Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Policy development – *A short history*

Presenting the evidence to policy-makers…

Leitch and the skills agenda, various skills strategies, policy documents…and…a social dimension? Background in VQ and adult reforms…

Two years of trials over. Lots of other development activity, Oxford U etc.

Clear evidence that technical and policy approach to units, quals and CAT can work (PwC Aug '07).

So what? Can it deliver the anticipated benefits of flexibility, responsiveness, inclusion, no undue bureaucracy? Can it contribute to demand led qualifications market? (PwC Jun' '08)

Recognising employer/provider programmes in QCF…some success…much still to prove

Does the QCF offer value for money? Cost-benefit analysis (Jan' ''08)

Strategic, Outline and Full business Cases presented to Ministers (Jan, Mar) culminating in submission of Full Business Case (Sep)

Others gearing up for implementation…LSC (Learner Record and demand-led funding), QIA/LSIS (support for provides), W, NI (implementation) SSCs (fast-track) FAB/JCQ

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What is the QCF

Some of the basics…

A simple organising structure that describes achievements on two axes…

…with a dynamic engine that enables individuals to accumulate and transfer their achievements or credits. Credit as more than just a number.

Units as the foundation or building blocks of qualifications

Flexible routes to achievement through rules of combination

A regulated system that requires the mutual recognition of credit between awarding bodies and across learning providers

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Some implications for HE admissions

What might we need to think about now…

Some learners will be applying for HE places with credit based units and qualifications (already a large number of quals' accredited to the QCF)

Some changes to the titles of qualifications. A simpler system for VQs?

A University has already been recognised to operate in the QCF as an awarding bodies – University of the Arts. Others will follow suit

Universities may wish to use QCF provision within their own programmes…

Joint Forum for Higher Levels may undertake work on describing the relationships between the various frameworks in higher education and the FE sector

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Some implications for the future:
General qualifications in the QCF?

The QCF Learner Record. A single electronic record of individuals achievements

DCSF asked in their 14-19 implementation plan about GQs and the QCF'. Largely positive responses

Intuitively strange to create one system for adults/VQs and another for GQs…But lots of technical and policy issues around grading, compensation, levels of GQs and the QCF

QCA doing some work investigating these issues in a bit more detail for the DCSF – report at the end of the year

Links between credit and the UCAS tariff…

All learners bringing credit-based achievements into higher education…