

Briefing Sheet on Community Development Qualifications Framework

Introduction

The existing Community Development Learning and Qualifications framework (which is replicated in sheet 1) is based on the National Qualification Framework which sets out the levels against which a qualification can be recognised – in the case of England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 levels which relate to the complexity of the learning being recognised, full details of these are found in appendix 1 to this briefing pack.

A new framework is being introduced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland called the Qualification and Credit Framework. This means that all our existing courses need to be redesigned to fit into the new framework. As the Community Development revised National Occupational Standards (NOS) are now agreed all the new programmes will have to be based on NOS- CD 2009.

Within the new framework the levels of 1- 8 remain the same but the way that qualifications are built up is quite different. Sheet 2 gives the main details and explains the different types and sizes of qualifications that can be built up from small chunks of learning.

The project to develop the new framework

Initially started by LLUK as the relevant sector skills council for Community Development, a project to develop the new framework is being funded by CDF and overseen by a 4 nations steering group with representatives of all the national and regional CD organisations and networks.

The project is to design the overall framework and to look in more detail at what we need to replace the current qualifications at levels 1-4 which are currently delivered outside of the university system.

The first phase of consultation with the Community Development field has been completed and a draft framework has been produced and is now available for comment; discussions at this workshop form part of this consultative process.

Meetings are currently being held with employers and Awarding Bodies to discuss the initial ideas and to agree the timescale for developing the new qualifications. We hope that there will be some new qualifications available by the beginning of 2011 but this will become clearer following the planned discussions.

What is available in the full workshop briefing pack:

This briefing pack contains a number of different sheets to help you understand the context and what we are proposing.

Sheet 1 is our existing framework

Sheet 2 gives the details of the new framework

Sheet 3 sets out the principles on which we have developed the framework

Sheet 4 sets out the look of our proposed framework

Sheet 5 gives more details about each level and type of proposed qualification

Sheet 6 sets out the questions to be discussed at the workshop

Appendix 1 contains details of the level descriptors

Briefing Sheet 3

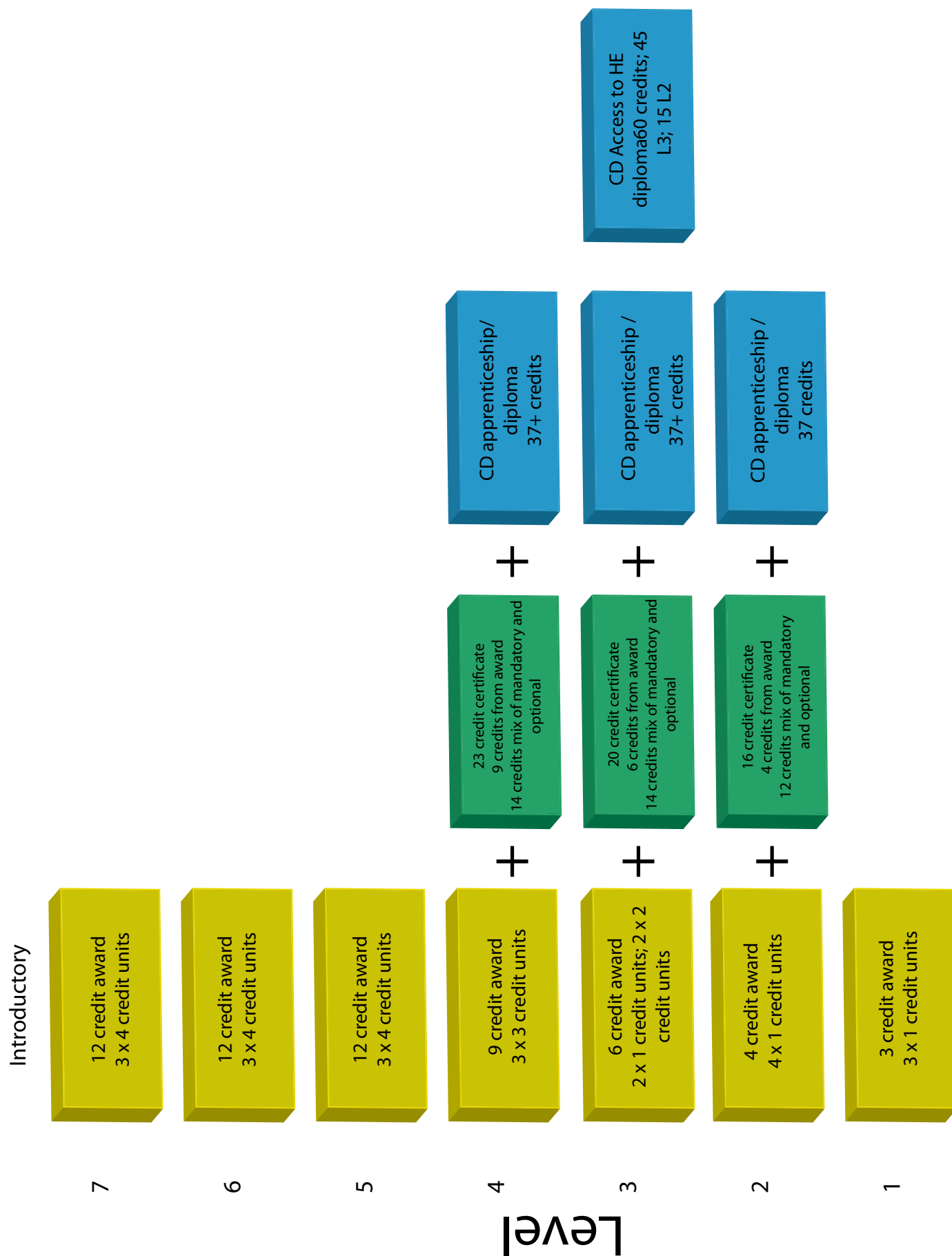
The principles on which we have developed the framework

Following the first phase of consultations with the Community development field the feedback has been collated and summarised into some of the key principles that need to inform the frameworks development.

- » To meet the needs of the many different roles that people take in respect of Community Development a small Award should be developed at each level (1-7) as an Introduction to Community Development. These should be drawn from the knowledge requirements of the core (Key Area 1) of the NOS CD (2009). There should be no assessment of practice requirement within these Awards. The Awards should be incremental in that as the levels go up they require increased knowledge requirements drawn from Key Area 1.
- » At each level, the Award should be built on to achieve the Certificate, and the Diploma follows incrementally by building on the Certificate. Practice and its verification / assessment should be built in from level 2 upwards.
- » The framework needs to offer clear learning pathways for all those involved in Community development, whether they are being paid or not.
- » Reflective practice should be built in throughout the qualifications
- » Mandatory Units should relate to core CD work and Optional Units should relate to more specialist areas. This will increase take up of units and make the framework viable for awarding bodies as many of the Optional Units could be of relevance to other related occupations.
- » The amount of assessed practice required should be increased from Certificates to Diplomas at Levels 2, 3 & 4
- » The framework should attempt to enable people to use the learning gained at one level towards a qualification at a higher level – this may be easier within certificates and diplomas.
- » Apprenticeships should be built in at levels 2 & 3 and further discussion held about the value of a level 4 apprenticeship.
- » An Access Diploma should bridge the gap between Level 3 & Level 4 for learners wanting to move into HE
- » Units that would be of interest to other related occupations / areas of work should be incorporated to enable greater take up and to recognise the movement of people between them

Briefing Sheet 4

The Proposed Framework



This is a simplified view of what the new framework could look like.

The range of people involved in Community Development, in many different roles and with diverse educational and employment backgrounds, requires the framework to offer an introduction to Community Development at all levels. To meet this need a small award has been developed at each level.

One of the outcomes of this project is to provide guidance to Awarding Bodies on what should replace the existing qualifications at levels 1 - 4 hence the level of detail that has been provided for these levels.

Above this level the main deliverers of longer Community Development programmes are the Universities who will design their own programmes; the framework seeks to ensure that all programmes include the core (key Area 1) and assessed practice as standard minimum requirements.

Qualifications can be built sideways – so someone with the Award at level 2, could take additional units and receive the Certificate, and then could take additional units and receive the Diploma.

Qualifications can be aid progression - some of the units gained at one level (particularly from the Optional Unit lists) can be put towards achieving a qualification at a higher level. The framework will set out the number and type of units that can be used in this way.

Apprenticeships have particular requirements that have been set nationally; they have to be a minimum size and contain a number of credits relating to 'functional skills' (numeracy, literacy) and to rights and responsibilities within employment, as well as covering knowledge and skills. The framework has been designed to enable apprenticeship programmes to be developed using the same units that would lead to certificates and diplomas.