

OFFICIAL



Hull and  
East Yorkshire  
Local Enterprise  
Partnership

# HEY LEP Skills Network Meeting

## 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023



Hull and  
East Yorkshire  
Local Enterprise  
Partnership

Driving growth of the Hull and East Yorkshire economy for the benefit of our communities

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

# Post 16 Qualification Reform

Julie Hyde: Director External & Regulatory Affairs - NCFE



Driving growth of the Hull and East Yorkshire economy for the benefit of our communities

OFFICIAL

## A split in the new landscape:

A clear demarcation of academic (AAQ) and technical (TQ) as qualification funding moves towards meeting criteria of being, “necessary, high quality and having a clear purpose”.

<b>Technical qualifications</b>	<b>Academic qualifications</b>
<p>At Level 3: Primarily designed to support progression to skilled employment or into further technical training.</p>	<p>At Level 3: Primarily designed to support progression to higher education.</p>
<p>At Level 2: Primarily designed to enter the workplace, upskill or retrain and progress into skilled employment or Level 3 studies.</p>	<p>At Level 2: Primarily designed to support students onto further education academic studies.</p>

## All Level 3 and below qualifications which the DfE approves for post-16 funding are within scope of the reform with some exceptions:

- Technical qualifications in T Levels
- Ext./Higher/Fdn. projects, IB, Access to HE Dip., Performing Arts Graded
- FSQ, EDSQ, GCSE, AS and A Levels.

Reform will be phased over four years with the first teaching session for providers 2025-26.

The first funding impact, 16-19 qualifications overlapping T Levels, will see removal from August 2025.

The process of approvals for AOs began in February 2023 for Level 3 and April 2023 for Level 2 qualifications.

OFFICIAL

# Landscape and categories

OFFICIAL

# The academic and technical landscape: The big picture

## Post-2025 academic landscape at 16-19 and for adults

Qualifications that support students to progress onto and achieve high quality further education and higher education academic courses.

A/AS levels

**Small qualifications** (up to the size of an A level) alongside A levels

**Large qualifications** (the size of 2 or 3 A levels) taken as alternatives to A levels

## Post-2025 technical landscape at 16-19

Education providing the knowledge, skills and behaviours students need to progress to skilled employment or higher technical study.

T Levels

**Technical occupational entry and technical occupational progression** qualifications in areas not served by T Levels

**Technical additional specialist** qualifications

Apprenticeships

**Technical cross-cutting function** qualifications

## Post-2025 technical landscape for adults

Education providing the knowledge, skills and behaviours to upskill or retrain to progress to skilled employment or higher technical study.

T Levels

**Technical occupational entry and technical occupational progression** qualifications

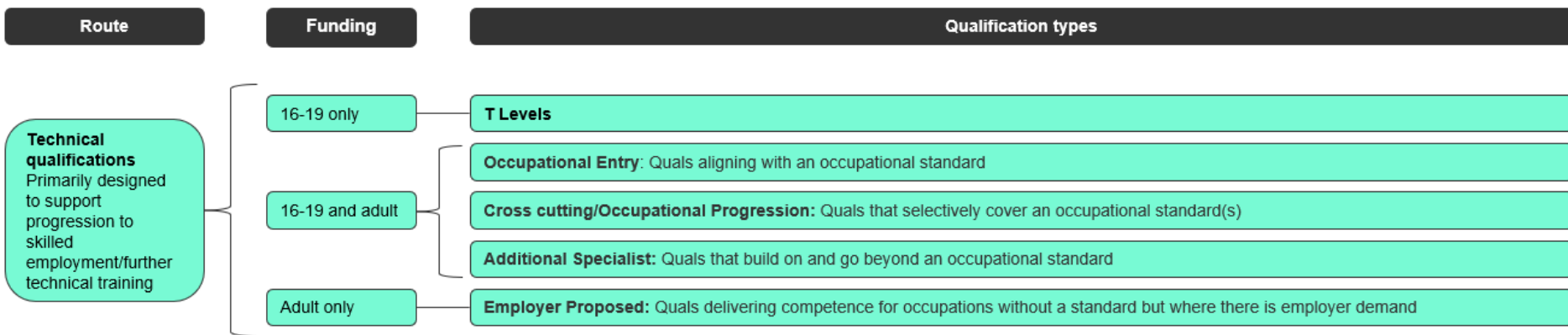
**Technical employer proposed** qualifications

**Technical additional specialist** qualifications, including in areas more appropriate for adults

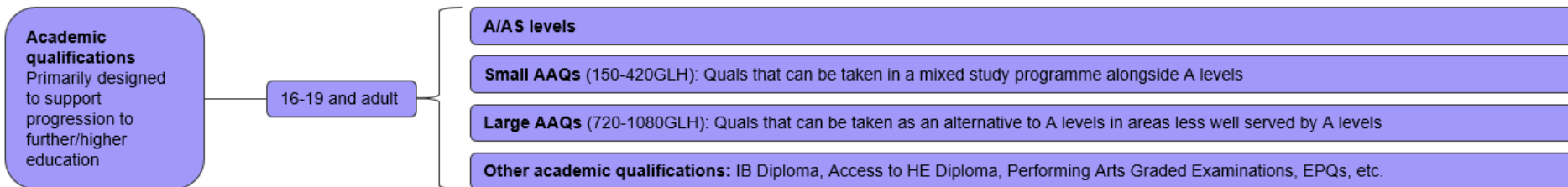
Apprenticeships

**Technical cross-cutting function** qualifications

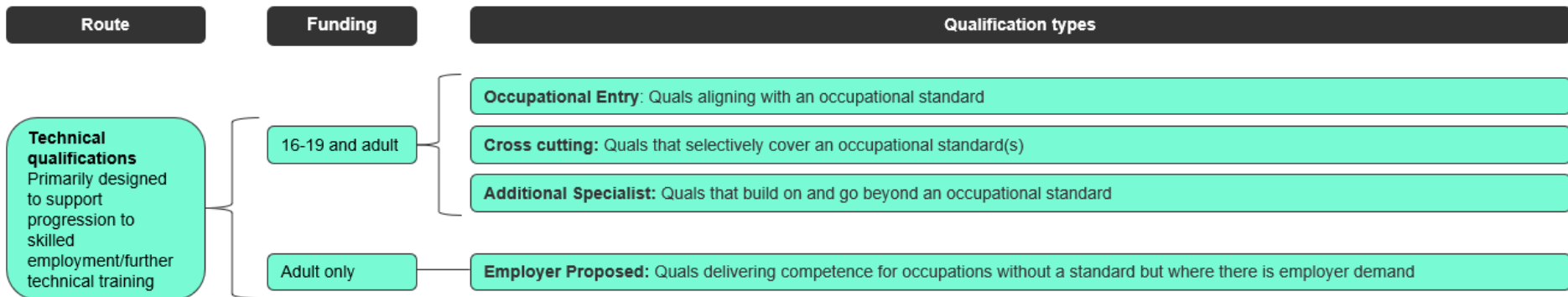
# The new post-16 level 3 landscape



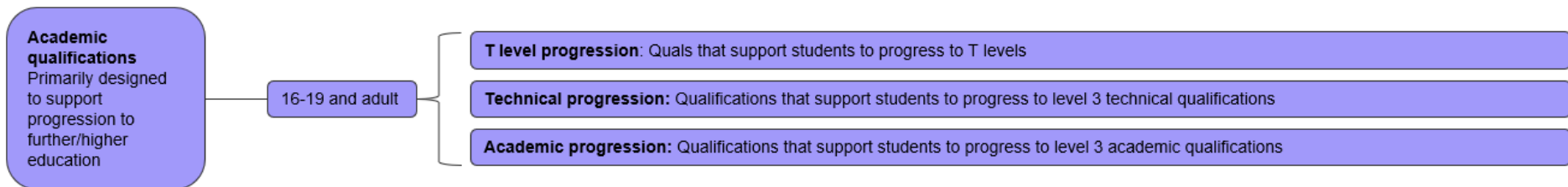
Clear distinction between technical and academic qualifications



# The new post-16 level 2 landscape



Clear distinction between technical and academic qualifications





OFFICIAL

# Cycles and Timeframes

OFFICIAL

# Timelines for defunding

- Current qualifications that no longer meet the new criteria will have funding withdrawn in cycles.
- DfE and IfATE will aim to reduce gaps between legacy and new qual funding where possible.
- An example is Level 3 qualifications in cycle 1 for 16-19 learners. Those qualifications assessed as overlapping with T Levels in wave 3 will have funding removed. This does not apply to adult-funded learners for those areas or learners taking the qualifications as part of an apprenticeship.

## Timeline for defunding of post-16 qualifications

<b>August 2024</b> (new starts Sept 2023)	<b>August 2025</b> (new starts Sept 2024)	<b>August 2026</b> (new starts Sept 2025)	<b>August 2027</b> (new starts Sept 2026)	<b>August 2028</b> (new starts Sept 2027)
<p>Level 3 qualifications within scope overlapping with T Levels waves 1 and 2 for 16-19 learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- construction and the built environment</li> <li>- digital</li> <li>- education and early years</li> <li>- health and science.</li> </ul> <p>*This does not impact adult funding for these routes until August 2025.</p>	<p>Level 3 qualifications in routes identified as T Level overlap (see 16-19 learners August 2024) for adults. Plus, the following will also be defunded for 16-19 and adult learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building and construction</li> <li>- child development and wellbeing</li> <li>- direct learning support</li> <li>- engineering</li> <li>- health and social care</li> <li>- ICT for practitioners</li> <li>- ICT for users</li> <li>- medicine and dentistry</li> <li>- nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine</li> <li>- science</li> <li>- teaching and lecturing.</li> </ul> <p>Level 2 qualifications in subject areas in scope this cycle, but that do not fit requirement for approval following reform, will also be defunded.</p>	<p>Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications in all other routes within scope.</p> <p>Level 2 qualifications that first go live in August 2027 are excluded from defunding this year.</p>	<p>All remaining Level 2 and below qualifications within scope.</p>	<p>All remaining English, maths and ESOL qualifications.</p>

# Timeline for Providers

## Spring 2024:

The DfE and IfATE will announce which qualifications will be approved for delivery for Level 3 cycle 1 across the 5 sector subject areas (SSAs) in scope and Level 2 cycle 1 across the 4 SSAs in scope.

We're working with the bodies to continue to provide high-quality qualifications in our key SSAs including education and early years, digital, and health and science.

## Spring 2025:

The DfE and IfATE will announce which qualifications will be approved for delivery for Level 3 cycle 2 and Level 2 cycle 2 across the SSAs in scope.

We're working with the bodies to continue to provide high-quality qualifications in our key sector subject areas including child development and wellbeing, social care and teaching and lecturing.

## Cycle 1 live

First teach of reformed qualifications to go live 2025-26. These include Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications across SSAs in cycle 1.

## Cycle 2 live

First teach of reformed qualifications to go live 2026-27. These include Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications across SSAs in cycle 1.

Alongside this, Level 2 qualifications to support progression to Level 3 technical and academic routes and subject areas will be available for those reformed in 2025-26.

## Cycle 3 live

First teach of reformed qualifications to go live 2027-28. These include:

- Level 2 and below qualifications funded from 2027 including Level 1, Entry and PSE qualifications
- Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications supporting progression for remaining academic routes and subject areas for those reformed in 2026-27.

## Cycle 4 live

First teach of reformed qualifications to go live 2028-29. These include Level 2 and below qualifications first funded from 2028 in English, maths, ESOL and Skills for Life.

# Where are we along the timeline?

## **Level 3 (cycle 1) first delivery after August 2025. Approval July 2024**

In February 2023, awarding organisations confirmed the qualifications they intend to submit against the new Level 3 funding categories within scope. Feedback and discussions took place with IfATE and DfE and engagement sessions were held.

- Finalised submission window closed in July 2023.
- DfE and IfATE have completed initial sift and are now completing High Level Review.

## **Level 2 (cycle 1) first delivery after August 2025. Approval July 2025**

In June 2023, awarding organisations confirmed the list of qualifications they intend to submit against the new Level 2 funding categories within scope. Feedback and discussions will take place with IfATE and DfE and engagement sessions will be held.

- Finalised submission window closes in November 2023.

OFFICIAL

# Implications

OFFICIAL

# What does this mean for 16-19 learners?

In reality, many of the technical categories will rarely see use in a 16-19 learner's programme of study. We expect that the options available to a 16-19 learner will be:

## Technical

- T Level
- Occupational entry diploma (in areas not served by T Levels)
- Apprenticeship

## Academic

- 3 A levels
- 2 A Levels and 1 small AAQ
- 1 large AAQ

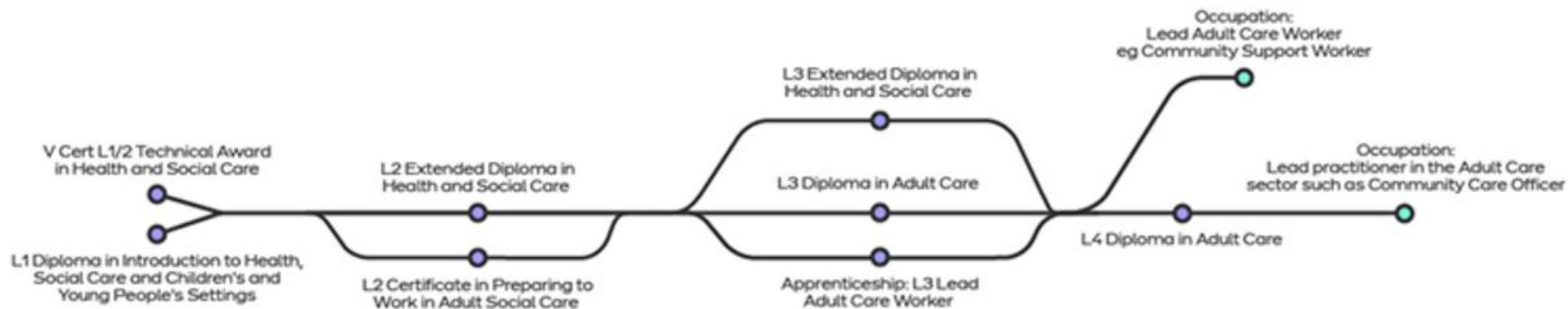
# Technical education – all levels

Relationship to standard	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5
Aligns to a standard	Occupational Entry	T levels Occupational Entry	HTQs
Builds on a standard	Additional Specialist	Additional Specialist	
Selectively covers a standard	Cross Cutting	Cross Cutting/Occupational Progression	
No link to a standard	Employer Proposed	Employer Proposed	



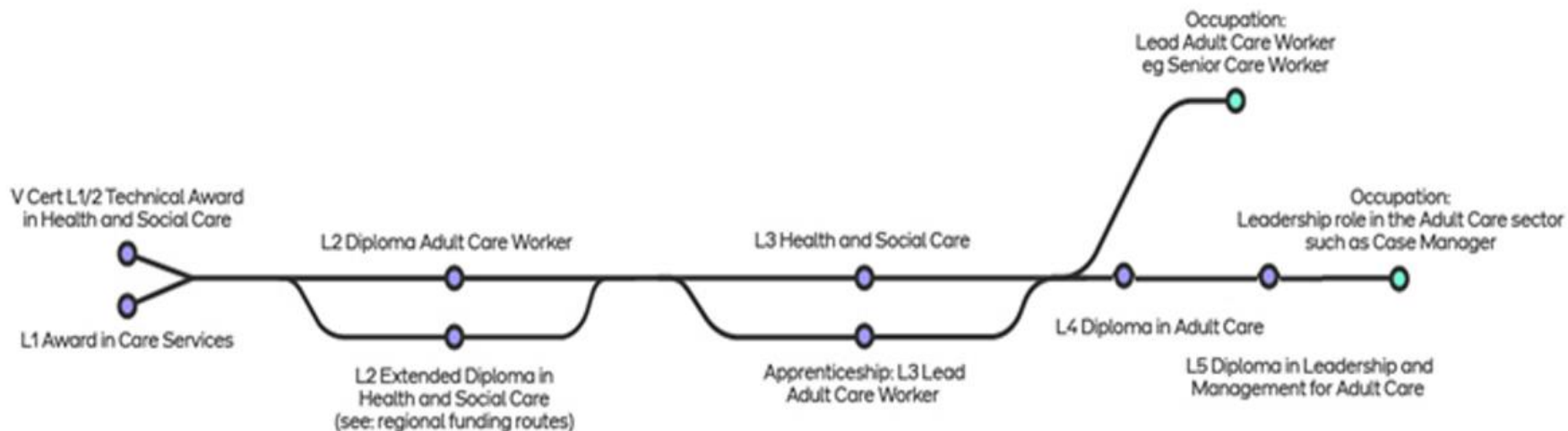
# Lead Adult Care Worker - current

## Current example of qualifications in route



# Lead Adult Care Worker - post-reform

## Post-reform example of qualifications in route



OFFICIAL

# Further information and sources of support



Driving growth of the Hull and East Yorkshire economy for the benefit of our communities

OFFICIAL

# Sources of support

DfE (2023) Guidance: Guide to post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England. Available at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-post-16-qualifications-at-level-3-in-england--2>

IfATE (2023) Post-16 Technical Qualifications. Available at:  
<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/qualifications/post-16-technical-qualifications>

NCFE (2023) DfE review of post-16 qualifications at Level 3 in England: What you need to know. Available at:  
<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/all-articles/dfe-post-16-level-3-review>

NCFE (2023) What does Post 16 reform mean for adult learners. Available at:  
<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/all-articles/post-16-reform-adult-learners>

UK Parliament: House of Commons (2023) The future of post-16 qualifications – education committee. Available at:  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmeduc/55/report.html>

**Speak to us**

**[juliehyde@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:juliehyde@ncfe.org.uk)**

**[level3reform@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:level3reform@ncfe.org.uk)**

**If you'd like to be involved in stakeholder groups and support the development of new qualifications, please contact [jodiewade@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:jodiewade@ncfe.org.uk)**

OFFICIAL

# Thank you



Driving growth of the Hull and East Yorkshire economy for the benefit of our communities

OFFICIAL