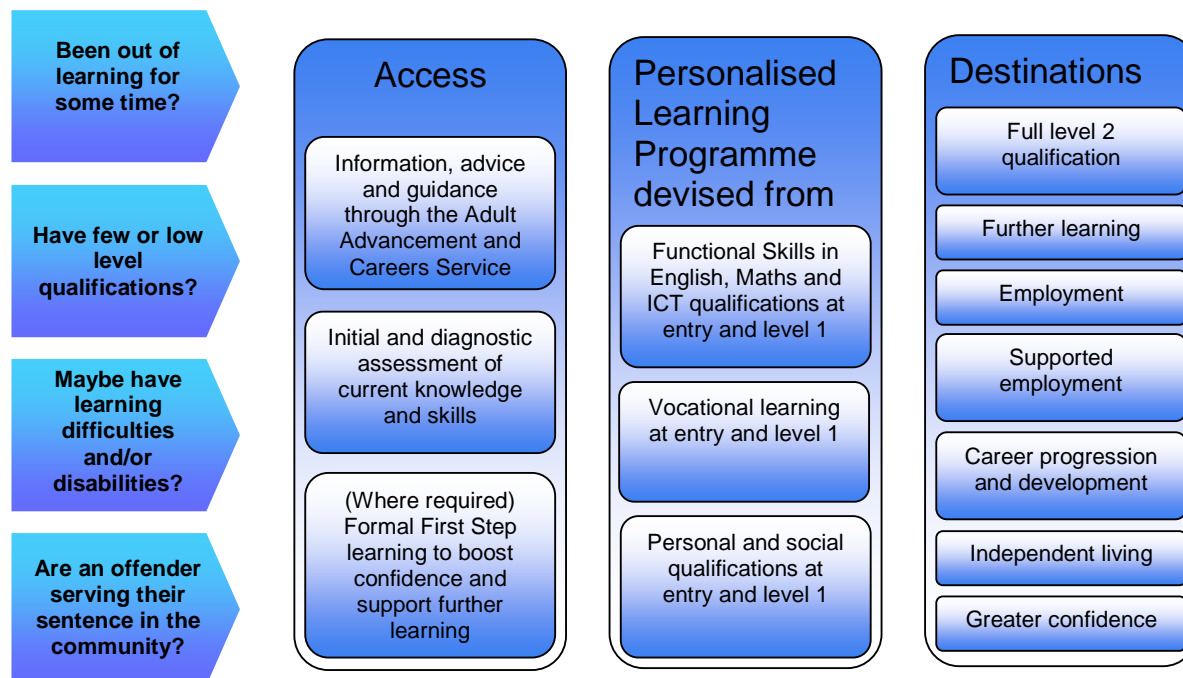


The Foundation Learning Curriculum for adults – summary

1. Many adults with low skills never return to formal education and of those that do return few progress sufficiently to achieve the national benchmark for employability, a first full level 2.
2. The Foundation Learning Curriculum, replacing what was known as the Foundation Learning Tier, is an improved learning offer for adults with low skills and few or no current qualifications. It aims to support greater progression to achieve a minimum level and range of skills providing a sound foundation for further learning and employment.

The adult FLC offer



Personalised learner journeys devised to support individual's aspirations

3. The Foundation Learning offer relies on good information and advice, initial and diagnostic assessment of learners' needs, personalised learning programmes, and the flexibility offered by the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).
4. The adult Foundation Learning Curriculum (FLC) is the generic name used to describe provision at entry level (which is seen as being 'bottomless' so accommodating current 'pre-entry' type provision) and level 1, and includes (but is not limited to) the units and qualifications at these levels within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)
5. The adult FLC is relevant for those learners aged 19 and over (with the exception of those learners with a Learning Difficulty Assessment (S139A) aged 19-24 years.¹)
6. The adult FLC offer does not have mandatory elements or set destinations or outcomes, but seeks to meet and support the individual needs of learners at these levels.
7. The adult offer draws from the following 3 skills sets:
 - personal and social development skills
 - vocational learning

¹Those with a Learning Difficulty Assessment (S139A) will not be eligible to access the adult FLC until the age of 25. Those serving custodial sentences are classes as an adult at 18 and over and those serving sentences in the community are classes as adults aged 19 or over.

- functional skills in English and maths (and adult basic skills in literacy and numeracy and Skills for Life ESOL) and ICT
8. It is not mandatory for adults to undertake learning from each of these skills sets which means the different starting points, aspirations and current knowledge and skills of adult learners can be taken into consideration when developing a personalised programme of learning. This is different from the expectation for learners aged 14-19 (or 25 for those with an assessed learning difficulty) where their Foundation Learning programmes will encompass all three areas unless they have already achieved in an area.
 9. Additionally, some adults may require a short episode of learning known as Formal First Step learning which may be used to build their confidence before they embark on a personalised FLC programme. Increasingly, a Formal First Step within the FLC should comprise a single, short QCF unit at entry level or level 1. However, for 2010/11 non-accredited provision outside of the QCF will also be eligible for funding. The Skills Funding Agency will review this situation during 2010/11 and this flexibility may be removed in the future.
 10. The Foundation Learning Curriculum offer is also available to those learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and offenders serving their sentence in the community, and personalised learning programmes will offer the same flexible approach taking account of the needs of individual learners.
 11. There will also be continued consideration of young people starting foundation learning being able to continue learning upon moving to adult funding.
 12. The adult FLC offer can be funded through the following funding lines:
 - Foundation learning
 - Skills for Life/Functional skills
 - Developmental learning
 - Employability Skills Programme (ESP) / Programmes for the Unemployed (PfU)
 - European Social Fund (ESF)
 - Train to GainIn addition, offenders learning in custody will be funded to follow the offender 'Core Curriculum' which is very similar to the FLC allowing for progression of learning upon release.
 13. Approval for funding FLC provision on the QCF will follow national guidance as set out in: http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/QCF_Transition_Paper_Final_March_2010.pdf
 14. QCF qualifications that have been confirmed for Agency funding will form a 'live' list and be available on the Skills Funding Agency website: http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/nat-QCF_Qualifications_confirmed_for_public_funding.xls Qualifications and units approved for funding will continue to be added to the Learning Aims Database (LAD), which will remain the primary source for funding information and will include funding rates and programme weighting factors.
 15. There remain, however, some areas of provision that will continue to be funded but sit outside the QCF, for example Skills for Life provision and some aspects of provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and formal first step learning.

More information will be published in standard Agency funding guidance.

If you have any queries on adult FLC please contact the team helpdesk at:

cvh-basicskillsteam.helpdesk@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk

If you have any queries regarding the QCF contact the team at:

gcf servicedesk@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk