

## Six Months After Completing and Achieving a Regulated Qualification from a Further Education College in Northern Ireland

### Overall

- There was a significant increase in the percentage of respondents who said their main activity was employment.**

Before their FE Course, 36.7% of respondents said employment was their main activity. Six months after FE Course completion, this had increased to 46.7%, a ten percentage point increase.
- There was a significant decrease in the percentage of respondents who said their main activity was further learning.**

Before the FE Course, 44.6% of respondents said learning was their main activity. Six months after FE Course completion, this had decreased to 35.2%
- FE Leavers' experiences have largely been positive.**

Almost all FE Leavers (98.1%) would recommend completing a course in further education to a friend.

### FE Leavers in Employment

- Almost one third of the FE Leavers in Employment had moved into employment from other main activities.**

Although 67.8% of the FE Leavers in Employment had also been employed before their FE Course, 32.2% had moved into employment from a different main activity. Of these, 24.3% had been in learning while 4.8% were previously unemployed. Those remaining had been doing other activities.
- FE Leavers who stayed with the *same employer* after their FE Course have benefitted from FE Course completion:**

Almost three-fifths (59.5%) said they were better at their job since completing their FE Course. Of these, 73.0% said they would probably/definitely not have been better at their job without their FE Course.

Almost one-quarter (23.2%) said they were doing a job with more responsibilities since completing their course. Of these, 62.1% said they would probably/definitely not have been doing a job with more responsibility without their FE Course.

One-twelfth (8.7%) said they had been promoted. Of the 73 who had been promoted, 67.1% said they probably/definitely would not have been promoted without their FE Course.

Of those whose pay was higher after their FE Course, almost three-fifths (58.0%) attributed the increase, at least to some extent, to their FE Course.
- The workplaces of FE Leavers in Employment have also benefitted from their FE Course completion.**

Over two-thirds (69.7%) of FE Leavers in employment before *and* after their course said they are using the skills and knowledge acquired in their FE Course in their job at least to some extent.

## FE Leavers in Learning

- Most (83.6%) FE Leavers in Learning had also been in learning before their FE Course.**  
Of those who had moved into additional learning from a different main activity, 8.3% had been in employment before their FE Course while 4.5% had previously been unemployed. Those remaining (3.6%) had been doing other activities.
- Most FE Leavers in Learning had returned to the FE Sector to undertake their further learning.**  
Almost three-quarters (71.5%) of the FE Leavers in Learning have continued their learning at a FE College, while over one-quarter (26.1%) moved to a university.
- Most are undertaking learning in the same subject as the FE Course they had completed.**  
Almost three-quarters (73.3%) have continued their learning in the same subject area as the FE Course they had completed in 2014/15, and most are studying towards a qualification at a higher level (81.1%).
- Further learning was only possible because of the FE Course completed and achieved in 2014/15.**  
Almost two-thirds (63.1%) of FE Leavers in Learning said they probably/definitely could not have done their further learning without their FE Course.

## Unemployed FE Leavers

- There was no real change in the proportion unemployed.**  
Of the FE Leavers unemployed after their FE Course, 43.9% had previously been in learning and 43.4% unemployed.

## Non Economic Benefits

- FE Leavers are experiencing a range of positive non-economic benefits as a result of FE Course completion and achievement.**  
Most (95.5%) FE Leavers surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that their course has had a positive impact on them.  
The top three gains from FE Course completion include: boosted confidence (84.0%); making new friends/meeting new people (81.7%); and increased self-esteem (66.6%).
- FE Course completion has also enabled personal development.**  
Most (83.7%) FE Leavers reported becoming more enthusiastic about learning.  
Over two-thirds (68.9%) have a better idea of what they want to do in life.  
Three-fifths (60.7%) have an improved quality of life.  
Over four-fifths (84.0%) agreed that as a result of their course they are more likely to undertake further learning and training with 76.3% agreeing they are more likely to do so at a higher level.