

**Changes and developments in
vocational education and training,
and apprenticeships, as they
relate to the food and drink sector**

Derek Williams
FDQ Director



- A recognised Awarding Organisation with over 100 approved centres in England, Wales, N. Ireland and Eire
- Full portfolio of Food and Drink Sector (SSA 4.2) regulated qualifications:
 - Compliance e.g. food safety
 - Competence-based, largely for Apprenticeships
 - Vocationally-related, largely for Study Programmes
- Portfolio of Endorsed Programmes -accrediting training
- Based in Leeds with an expert team that designs, develops, awards and externally quality assures qualifications
- Owned by a charity
 - Food and Drink Training and Education Council

Political imperatives



- Apprenticeships
- Entry to work programmes e.g. Traineeships
- English and Mathematics achievement (L1/2)
- Vocational programmes that provide specified progression and employment opportunities e.g. Study Programmes
- Learner loans for Adult programmes
- Regulation of qualifications and inspection of training
- Public funding restrictions, focus on 16-18yrs
- Uncertainty about National Occupational Standards

England

- overall policy target 3m apprenticeships by 2020, food sector a priority
- transition to new 'Trailblazer' Apprenticeship Standards 2016-17 - end assessment, employer £contribution
- Improve/F&DNSA leading on 5 food trailblazers for 2016 - including Food Technologist (level 3)
- FTC leading on butchery occupations
- F&D one of few sectors in double digit declining take-up of apprentices over past 2 years
- success/timely completion rates about two-thirds
- English and mathematics achievements - difficult

Wales

- Reform to align apprenticeships model to needs of Welsh economy – consultation evaluation July15
- Direction of travel
 - need for higher apprenticeships @L4
 - funding by stages not ages
 - improved comms/marketing

N.Ireland

- New Apprenticeship system plans
- Direction of travel
 - only for new employees/job roles
 - L3 to L8 with a single occupational qualification
 - other programmes for transition to L2
 - driven by Sectoral Partnerships

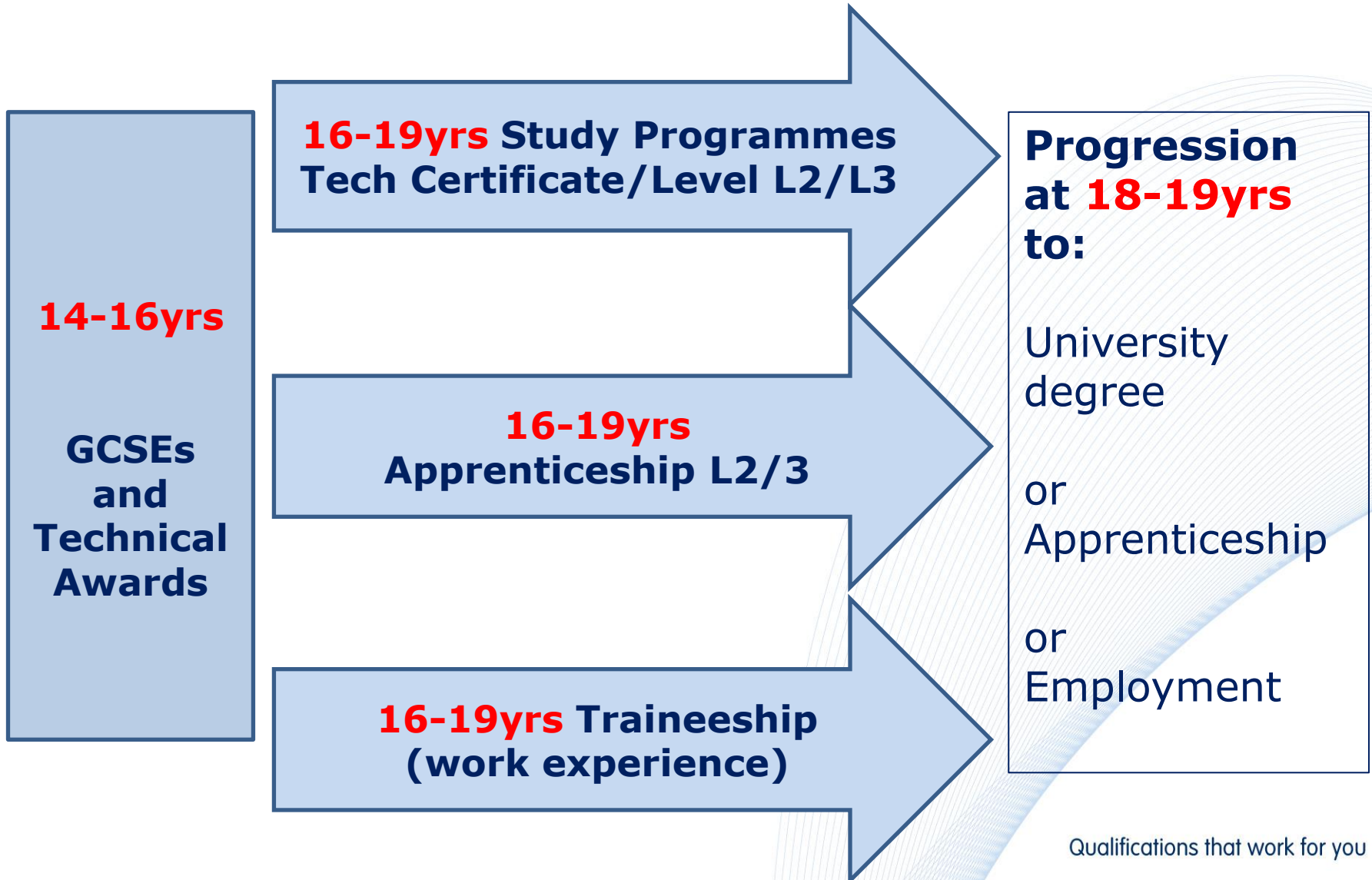
Priorities

- ❑ Government's reform plan for vocational qualifications
- ❑ Fixing the foundations – FE focus on technical and professional education, and 2nd chance students
- ❑ Continuing the Prof Wolf hypothesis; public funding for programmes not qualifications

Challenges:

- implementing rigorous 'Technical' qualifications Awards/Certificates/Levels, approved by DfE
- ensuring that Study Programmes (16-18yrs) are purposeful, with meaningful work experience
- Adult programmes (19+yrs) difficult to deliver with reduced public funding and de-listed qualifications
- 24+yrs Learner Loans
- Ofsted -New Common Inspection Framework Sept 15

England – 14-19 Vocational pathways



Diverging qualifications across both Nations and Awarding Organisations

England and N.Ireland

- Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) being replaced by Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) 1st Oct 2015
- Concept of credit not promoted
- Qualification size determined by TQT
- No routine sharing of structures/units, common sector qualifications only possible by special arrangement

Wales

- New qualifications regulator – Qualifications Wales

Points for discussion



1. How will the new Food Technologist Apprenticeship be supported in implementation, to ensure it contains valid qualifications and is successfully taken up?
2. What is the most effective way to develop, a new and valid 'Tech Level' (L3) Food Science/Technology qualification, for delivery in Further/Higher Education, to support progression to University degree or employment?
3. What are the implications of having more and significant differences between qualifications/programmes across Nations and across Awarding Organisations?

Thank you

