

Bringing clarity to the QCF

# An awarding organisation perspective



## **The areas we will cover today will include:**

- The role of an awarding organisation
- Public funding and the QCF
- Registrations and fees
- Assessor and Verifier Units
- Further Support

# The role of an awarding organisation



# Awarding Organisations

## Organisations within the QCF perform one or more of the following three functions:

- Submit units
- Develop rules of combination
- Operate as an awarding organisation

## Awarding organisations:

- Develop assessment arrangements
- Assess or support assessment of learning
- Award credit
- Award qualifications
- Quality assurance of learning providers in the awarding process.

# Meeting the needs of the industry - the role of the SSCs/SSBs

There are 25 SSCs that are led by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES).

## **The SSC's roles includes:**

- Identifying skills needs
- Proposing/developing standards, units and qualifications
- Approving all qualifications in their sector alongside Ofqual
- Deciding on size of full level 2 and full level 3
- Prioritising qualifications for public funding.

The *Sector Qualification Strategy* (SQS) sets the direction and the *Action Plan* sets out what they would like to be publicly funded.

Find your SSC at

[www.sscalliance.org/SSCs/LinksoSSCs.aspx](http://www.sscalliance.org/SSCs/LinksoSSCs.aspx)

## The qualification development process

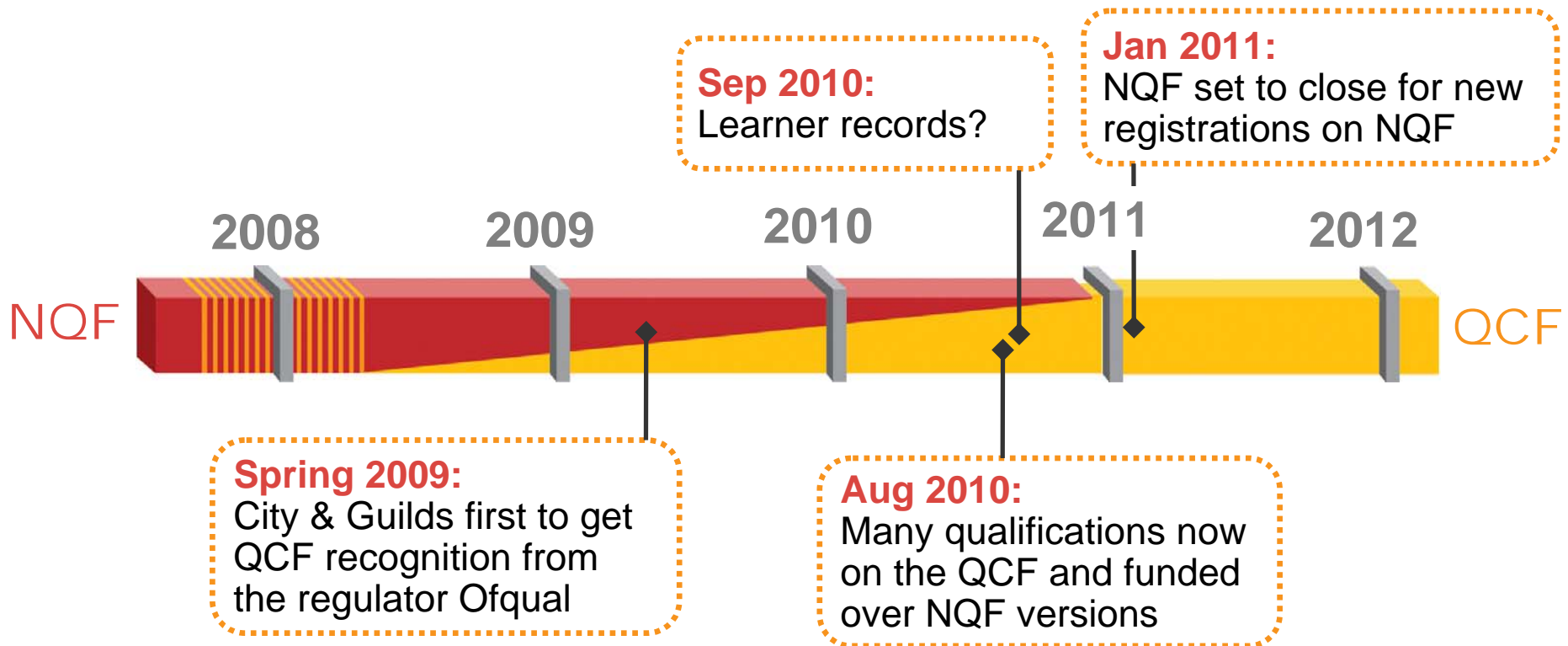
1. Skills needs identified for the sector
2. SSC/SSB develop the qualification strategy and action plans
3. Occupational standards developed
4. Units developed and submitted
5. Assessment arrangements developed and agreed
6. Rules of combination developed and submitted
7. Qualification approved and accredited

# Public funding and the QCF



# Original accreditation timeframes

We are investing heavily in improving and simplifying our processes, online catalogue, quality assurance model and pricing to improve the QCF experience for our centres.



# QCF Funding

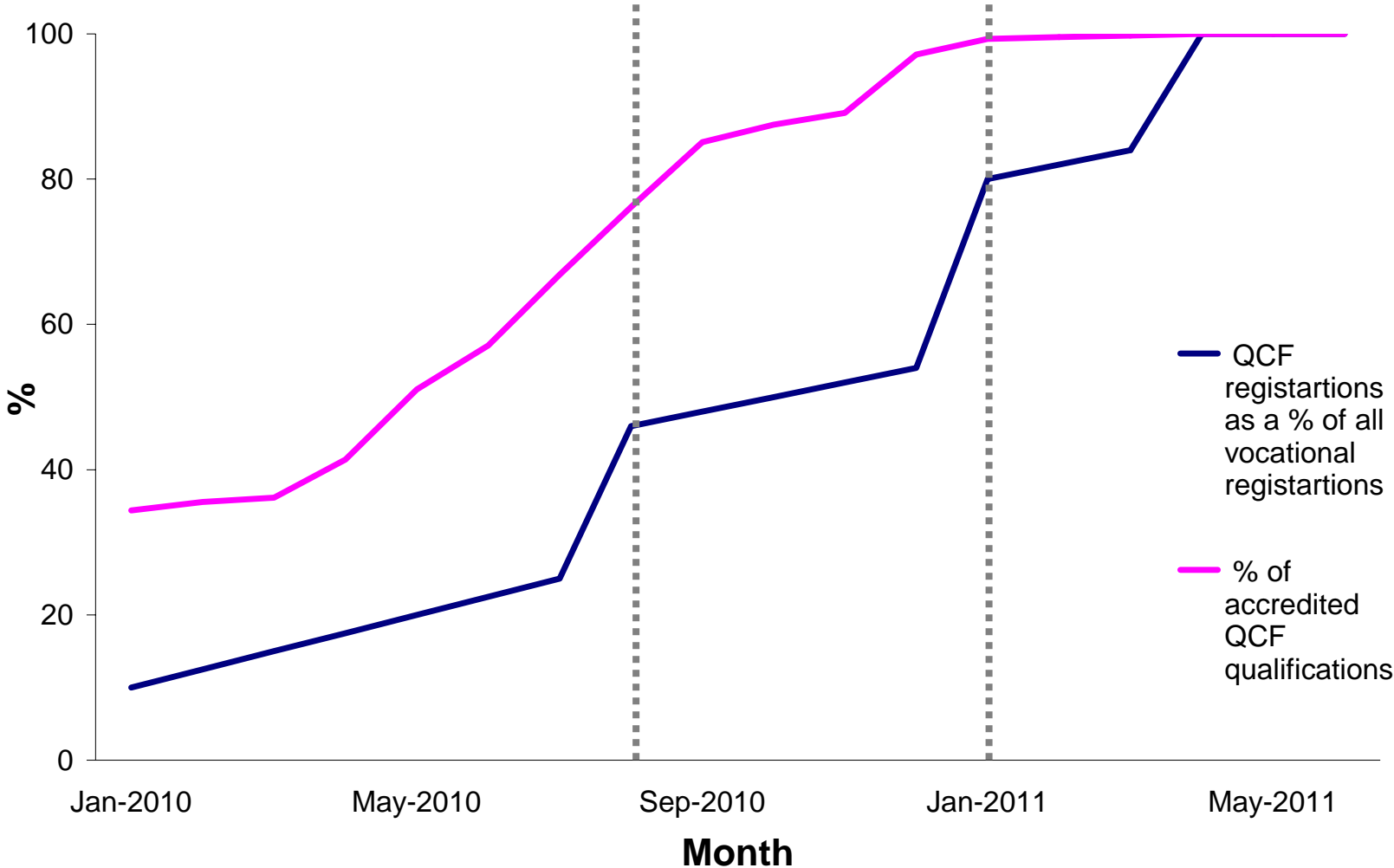
- **Methodology unchanged for now** - QCF has no major impact on current funding methodology and will stay the same during the 2010/2011 funding year.
- **Funding of existing NQF provision** - The LSC/SFA will continue to fund new NQF registrations on accredited provision identified as a priority by the SSC/SSB till the end of 2010 if there is no QCF replacement approved for funding by April 2010. See new [LSC/SFA paper](#).
- **August 2010** - If a QCF qualification is approved for funding before April 2010 the NQF qualification it replaces will not be eligible for funding after 01 August 2010. Therefore, you will be required to switch new registrations to the new QCF replacement at this point. See new [LSC/SFA paper](#).
- **What's funded?** Not every QCF qualification will be prioritised for public funding. The LSC/SFA are working with Sector Skills Councils and Standard Setting Bodies to determine which QCF qualifications should be prioritised and fundable in each sector.

All LSC guidance related to the QCF can be found at <http://qfr.lsc.gov.uk/ukvqrp/support>

## QCF Funding

- **2010/2011** - Big shift to QCF provision will now happen in January 2011 as almost all qualifications are now available on the QCF. If there is no QCF replacement of a priority NQF qualification ready by August 2010, the LSC/SFA will closely review on a case by case basis and may continue to fund new NQF registrations until April 2011.
- **Full level 2 and 3** - Size of full level 2 and level 3 on the QCF decided by the SSC/SSB (13+ credits at level 2 and Diploma size at level 3).
- **Rate of funding** - There will be no move to credit based funding rates until 2012 at the earliest. Rate still linked to guided learning hours (GLH).
- **Unit funding** - The LSC has funded units since 2001. Limited QCF unit funding trials will continue until the end of 2009. The majority of funding programmes will still focus on full qualifications (eg. Train to Gain) but the LSC expects flexibility in other areas.
- **Performance measures** - Initially there is no change but the LSC is working with Ofsted to scope credit based success rates. More information due later in 2010.

# Approximate QCF accreditations vs. QCF registrations



# Registrations and fees

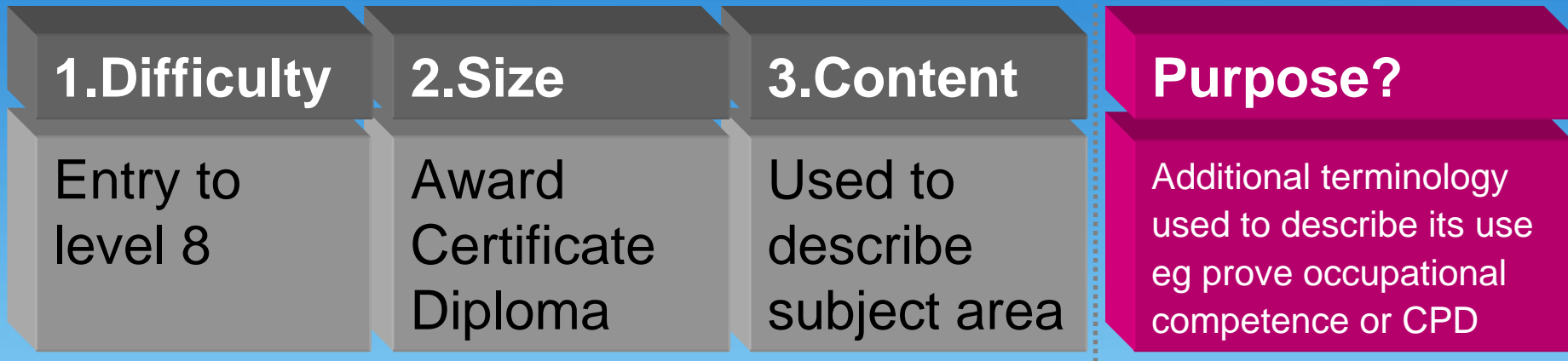


# QCF qualifications

Qualification size	37+ credits	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma	Diploma
	13 - 36 credits	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate	Certificate
	1 - 12 credits	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award
		Entry	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Level of difficulty								

**1 credit = 10 hours of learning.** The learning time is taken as the estimated number of hours it takes a learner to complete all the learning outcomes of that unit.

## New titles and terminology



We already have over 500 qualifications on the QCF with titles including:

- City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Hairdressing
- City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills
- City & Guilds Level 1 Diploma in Retail Skills
- City & Guilds Entry 3 Certificate in Personal Progression through Employment

## Changes to the awarding process?

- Registrations
- ULNs
- Fees
- Assessment and support
- Quality assurance

## Registration and fees

- Coping with QCF flexibility
- Possible longer term model might be:
  - Full qualification (with top up between sizes/levels)
  - Pay as you go (unit route)
- Whilst simplifying
- Standardising where appropriate
- Increasing transparency on fees

## Assessor and Verifier awards

- LLUK suspended, OfQual managing
- Wider consultation may be required
- Use may be of awarding body choosing
- Found within assessment strategy
- Likely to introduce units for knowledge based assessment
- Could form part of the QTLS/ATLS suite
- QCF replacements still due for end of 2010

# Further Support



# Supporting centre's transition



## **Web**

Find out the latest QCF news, information and support online at [www.cityandguilds.com/qcf](http://www.cityandguilds.com/qcf)



## **QCF launch events**

We're holding QCF sector specific events across England, Northern Ireland and Wales to help guide centres through the introduction of QCF qualifications.



## **Dedicated email support**

Receive answers to your QCF questions from experts through [qcf@cityandguilds.com](mailto:qcf@cityandguilds.com)



## **Materials and documentation**

Support materials and guidance including our technical QCF guide, FAQs, information sheets and more.

# Supporting centre's transition (2)



## QCF updates

Receive QCF updates straight to your inbox every month. Subscribe at: [www.cityandguilds.com/updates](http://www.cityandguilds.com/updates)



## Regional office support

Speak to your local Customer Relationship Manager for support in managing the transition to the QCF.



## Online discussion forum

Discuss the QCF with peers and City & Guilds experts at [www.smartscreen.co.uk](http://www.smartscreen.co.uk)



## In-house workshops

We have already worked with many of our centres to help them in their planning for the QCF by delivering tailored in-house QCF workshops.