

# The Agored Cymru Quality Mark

## An Alternative to Accreditation

Adult Learning Conference: Connected Communities  
23 November 2016  
Cardiff City Stadium

# Aim and Objectives

## Aim:

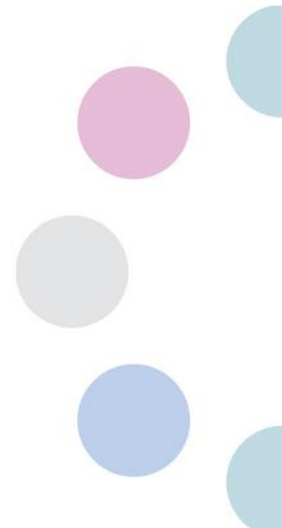
- To provide an overview of the Agored Cymru Quality Mark for Learning programmes in relation to Adult Learning

## Objectives:

- QM Indicators
- Decision-making
- Post endorsement
- Case studies
- Adult Learning and the Quality Mark

# What is the Quality Mark?

- A measure of excellence for learning programmes against a set of standards underpinned by good practice and current research
- Relates to all learning events eg training programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences, e-learning
- Not regulated activity



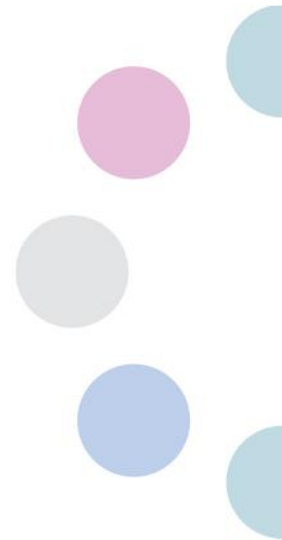
# Benefits

- **QA** – forms part of the organisation's quality assurance
- **Flexibility** - all delivery can be quality marked
- **CPD** – ensures learners get the best development opportunities
- **Communicates Excellence** – learning programme meets highest educational standards
- **Learning Programme Action Plan**
- **External Evaluation**
- **Free E-certification**

# Accreditation and the QM

## Differences:

	QM	Accreditation
<b>Credit</b>	< 10 hours	> 10 hours
<b>Standards</b>	Indicators	Units
<b>Levels</b>	No	Yes
<b>Learner Assessment</b>	None	Yes

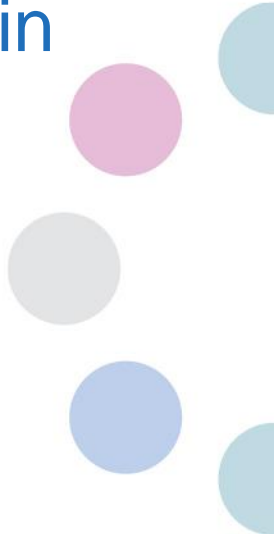


# The Application Process

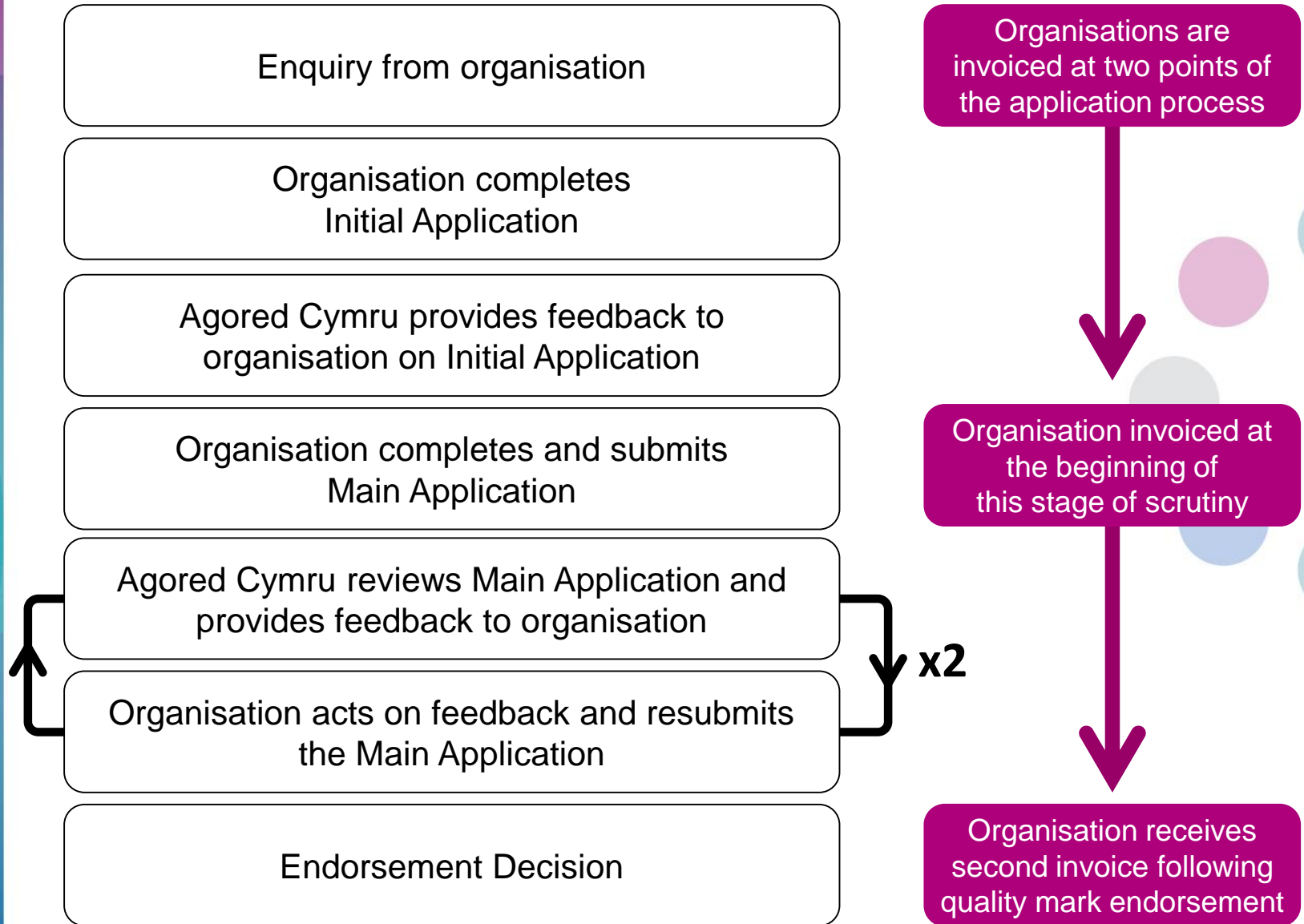
All organisations can apply for the QM regardless of centre status or delivering in Wales.

## Documents

- Initial application
- Main application
- Guidance documents



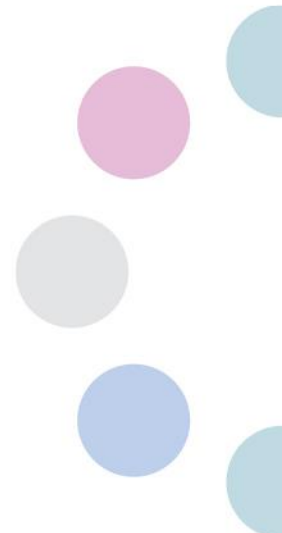
# The Process



# The Application Process

## Initial Application

- Organisation details
- Timescales
- Rationale for application
- Type of learning and learning programme
- CPD hours
- Links to national priorities
- Learner uptake

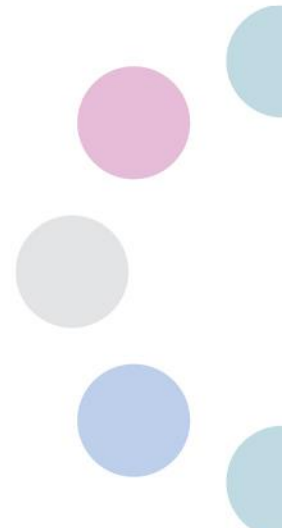




# The Application Process

## Main Application

- Timescales
- Language requirements
- 5 Quality Standards:
  - Planning and preparation
  - Learning management
  - Inclusive practice
  - Quality assurance
  - Learning deliverers
- 23 quality mark indicators



# Presenting Evidence

## 2 Types of Evidence required:

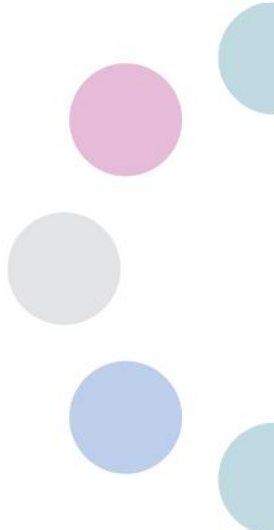
- A short clear description of how the organisation meets the indicators
- A link to documentation that proves that the practice is supported in the organisation eg policies, learner evaluations
- Evidence is RAG rated.

# Decisions

## 2 Decisions:

- **Endorsed** – all indicators met
- **Not endorsed** – further development work required and additional costs incurred for additional scrutiny

The organisation has 3 opportunities to submit the application.



# Awarding the QM

## Quality Assurance

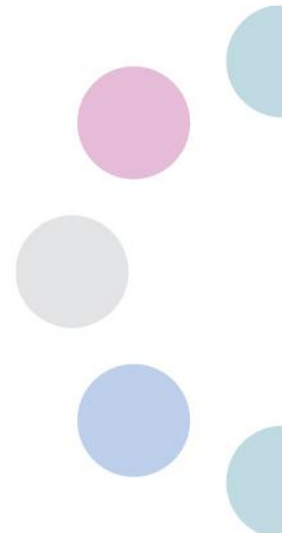
- All learners will be contacted by Agored Cymru to complete an evaluation linked to the quality mark indicators
- The organisation receives guidelines on promoting the quality mark in their marketing and the learning programme

# ColegauCymru

## International Teaching and Learning Conference – March 2016

“I am pleased that Agored Cymru, through its Quality Mark, formally recognised the professional learning that took place. It shows the way forward for professional action-oriented learning events.”

Iestyn Davies  
Chief Executive of ColegauCymru



# Older People's Commissioner for Wales

## Seminars for Safeguarding Older People from Domestic Abuse – October 2016

“The Quality Mark, which was awarded by Agored Cymru for the safeguarding seminars that I have recently delivered across Wales, means potential participants can be confident that their Continuing Professional Development will always meet the highest standards and will equip them with the essential knowledge and practical skills they require.”

Sarah Rochira  
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Agored Cymru

- Our mission and values align with those of the Adult Learning sector in Wales
- Together we work to tackle poverty by:
  - improving health and wellbeing
  - celebrating diversity
  - developing skills
  - supporting communities
  - providing a voice for learners
  - providing quality assured learning
  - working collaboratively

# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Recommendation 2

The Welsh Government should express how ACL should be restructured with a more clearly defined vision and a more consistent and equitable provision for learners.

The Quality Mark supports the need to increase the consistency and equity of provision for learners.



# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Recommendation 3

There is a need for a detailed review of funding for ACL.

The Quality Mark can help to reduce resource burden that can be associated with accreditation management.

Negotiated costs for accreditation bundles are also available to support restricting funding in Wales.

# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Recommendation 4

The Welsh Government should work with partners to produce a common framework for ACL in relation to employability, health and wellbeing, and community engagement and social cohesion.

The Quality Mark could be used, through collaboration, to underpin a National Framework for Adult Learning in Wales and support regional and national models.

# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Recommendation 5

ACL should be promoted as a key part of Wales-wide strategies to tackle poverty and support citizens' wellbeing.

Quality Marked learning programmes would help increase the profile of Adult Learning. We would work collaboratively to realise this ambition.

# A review of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Wales - 2016

## Recommendation 6

The Welsh Government should consider commissioning the development of national strategies and frameworks for CPD and quality assurance in ACL.

The Quality Mark could form part of the quality assurance for a Welsh Government commissioned national Adult Learning strategy and framework.

# Contact Details

## The Quality Mark

For further information about the Quality Mark, please email below or contact Daf Baker.

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