

## Foundation Learning Tier

### What is the Foundation Learning Tier?

Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) is a programme of work which both QCA and the LSC are working on to develop the learning provision at entry level and level 1. The term is used to describe all qualifications at entry level and level 1, which are accredited on the QCF.

The FLT is made up of **progression pathways**, which are frameworks for learning built from entry level and level 1 qualifications in the QCF. These pathways are intended to support progression for learners both in terms of formal qualifications and progression towards employment and independent living.

### What are the progression pathways?

There are **four** progression pathways, each one with a different destination for the learner. Each pathway comprises vocational knowledge, skills and understanding; functional skills and personal and social development units. For some learners progression may not be vertical up levels but horizontal across different sizes of qualifications. The Foundation Learning Tier allows for accredited achievement and small step learning. All qualifications must be selected from the progression pathways qualifications catalogue.

The four progression pathways are as follows.

#### 1. The progression pathway to a first full level 2

This pathway has been designed as a basis for progression to level 2 for adults unable to progress directly to a first full level 2 qualification.

The minimum qualification and credit requirements for completion of this pathway are:

- a level 1 vocational award or certificate (vocational qualifications will include the potential for learners to achieve some level 2 units within their rules of combination)
- four credits from qualifications which develop personal and social development skills
- Functional Skills in ICT at least at entry level 2 (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in Maths at least at entry level 2 (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in English at least at entry level 3 (5 credits)

For further information on the full requirements for this progression pathway please refer to the Prospectus for Progression Pathways.

## **2. The progression pathway to skilled work or an apprenticeship**

This pathway has been designed for young people aged 16-18 and adult learners 19+ to help them to progress into sustainable employment.

The minimum qualification and credit requirements for completion of this pathway are:

- a single vocational certificate or a combination of vocational awards and/or certificates which together amount to at least 13 credits (level 1 qualifications will include the potential for learners to achieve some level 2 units within their rules of combination)
- four credits of personal and social development learning
- Functional Skills in ICT (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in Maths (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in English (5 credits)

For further information on the full requirements for this progression pathway please refer to the Prospectus for Progression Pathways.

## **3. The progression pathway to independent living and supported employment**

This pathway has been designed for learners aged 16-18 and 19+ wishing to move to supported employment or increase their levels of independence. This pathway is suitable for any learner aged over 16.

The minimum qualification and credit requirements for completion of the supported employment pathway are:

- one award-sized qualification of at least six credits
- four credits of personal and social development learning
- Functional Skills in English (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in Maths (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in ICT (5 credits)

The minimum qualification and credit requirements for completion of the independent living pathway are:

- one award-sized qualification of at least six credits where the focus is on personal and social development
- where relevant and appropriate, either Functional Skills qualifications or the appropriate common entry level 1 units relating to reading, writing, numeracy or ICT

For further information on the full requirements for this progression pathway please refer to the Prospectus for Progression Pathways.

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#### **4. The progression pathway to Foundation Diploma or GCSEs**

This pathway is designed to support key stage 4 learners who are working predominantly at entry level. Its aim is to give learners a base for progressing to a Foundation Diploma, GCSEs or another appropriate destination.

The minimum qualification and credit requirements for completion of this pathway are:

- one certificate-sized qualification at entry level 1, 2 or 3
- four credits of personal and social development learning
- Functional Skills in English (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in Maths (5 credits)
- Functional Skills in ICT (5 credits)

For further information on the full requirements for this progression pathway please refer to the Prospectus for Progression Pathways.

#### **How is EDI involved?**

EDI is working with pilot centres to pilot all three Functional Skills at entry level and levels 1 and 2. EDI is also developing qualifications in Personal and Social Development, Skills for Working Life and Preparation for Work.

#### **Further information**

Further information about the Foundation Learning Tier is available on the QCA website: [www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk) and on the website for the Department for Children, Schools and Families: [www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19).

The Prospectus for Progression Pathways – working version for 2008/9: July 2008 can be accessed at: <http://qfr.lsc.gov.uk/flt/support/>.