

“we’re helping
to create
well trained
care staff”

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)
for training providers



The way that qualifications are organised and structured is changing. This includes all vocational qualifications in all sectors. The current National Qualifications Framework (NQF) will be replaced by the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF). This is a government initiative across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

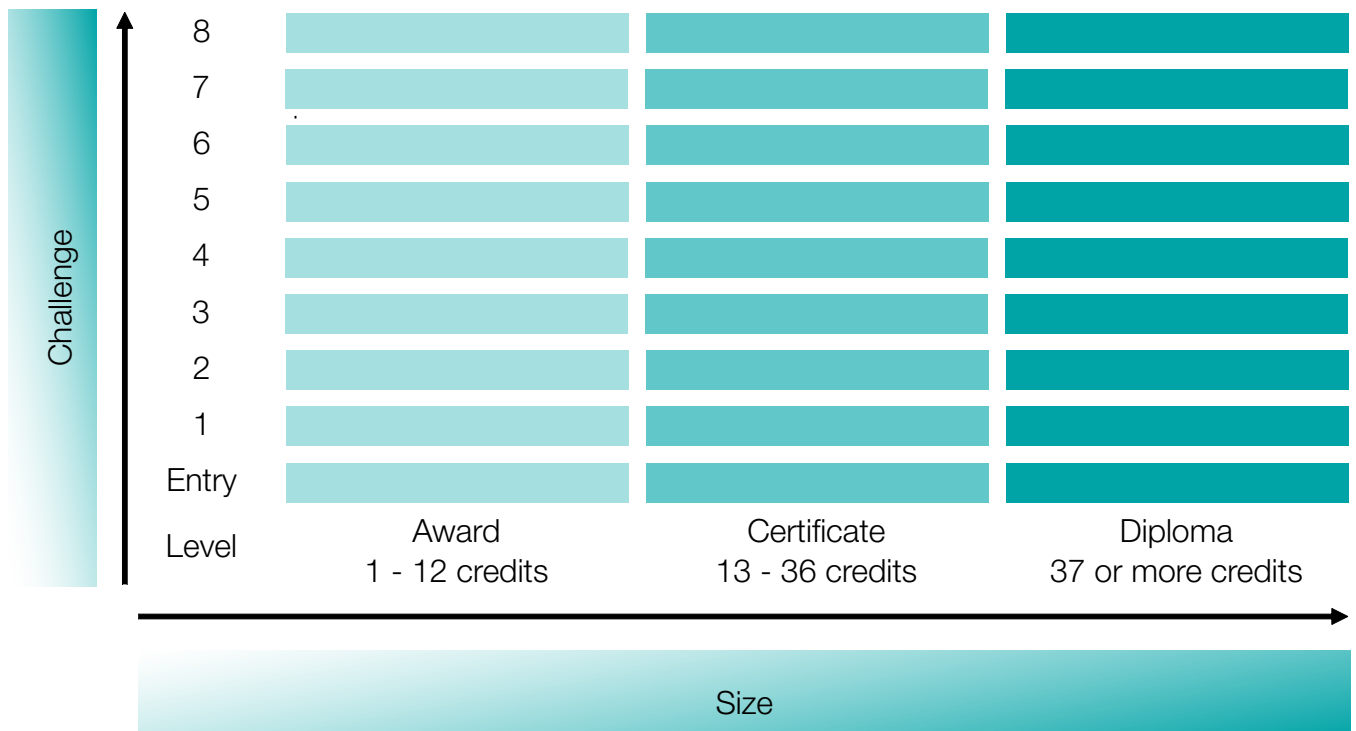
The QCF is a new flexible way of recognising and rewarding skills and qualifications. The QCF will present units and qualifications in a simpler way and it will lead to qualifications that are flexible and meet the skills and knowledge needs of the workforce.

how will it work?

The diagram illustrates the structure of qualifications on the QCF. Units and qualifications can be distinguished by complexity and size. Every unit and qualification in the framework will have both a credit value and a level. One credit represents 10 hours of learning, so the credit value shows how much time it takes to complete. Levels can vary from entry level through to level 8.

there are three sizes of qualifications in the QCF:

- Awards (1 to 12 credits)
- Certificates (13 to 36 credits)
- Diplomas (37 credits or more)





skills for care's response to the QCF

Skills for Care believes that the QCF is a real opportunity to develop units and qualifications in different ways to meet the rapidly changing needs of the workforce, as highlighted through extensive consultation with the sector.

New Types of Working (NToW) highlights the varied way that services are structured to meet the needs of people who use services, from the individual who employs their own workers to multi-national employers. The development of the personalisation agenda means there are new skills and knowledge requirements. In addition there are anticipated changes to the requirements for registration and regulation. Adult social care is facing a number of changes such as the way services are configured to ensure choice and diversity for the people who use services.

In response to the changing needs of the sector the QCF allows for 'spiky profile'. This enables learners to undertake learning at various levels and recognises that job roles include tasks and responsibilities at different levels.

Skills for Care propose qualifications made up of knowledge units and competence units that may require separate or combined assessment methods.

It is envisaged that the current NVQ Level 2 will be replaced by a QCF Level 2 Diploma and the current NVQ Level 3 will be replaced by a QCF Level 3 Diploma.

It is important to emphasise that workers who have undertaken relevant NVQs or VRQs have already got legitimate qualifications that demonstrate competency, and these qualifications will continue to be recognised once the new QCF is in place.

We are still in the early stage of developing qualifications for the QCF. As individual or groups of qualifications are developed in partnership with awarding organisations the following will be determined:

- Assessment criteria.
- Assessment method.
- Credit values for units and whole qualifications.
- Structure of units within qualifications.
- Pathways.

benefits for you as education and training providers:

- Flexibility within the structure of qualifications supported by Skills for Care will allow you to deliver programmes suitable to the individual needs of the learners.
- Will help you improve retention and progression rates amongst learners by recognising smaller steps of achievement.
- Enables you to track all learners' achievements through the use of a unique learner number (ULN) and an individual's electronic learner record, giving you standard information about each learner's past achievements.
- Standardised and coherent framework aids simple and clear description of achievements to employers and learners.
- You may have greater opportunities to access funding through the delivery of QCF units and qualifications.
- The QCF will enable you to use best practice delivery and assessment methods appropriate to the qualification.
- You can use your specialist knowledge to join with assessment centres to deliver specialist units as part of Skills for Care's qualifications.

Further information can be found on our website www.skillsforcare.org.uk

Skills for Care
Albion Court
5 Albion Place
Leeds
LS1 6JL

telephone 0113 245 1716
fax 0113 243 6417
email info@skillsforcare.org.uk
web www.skillsforcare.org.uk

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