

“Gateway Qualifications was uniquely able to deliver the suite of qualifications we needed, through its in-depth experience of the sector and its ability to provide innovative, bespoke solutions.”

– Graham Razey, Principal, East Kent College

“Attainments for learners have improved and are now good in the majority of programme areas... outcomes for learners at foundation level are outstanding.”

– Ofsted, March 2013

“As the Progression Curriculum offers vocational start dates throughout the year and also the opportunity for students to rotate and study in different vocational areas it really helps those students who may be vocationally undecided to make informed decisions about their future career choices.”

– Jonathan Smith, Local Authority Participation and Progression Officer.



East Kent College collaboration with Gateway Qualifications improves learner retention and reduces risk of NEET

A challenge to be met

To improve educational outcomes and employability skills, to increase participation and progression among learners at risk of becoming NEET.

The number of unemployed young people in the East Kent area was almost double the national average, with educational attainment for those under 16 well below average and only half of learners achieving 5 A* – C GCSE grades.

Setting a template for the sector

Gateway Qualifications, defined by its keywords of PARTNERSHIP, INTEGRITY, ORIGINALITY and QUALITY, set out to create a suite of vocational qualifications that would address the challenge set by East Kent College – and create a template for the whole of the FE sector.

Results that speak for themselves...

With 300 learners now on this Beacon Award-winning Progression Curriculum, the results are evident.

- **Retention rates 96%**, previously 20% of students left in the first 6 weeks
- **94% completion rate**
- **10% year-on-year increase** of those continuing education or training
- **90% of learners felt good about achievements. 98% showed positive progression**
- **Satisfaction levels are 100%!**
- **Over 20% of students previously seen as NEET go on to employment, 70% to further learning.**



The East Kent College team with Carol Snape (fourth from left), CEO of Gateway Qualifications, at the AoC Beacon Awards presentation

A partnership of like minds

In September 2011 East Kent College, now an AoC Beacon Award winner in FE provision in an area of high deprivation, launched a new curriculum targeted at young people at risk of finding themselves NEET.

Having learned from a pilot project using qualifications from another Awarding Organisation, they identified the need for a more vocationally specific solution that could be delivered as a project-based curriculum. They chose Gateway Qualifications to work

with on the programme, finding in its flexibility and originality of approach a like-minded organisation big enough to commit the resources necessary for the project, agile enough to respond with a bespoke suite of qualifications.

An innovative solution devised by Gateway Qualifications

Gateway Qualifications produced an innovative response which is delivered over more than ten curriculum areas.

The integral flexibility offered learners the opportunity to transfer between vocational areas at set 'rotation' points throughout the year.

head teachers, learners and other outside agencies, then brought its own skills set to bear. The result was a suite of qualifications that delivered flexibility, quality and learner engagement.

At every stage Gateway Qualifications applied its two decades of experience within the sector, consulted with East Kent College, with the local authority,

Implemented by East Kent College in award-winning manner

Under the inspirational leadership of Principal Graham Razey, East Kent College produced a responsive and innovative progression curriculum designed to increase the participation of young people and engage learners at risk of becoming NEET.

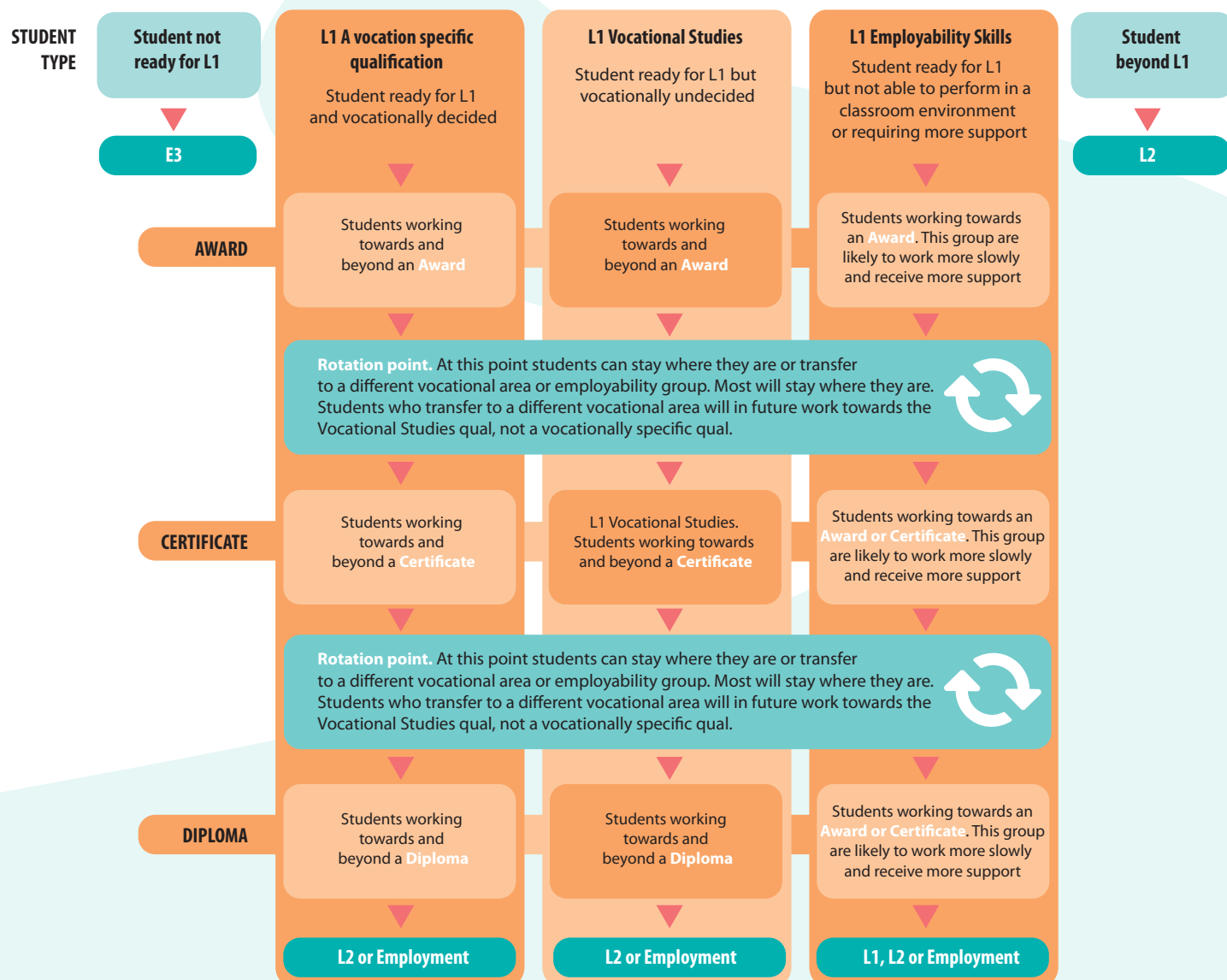
Key elements in the success of this AoC Beacon award winning initiative were:-

- Evaluating the existing college offer at Entry Level 3 and Level 1
- Establishing partnerships with regional and local stakeholders to support recruitment and the provision of teaching and learning
- Creating a team of Progression Mentors offering one-to-one learner support

- Promoting a comprehensive programme of professional development for teaching staff
- Project managing with a top-level team including the Principal and Assistant Principal
- Working with Gateway Qualifications as the awarding organisation.

The Template

Implement strong IAG to determine correct starting point



The key to the East Kent Progression Curriculum is the Suite of Skills and associated qualifications, in particular the Vocational Studies qualification, which enables a college to retain learners who wish to change vocational area, rather than lose them and the structure that underpins it.

The features

- Broad scope of vocational areas from catering to construction and childcare to carpentry
- Vocation-specific modules supported by core employability and personal learning units allowing switching of courses to match student preferences
- 3 joining points across the year for the Progression Curriculum, encouraging maximum re-engagement
- Options to fast track from Level 1 to Level 2.



Empowering the students

"I had a young baby when I started. I had a lot of help and support and I think we all did. When I was on the Progression Curriculum I looked at different career options and decided on sport. I finished my level 1 and I am just about to finish my level 2. I'm coming back in September to do my level 3. I am really glad I started on the Progression Curriculum, I have learnt so much and it has given me more confidence."

- Learner Abbie Freer, aged 17



YOU CAN TALK TO US

Learn more about how you can emulate the success of this project by calling us on **01206 911 211**, or going to **www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/eastkent**

A dedicated account manager will work with you.



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Gateway Qualifications offers **learning your way** -
for teachers and learners alike.