 in 2014/15 and is provided for in the budget for Schools Devolved Curricular Transport. In 2015/16 the full year cost will be £34,000 and will be provided for in the above budget. This may vary depending on the number of students attending the Academies.

3.2 Risk

The Community Planning Partnership has identified positive destinations as one of the three main priorities for the Council. The challenge is to achieve additional progress within a very challenging labour market via partnership working with other Councils, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College, Borders College and transport providers.

To encourage uptake and attendance at the Academies the Transportation Working group is developing arrangements to enable students to attend. It is envisaged that the work of the group will continue and take account of the Borders Railway opening in September 2015. This will provide further opportunities for students attending Academic year 2015.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Council and Community Planning Partners have committed to tackling the positive destinations agenda and reducing youth employment across Midlothian.

3.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Working with schools, further education sector colleagues and transport providers provides greater opportunities for Midlothian young people to attend the Academics.

3.6 Ensuring Equalities

The aim of the Council's Positive Destinations strategy is to reduce poverty and disadvantage, and in doing so to promote inclusion.

3.7 Supporting Sustainable Development

The development of college and university access points via public transport assists in minimising the Council's carbon footprint.

3.8 IT Issues

There are no IT implications arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

The Council is asked to;

- a) Note the increase in participation in the South East Scotland Academies Partnership by Midlothian students as set out in section 2.3
- b) Note the inter agency work being undertaken.

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Report Contact:

John Blair Tel No 0131 271 3102
john.blair@midlothian.gov.uk

Karl Vanter Tel No 0131 561 5443
karl.vanters@midlothian.gov.uk

Wendy Stewart Tel No 0131 474 0000
wstewart@gmu.ac.uk

Background Papers:

Declaration Box

Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.

Title of Report: South East Scotland Academies Partnership

Meeting Presented to: Council 23 September 2014

Author of Report: John Blair

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☒ ***All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.***
- ☒ ***All risk implications have been addressed.***
- ☒ ***All other report implications have been addressed.***
- ☒ ***My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.***

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.