

From: Communications
Sent: 08 September 2011 12:22
To: CEC Everyone; All-Staff
Subject: Staff Message from Chief Executive

Message from Chief Executive



September 2011

Staff Message from Chief Executive



I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy a break from work at some point over the summer whether at home or abroad and that you have managed to take in some of the wonderful festival performances and events that have taken place over the last few weeks.

Despite the poor weather the summer festivals have gone very well indeed. I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to this success through your work with the various festivals and by ensuring that the city presents its best face to the thousands of visitors who come here over the summer period. It is essential that we continue to build Edinburgh's reputation globally as a festival city, attracting visitors to these world class events.

Edinburgh Tram Project

As you will be aware I, along with other colleagues, have been heavily committed to work on the tram project in recent weeks. Working towards a solution has been a key priority for me since taking up my post as Chief Executive. Much work will be required to implement the Council's decision last week to proceed with the tram to St Andrew Square and the multi faceted team we have assembled will continue to work extremely hard to take this forward.

Positive Destinations for School Leavers

In my June message I mentioned the work that was underway to increase the number of jobs, education or training opportunities being made available to young people leaving school in the city. In 2010 there were 538 young people who left school in Edinburgh who did not go on to a positive destination. This topic certainly seemed to strike a chord with many of you and I was delighted to receive a high volume of feedback with a range of suggestions for how the Council can help. These have been passed on to colleagues in Economic Development and Children and Families for consideration.

The Council is determined to tackle this problem and has received support from a wide range of partners including, universities, colleges, NHS, employers, voluntary sector and Skills Development Scotland. The Council has now initiated the Edinburgh Guarantee – a determination to ensure that every school leaver in Edinburgh has a positive destination.

For school leavers in 2011 a range of new programmes are being put in place. These include the following initiatives:

- the Council will offer training programmes for 80 young people and apprenticeship programmes for a further 50 young people;
- Royal Bank of Scotland is working with other companies to offer internships (6 month



- work placement and training) for 100 young people;
- colleges will offer places for an additional 30 young people;
- Skills Development Scotland will provide funding for modern apprenticeships; and
- Edinburgh employers have been asked to help with this by providing jobs and work experience placements.

If you want to learn more about this I would point you to the report by the Directors of City Development and Children and Families entitled 'The Edinburgh Guarantee: Providing Positive Destinations for Young People' which was considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 9 August. The report can be found through the [Committee Papers Online](#) link on the Orb.

Attainment

On a related note, this was another good year for exam success in our schools. Attainment in Highers and Advanced Highers is now in the top 25% nationally and I would like to congratulate our young people and our staff for their achievements at all levels.

SUE BRUCE
Chief Executive