



Background

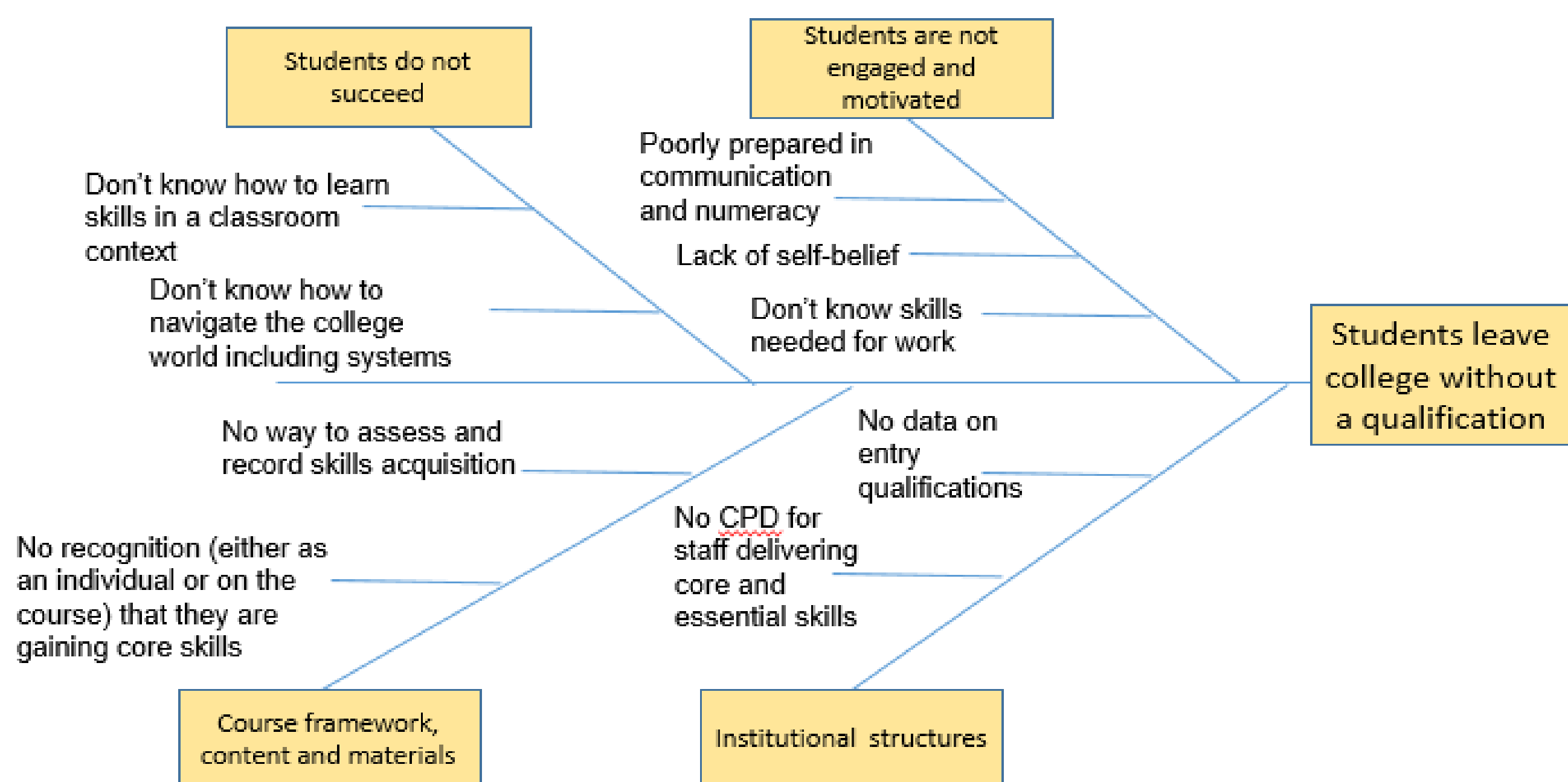
Statistics show that around a third of students who enrol on a full-time further education course for a recognised qualification don't complete the course successfully. The national college improvement project launched in 2017 to improve retention and raise attainment in FE in colleges. This piece of work is part of the national project. The group was selected as national and college level data show younger students on courses with single sex cohorts are less likely to complete their course successfully. Six of the 22 students from this course had left before testing started.

Aim

For 69% of the 16-18 year old male students participating in the project, to successfully complete Level 4 numeracy and Level 4 communication modules on their Entry Level Construction Course in Academic Year 17-18.

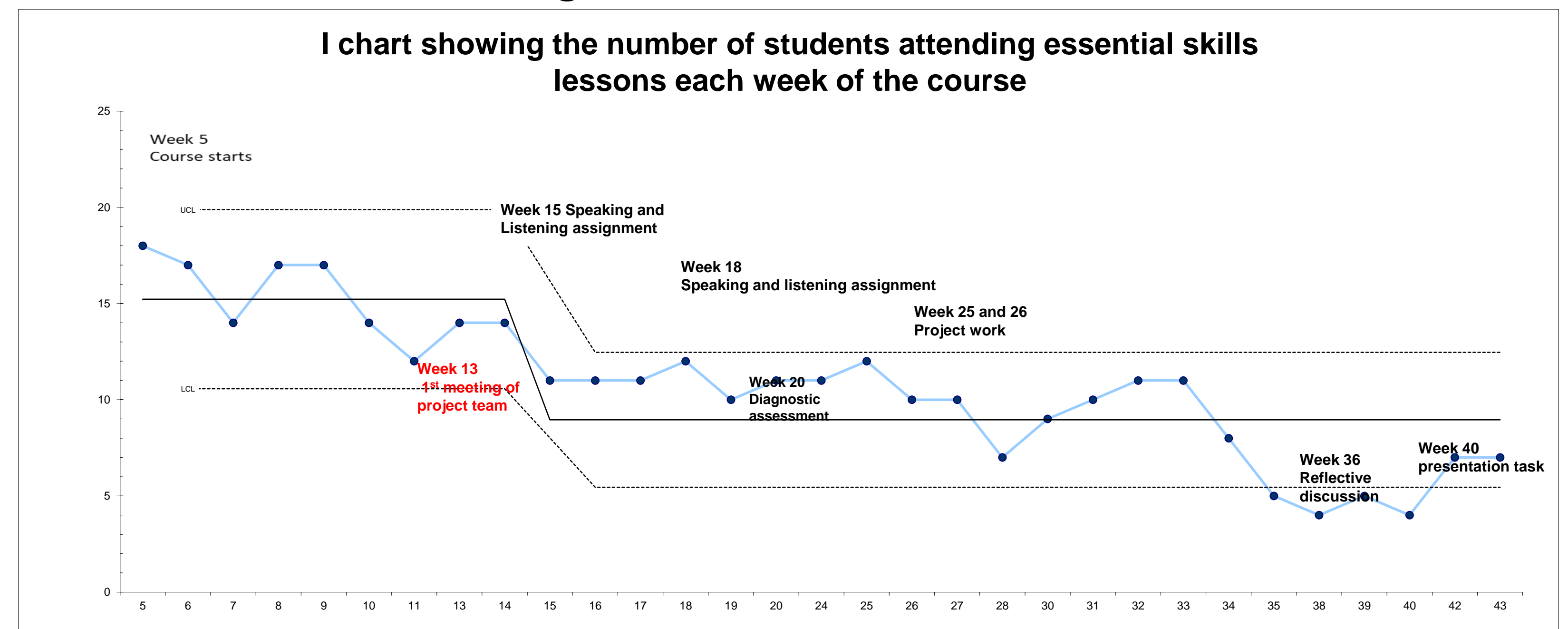
Method

I facilitated the team to use cause and effect analysis to explore and visually represent root causes and possible solutions, help identify change ideas and develop an improvement plan.



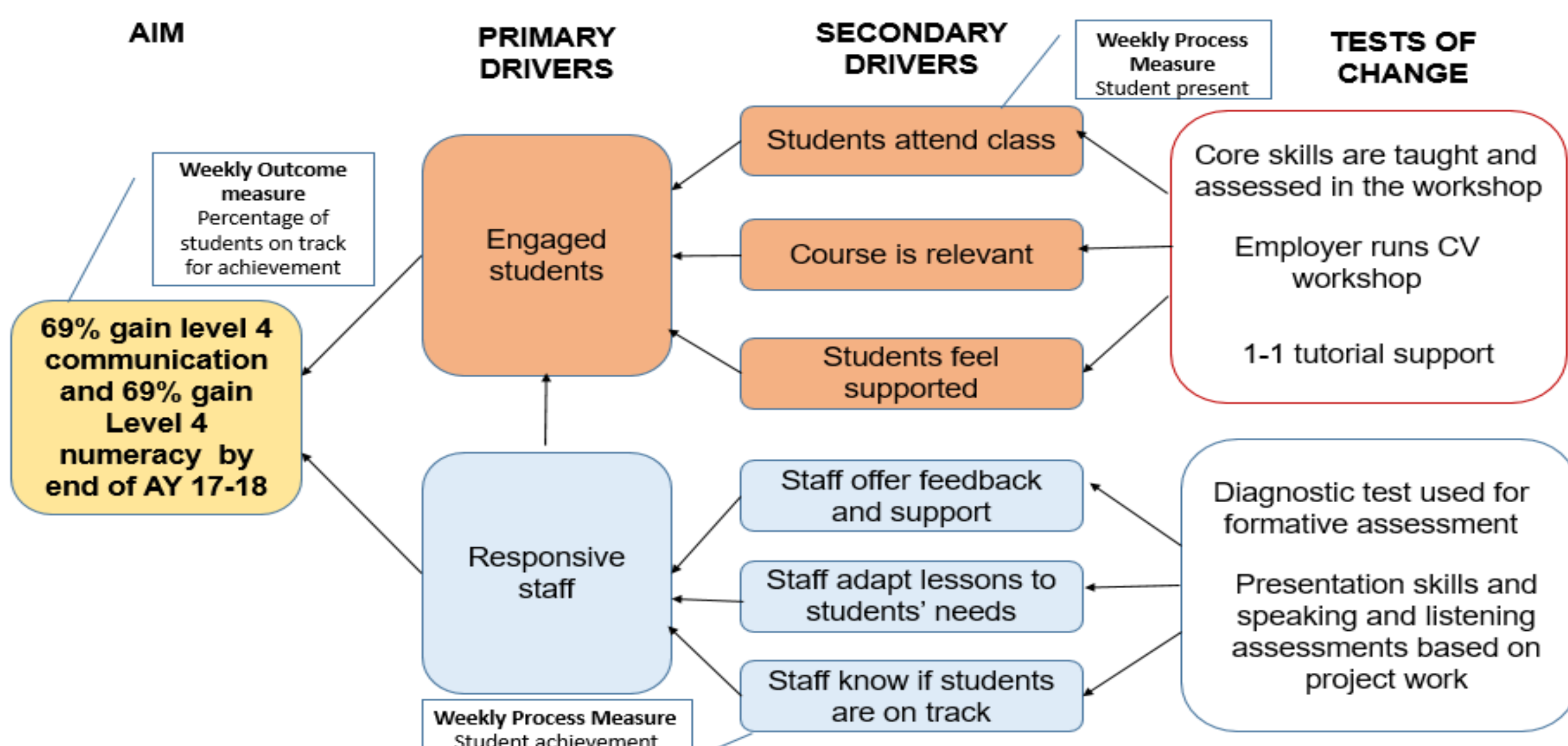
Results

16 students participated: 12 achieved level 4 communications (75%) and 11 achieved level 4 numeracy (69%). As changes were tested, attendance (linked to engagement in learning) stabilised before falling towards the end of the course.



Process Change

I then worked with the team to develop a theory of change



What Students Told Us

I have learnt new skills which will help me get an apprenticeship within the construction industry.

Numeracy work helped with working out measuring in the workshop. We got support with this in tutorial and did worksheets online

At first I thought this was like school but now I feel confident in working out measurements and talking and writing about my work on the course. I struggled with this at school and now have achieved level 4 numeracy and communication.

QI Learning and Next Steps

Leadership for improvement requires a multi-perspective team effort. Gathering and charting data over time is a powerful force for educational improvement. This approach will inform work on the national project.

References

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching – improvement science in education e-learning course <https://www.edx.org/course/improvement-science-in-education>. Provides insights through the voices of practitioners involved in the Foundation's improvement work.