Differences between delivering apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards

Background

The key driver for the changes in apprenticeships is the Richard Report in which there was a need for greater employer engagement in the development of apprenticeships, the purchasing power should remain in the hands of employers and where there are rigorous employer training programmes it should be easier for them to deliver their own apprenticeship training.

Very few employers previously delivered their own apprenticeships because it wasn't their core business, they never had the requisite skills and it wasn't financially viable to invest in this as the numbers didn't warrant it. With the levy due to start in April 2017 and the government policies wanting to encourage employers to take a role in the delivery it is worth looking at the differences between delivering frameworks (old type of apprenticeships) and apprenticeships standards (the new type).

Frameworks	Standards
Approval as a training provider All providers have to be approved to deliver by registering and meeting the financial health assessments on the Register of Training Organisations (ROTO) – NHS Trusts are exempt from the financial health assessment	**Approval as a training provider** All providers will have to be registered and approved on the new Register of Apprenticeship training Providers (ROATP) that has been launched in October– NHS Trusts are exempt from the financial health assessment
Funding You have to have a contract with an agreed value with the Skills Funding Agency to pay for any apprenticeship delivery. The minimum contract value is £0.5m. If you are not able to get a direct contract you can sub-contract with another provider that does have a contract. If you cannot find a contractor willing to sub-contract with you, you will not be able to deliver. Sub-contracting arrangements are very competitive and sought after. You are limited by the amount of contract that has been agreed at the start of the year. All providers have to be approved on ROTO	**Funding** Under the levy you will just draw down funding from your own digital account through the digital apprenticeship service providing you are approved on the new ROATP. The limit of funding is what is in your levy account.
Apprenticeship qualifications Apprenticeship frameworks consists of a competence based qualification and a knowledge based qualification and less commonly, one qualification that includes both. To be able to deliver qualifications you will need to be an approved assessment centre with the relevant awarding organisations (City & Guilds, Pearson Edexcel, CACHE	**Apprenticeship qualifications** Under apprenticeship standards it is the exception rather than the rule that demands a qualification within the apprenticeship. Early indications show that many of them have not included a qualification within it. If there is no qualification then you *do not* need to be approved as an assessment centre to deliver the apprenticeship. Under the new rules for apprenticeships the

etc.) If you are delivering more than one apprenticeship it might be that you will have to be approved with more than one awarding organisation. You have to have qualified assessors and internal verifiers to be able to deliver these qualifications	apprenticeship is achieved when the independent end point assessment has been judged a pass, distinction or merit by the independent assessing organisation (these are organisations like City & Guilds, Pearson Edexcel, CACHE etc). As they provide this assessment there is no need to have assessors and verifiers. If the apprenticeship includes a qualification then it will be the same as under frameworks
English and maths English and maths functional skills are part of the apprenticeship framework so if you deliver apprenticeships you will have to deliver the English and maths functional skills. This will mean you will need the trainers and be an approved assessment centre with the relevant awarding organisation. This again might well differ from the awarding organisation that the qualifications are part of. SFA rules do not allow second tier sub-contracting so you wouldn't be able to sub-contract this out if you were sub-contracting yourselves	**English and maths** Whilst English and maths are part of the apprenticeship they are funded under a different funding stream and it does not come out of the apprenticeship levy. As this is the case you could get a specialist organisation to deliver this on your behalf and they would be able to draw the funding down separately. If you wanted to deliver this yourselves then framework rules on funding and qualifications would apply
Software uploads All new apprenticeship starts, progress, withdrawals and completions with lots of documentation has to be uploaded onto the government system every month. Software purchased and data inputters are required	**Software uploads** We assume that the digital apprenticeship service will be the new mechanism for uploading all of the apprentices' information. This system has yet to be launched but we envisage similar amounts of work to be associated with it
Tracking systems for progress You will need to track progress and ensure compliancy and quality of the apprenticeship	**Tracking systems for progress** We do not envisage the principle of it being any different as this is connected to SFA compliance and Ofsted quality. However whilst they do not want a two tier system they are looking at proposals where employer providers are inspected differently

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