



Presentation title: Qualifications Credit Framework

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Presented to: Health & Social Care Network

By: Julie Nicholas

Welcome

Background to QCF

01

UK Vocational Qualifications Reform

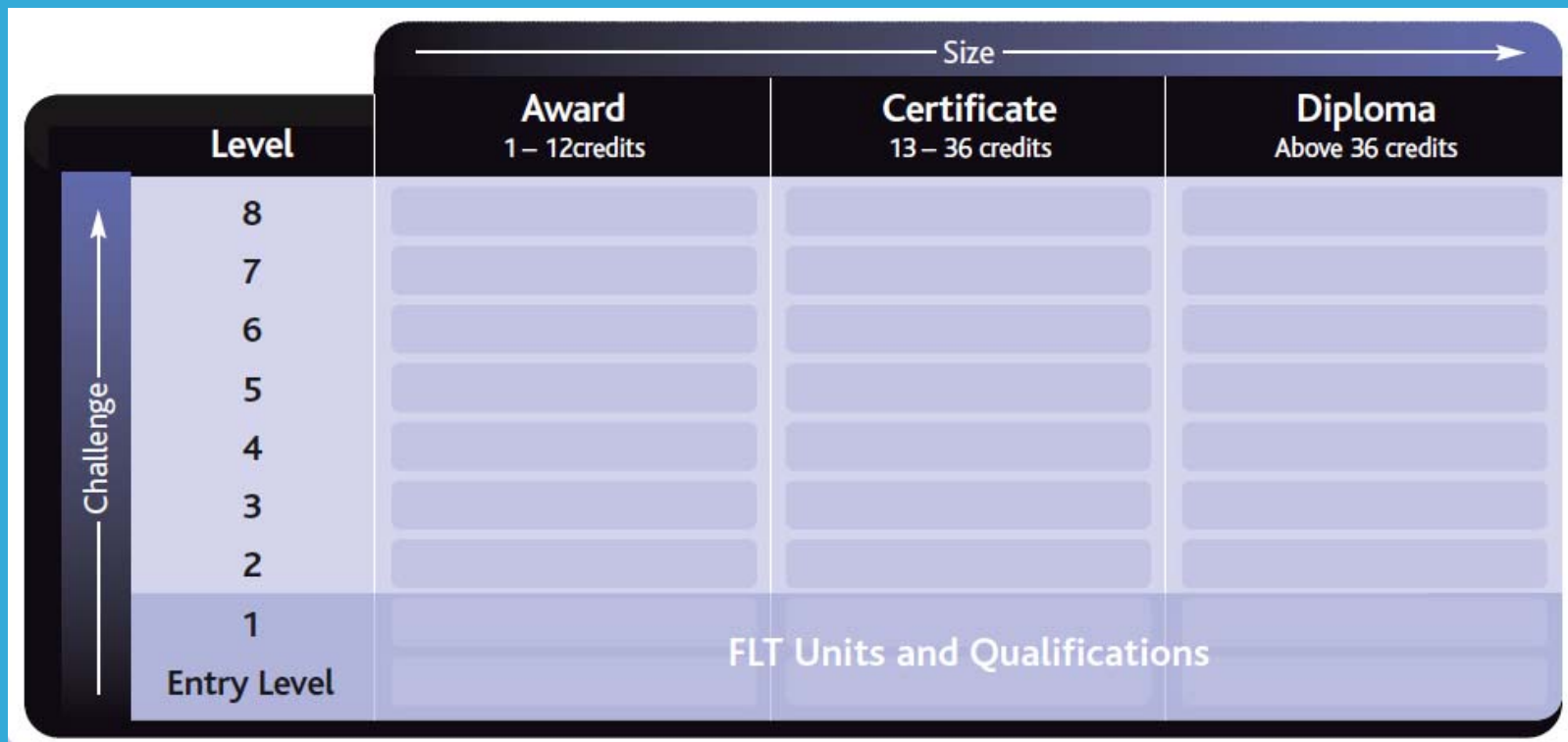
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Why Change?

- **Flexible** - allows learners to accumulate credits achieved over time and transfer these between qualifications, providers and Awarding Organisations, encouraging innovative delivery.
- **Inclusive** - contains units and qualifications which will recognise a wider range of achievement from Entry Level upwards but still regulated by Ofqual.
- **Responsive** - ensures public funding is focused on those vocational qualifications that are valued by employers (via Sector Skills Councils).
- **Coherent** – standardisation of title to cover level, size & outcome, but 'old' qualifications still valid.

Shape of the QCF

(Qualifications are built from the achievement of units which result in the award of credit. One Credit = 10 hours learning time. No regulated 'types' of qualifications like NVQs as defined by purpose but title could still be used)



Policy

02

Skills Funding Agency Role



- Confirm the provision for public funding for 19+ learners in England (except Basic/Functional Skills and Access to Higher Education)
- Develop the QCF service layer across England, Wales & NI to facilitate the transfer of data
- Ensure that advice and guidance services are able to support learners and providers know the changes

QCF Delivery



- Future public funding will be targeted on QCF vocational qualifications/units that SSCs have advised employers want & are in line with priorities in the Skills Strategy & *New Industry, New Jobs*.
- In 2010/11 QCF qualifications/units will become available across all adult programmes, BUT not all QCF qualifications will attract public funding.
- Focus will stay on full Level 2 & 3 qualifications (Certificate & Diploma) as determined by the credit thresholds agreed with each SSC to reflect occupational competence in their sector.

Funding, Planning & Performance

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03

Funding



HOW?

- Current funding methodology, based on activity and costs, will not really change before 2012/13, but rates may differ from NQF predecessors
- In 2010/11 unit funding trials will stop in Train to Gain, start in OLASS & continue in Adult Learner Responsive

WHAT?

- New process for approving units/qualifications for funding: National priorities – SSCs – Awarding Organisations – Ofqual – Skills Funding Agency

Transition



- If the QCF qualification is accredited & confirmed for funding by 1st April 2010 providers must deliver it for new starts from 1st August 2010
- If the QCF qualification is accredited & confirmed for funding by 1st August 2010 providers must deliver it for new starts from 1st January 2011
- In August 2010 the Agency will carry out a QCF readiness review to identify any critical NQF provision still required beyond 1st January 2011.

Performance

- Currently no major changes to performance monitoring and commissioning arrangements other than piloting a new Credit Success rate measure to fit with Framework for Excellence, Ofsted and Minimum Levels of Performance indicators.
- Longer term, credit should become the consistent measure across entitlement, commissioning, performance and funding, but will require incremental changes over many years.

Service Layer

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04

Personal Learning Record



By September 2010 the service layer, now known as the QCF Personal Learning Record will be fully operational for providers, learners, careers advisers and Awarding organisations.

This will enable them to obtain Unique Learner Numbers (ULN), check learners' prior learning, register, assess and upload learner achievement data for credit transfer.

Guidance & Support



- A programme of support has been devised for careers/IAG advisers to ensure they can help adult learners understand the new opportunities of QCF
- Ongoing communications with providers via events, briefing papers and AOC or ALP
- The Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) is providing consultancy and training support for providers on how to adapt to QCF delivery

Further Information



For more information on the QCF:

<http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk>

For the online list of QCF qualifications confirmed for public funding:

<http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/qcf-funding/confirmationfunding/>

For details of the Support Programme from LSIS:

www.excellencegateway.org.uk/QCF

For specific QCF queries email:

qcf servicedesk@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk