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T levels- Opportunity or Risk?

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T Levels Overview

- Sainsbury Panel and Post-16 Skills Plan
- 15 routes
- Choice at 16 – technical or academic
- Core, plus specialisms, plus English, maths, digital
- Work placement required for full completion
- Single AO licence/monopolies
- 2020 implementation for first 3 routes

T Levels Overview

- DfE consultation closed on 08 Feb 2018
- DfE response to the consultation is due this month (May 2018)
- Further consideration has already been given to the grading of T levels
- Expected soon-DfE Stakeholder Engagement sessions- information on the procurement process and the design of the initial licenses for T Level qualifications.

Opportunity?

- A strong technical offer for learners as an alternative to A levels?
- An opportunity to quieten government criticism of technical/vocational education?
- A large market for an AO or a consortium who wins the bid?
- An opportunity for AOs to work together in consortia.

Opportunity?

- Something that might survive and bed in, to give stability/consistency in the system?
- A strong contribution to addressing the skills gaps.

Risk? Overall

- Timescale for 2020 launch are too tight- FAB wants this pushed to at least 2021/22. If it's worth doing, then lets take the time to get it right! Learners deserve a high quality offer.
- Clarity needed of where T levels fit in the landscape/value they add- without this, how do we expect learners and their parents to make an informed choice?
- Single AO licence – no competition, risk of failure, impact on learners. Major risk and FAB has highlighted these repeatedly!

Risk? Learners

- Work placements – capacity, availability in rural areas, potential barrier to achievement of T level for some learners?
- Uptake – will learners and their parents take the gamble? Would you want your child on a T level in 2020?
- Will it drive learners to A levels because it's what they know, even if it's not the right choice for them?
- Stability of government policy, will the policy change again and leave learners with a qualification that no one remembers/recognises?
- There needs to be a Level 2 offer that serves the many and varied needs of learners

Risk? For Awarding Organisations

- Lack of clarity about the wider qualifications market (level 2 review, wider level 3 review and level 4/5 review). What will be left, what will be funded?
- Single licence, how to run it if you win it and how to survive if you don't?
- How to work effectively in a consortium.
- Impact of changes across our qualification portfolio if we lose business in a key sector.
- Trying to give centres support and information when we don't yet know the full picture.

Risk? For Awarding Organisations

- Copyright – transfer of ownership and how this might impact on AO business
- What does the regulatory approach for the technical qualifications look like? We still don't have any details of this or any firm commitment to this being Ofqual
- Little progress on transition phase and the bridging provision
- The approach of the IfA(TE) when their remit expands – an unknown at present

Thank You

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