

Skills for Life

Numeracy, Literacy & digital skills for apprentices

Requirements for apprenticeships were informed by the 2012 [Richard Review](#)

This included the requirement to pass a Functional Skills Qualification – equivalent to GCSEs math's, English and IT

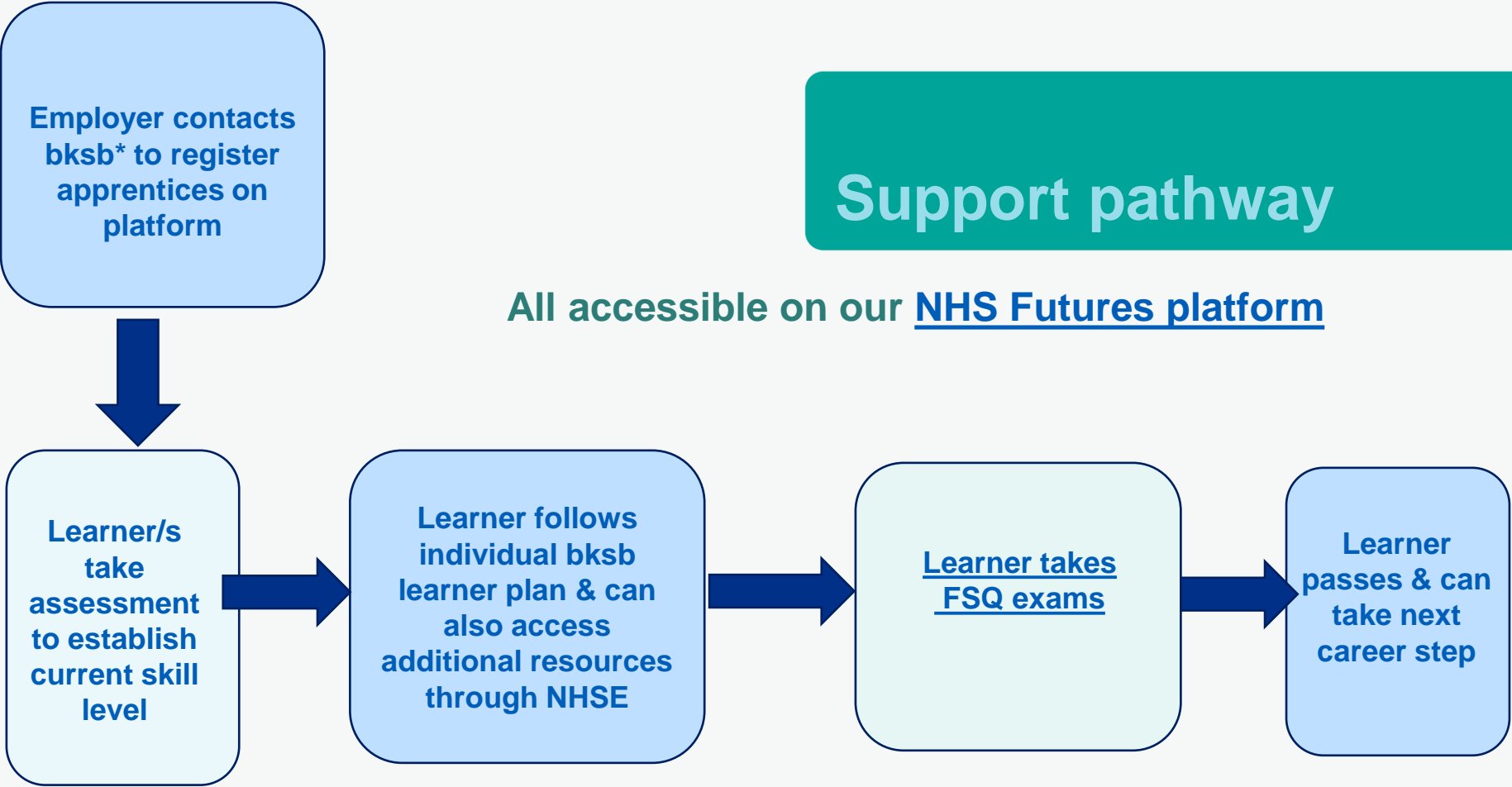
Employers in health and care reported that this requirement is a significant barrier to apprenticeship starts and completion, thus stopping progression, and that college provision was not accessible and/or teaching was low quality.

We responded by:

- Developing long-term, sustainable support by procuring *basic key skills builder**
 - Providing economies of scale, functional skills resources and access to exams **
 - Latest figures to February 2025 - 20,000 colleagues in the health and care workforce studying towards their FSQ on this platform
- Co-creating sector-specific training and resources with the National Literacy Trust and National Numeracy foundation
- Sharing and creating sector-specific [ESOL](#) resources
- Chairing a trusted and active peer network of employers (now over 750 members nationally)
- Kite-marking high-quality education providers

Support pathway

All accessible on our [NHS Futures platform](#)



For overseas apprentices: Employer uses [ENIC](#) tool to check equivalency of qualifications, to avoid duplicate learning