



Foundation Year Network 7th Annual Conference 2013  
Durham University  
11th/12th July 2013

Next year's conference will take place at Durham University. We will probably use both Queen's Campus in Stockton and the Durham City site.

For further information please see the FYN website:

[www.FoundationYear.ac.uk](http://www.FoundationYear.ac.uk)



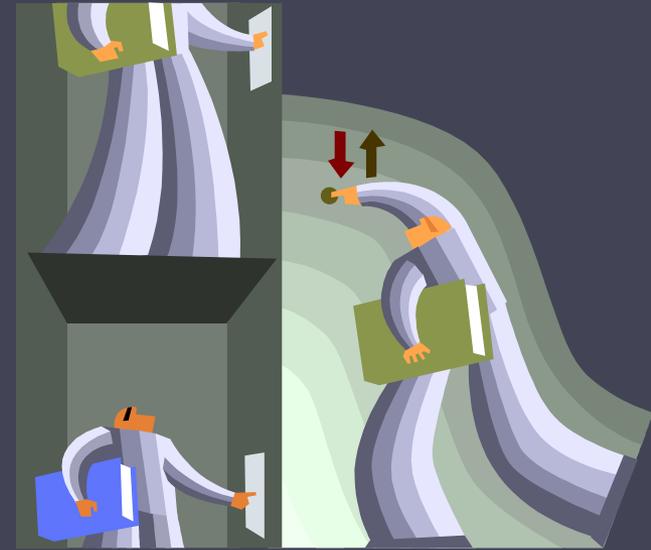
# First they came for the matures ... the future of the Foundation Year Network?

**Dr Willy Kitchen**  
**Foundation Programme Director**  
**Institute for Lifelong Learning**  
**University of Sheffield**

**FYNAC 2013; 11/12 July; Durham**

- A time to bear collective witness on behalf of our students (notwithstanding the inherent risks);
- A time of great uncertainty and change (it's now or never);
- The pedagogy of debt.

# Entering from the Lower Ground floor: The role of Foundation Year courses in elevating social mobility



**Dr Willy Kitchen, University of Sheffield**

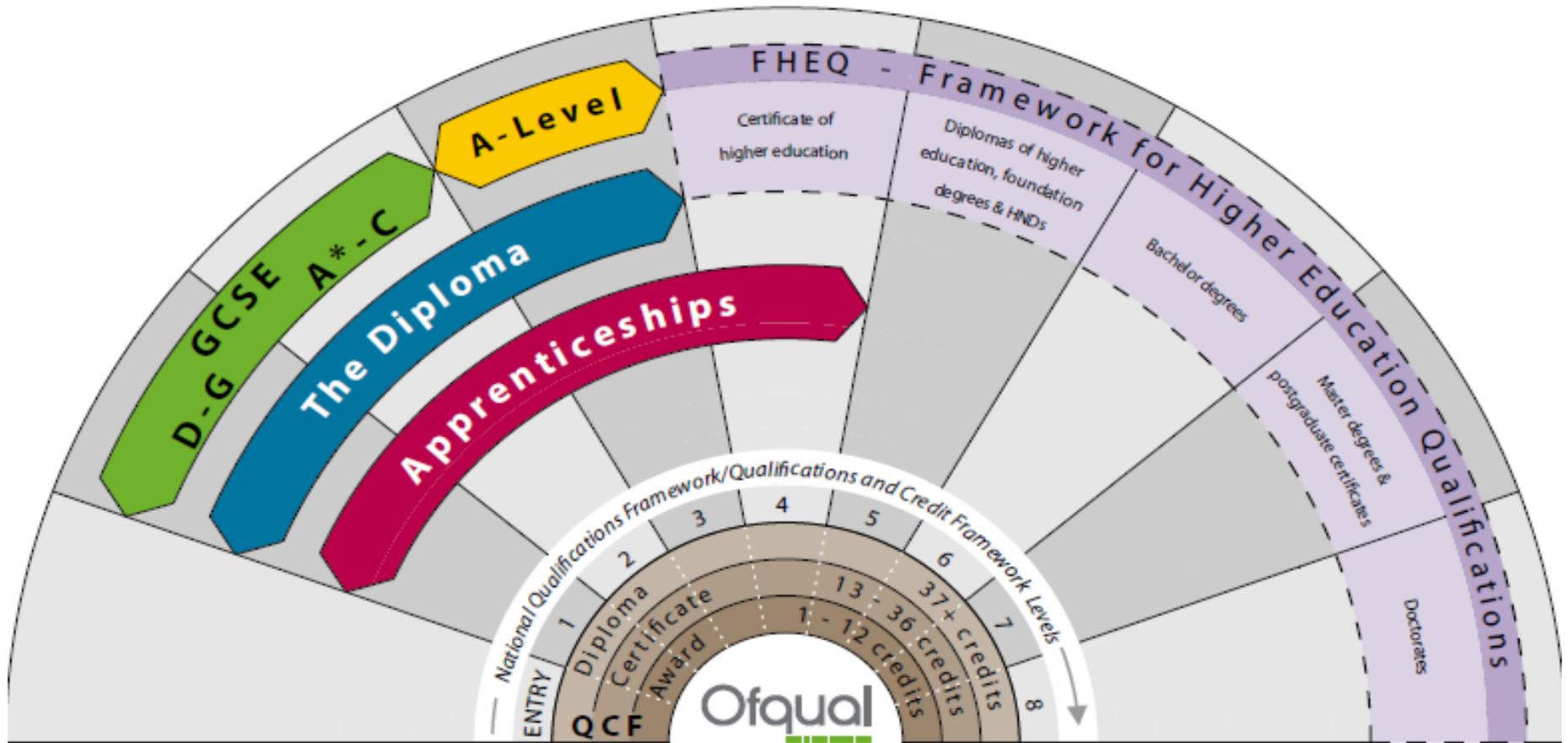
**Dr Annette Daly, Cardiff Metropolitan University**

**Dr Sandie Dann, Loughborough University**

**Catherine Marshall, Durham University**



# A time of uncertainty and change – explaining FYs to HEIs and to Government



“Universities should take action to embed FY programmes into the mainstream of higher education, not least by allowing a student who completes a FY programme in one university to have it recognised at another as a valid level of prior attainment.”

(Milburn, 2012, p.5)

# The Pedagogy of Debt

- A critique being developed from left and right alike;
- An entirely unsatisfactory rationale upon which to sell education, if that education is to ‘work’ best for the students themselves;
- How much confidence can we genuinely place in the ‘value added’ to our students’ lives – how confident are we that they’ll thank us for being ‘happier’, or ‘more enlightened’, but no richer (in many cases arguably considerably poorer), and at best, in hock to the system?

# One Voice for the FY Sector?

- Inherent tensions in formalising – individual strengths in institutional particularity (hence diversity) versus collective strength in finding a unified and coherent voice;
- To ensure buy-in (and buy-out), our defining (unifying) aims need to be clearly spelled out;
- These aims must put the needs of our students – disenfranchised, under-represented and marginalised – at centre-stage.

# Current issues for FY Sector

- SNCLs, ABB equivalences, and implications for benchmarking at Level 0;
- HESA retention, progression & achievement statistics, OFFA targets & KPIs;
- Possible removal of NSP funding for free FY provision, and/or reallocation of this funding to PGT 'WP' students;
- Policy tensions between BIS (FECs, the 'skills agenda', and Access to HE programmes) and Dept for Universities and Science (HEIs, HEFCE, the 'WP agenda', and FY programmes) e.g. terms of 24+ loans.