

Sector Skills Council: Improve

Website	http://www.improveltd.co.uk/
Footprint – areas of responsibility	Food and Drink Manufacturing
Key Drivers and/or SSC priorities	<p>The food and drinks sector has problems with recruitment and retention, some pay levels are low and there are significant skills shortages that are affecting our position in the global market. Currently, the industry is operating in a fragmented, complex environment, with a multitude of formal qualifications, many of which fall short of employers' requirements.</p> <p>The creation of Improve provides a unique opportunity for the sector to review its commitment to training, to establish best practice and create an industry with world class capabilities. Improve represents a large and varied sector. Improve is charged with improving productivity in UK food and drink manufacturing industries and across its numerous sub-sectors including bakery, meat and poultry and sea fish. Improve is here to do improve business performance through skills across the entire sector.</p>
Key Drivers for Skills for Life	There are a number of organisations providing first class training and support services throughout the UK. Improve will work with these organizations to ensure these standards and practices are embraced across the industry sector at all levels, particularly SMEs (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises).
Key contact for Skills for Life	The Development team, headed by Development Director Derek Williams, are also refocusing their activity to better understand the employer's needs. Each of this team, together with the Executive Team, will take key account responsibilities, which includes employers, trade associations and government bodies. For example, Teresa Brookes, Learning Frameworks Manager, will be responsible for Coca Cola and the British Soft Drinks Association ensuring that her expertise in soft drinks and apprenticeships is fully exploited across the sector.
Main programmes offered in sector	<p>New Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVES) in food technology and manufacturing Holbeach Technology Park in South Lincolnshire and Askham Bryan College in York</p> <p>"Food and drink is the largest manufacturing sector in the UK, generating £65 billion and employing over 650,000 people. We currently are second only to Canada in terms of total factor productivity. However, within the industry around 21 per cent of the workforce have no formal qualifications. There is no doubt that by up-skilling the workforce, employers receive payback in efficiency, effectiveness, flexibility and productivity. "Investment in skills is therefore vital to increase the sector's growth and productivity and maintain our global position. Research</p>

	<p>suggests that just a five per cent increase in investment in skills by employers would produce an extra £3 billion in turnover and £30 million in profit for the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed a set of National Occupational Standards for managerial and technical roles • apprenticeships for young people • skills passport in Wales • foundation degrees <p>There are lots of qualifications to choose from. Those qualifications developed using the <u>National Occupational Standards</u> are based on industry requirements and are ideal for staff development in the workplace. These qualifications are NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and SVQs (Scottish Vocational Qualifications) in Scotland. They are available at levels one, two, three and four.</p> <p>There are also VROs (Vocationally Related Qualifications), which are often small to medium chunks of 'off-the-job' training aimed at giving candidates under-pinning knowledge and understanding to carry out their role effectively.</p> <p>There are also a number of qualifications available in the areas of Food Hygiene, Food Safety & HACCP implementation.</p>
Key statutory and/or legislative influences in sector	Food Safety, Health and Safety, Overseas Nationals
SSC agreement completed	Yes
Labour Market Information available	<p>The Food and Drink Manufacturing Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is worth £66 billion annually • Employs 650,000 people in the UK • Provides 17% of the UK Manufacturers GDP • Over the next decade around 150,000 skilled workers need to be recruited into our sector. This is due to the ageing workforce, the loss of experienced workers to other sectors and business growth within the industry.
Delivery issues for providers	This sector has its own training college.
Embedded learning materials available	Currently in development
Case studies	<p>http://www.improveltd.co.uk/improve/Top_Links/News_26_Events/Case_Studies_and_Success_Stories.c1076.aspx</p> <p>Individual and company case studies</p>
National Skills Academy established?	Due to be up and running in September 2006

Skills for Life projects running	Skills for Life Embedding Project (see attached PR document for details)
Newsletters available	Yes quarterly called Flavour