



IMPROVEMENT LEADER - LEVEL 6

Option to include the Level 7 Award in Strategic Leadership.

Programme Overview:

- Duration: 18 Months
- Level: 6 (degree equivalent)
- Funding: Fully Levy-funded or coinvestment models available.
- Key Focus: Lean Six Sigma (Black Belt level), Strategic Leadership, and Coaching.



“Ideal for Senior Project Managers advancing to strategic programme leadership”

“Empowering Directors and Heads of Department to drive organisation-wide transformation”

“Perfect for Transformation Leaders and Operational Excellence Heads seeking Master Black Belt-level impact”



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Level 6 Improvement Leader

The Level 6 Improvement Leader modules equip you to bridge the gap between high-level leadership strategy and operational execution. You will learn how to link boardroom strategy and operational reality using Hoshin Kanri, while mastering the leadership psychology required to navigate resistance and embed a lasting Kaizen culture. By refining your coaching and mentoring skills, you will be equipped to develop the next generation of practitioners, fostering a high-performance environment in which data-driven decision-making and continuous improvement are self-sustaining.

Ultimately, these modules empower you to lead with authority, ensuring that every initiative is strategically aligned, ethically governed, and delivers significant, measurable financial impact.

Who is the Programme For?

Project/Programme Management Roles:

- Senior Project Manager (with CI/ Lean focus)
- Programme Manager / Improvement Programme Manager
- Portfolio Manager (improvement or transformation projects)
- Project Director (operational excellence or change initiatives)

Senior Leadership Roles:

- Director of Continuous Improvement / Head of Operational Excellence
- Transformation Director / Head of Transformation
- Senior Leader / Executive Sponsor for Improvement Initiatives
- Operations Director (with strategic CI accountability)
- Change Leader / Director of Change Management
- Head of Department (e.g. Operations, Quality, or Supply Chain) championing improvement strategy

Hybrid / Specialist Roles (Blending Project Delivery and Leadership):

- Improvement Leader / Continuous Improvement Leader
- Lean Master / Senior Lean Leader
- Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt
- Senior Navigator (in transformation programmes)
- Logistics / Supply Chain Manager (strategic improvement focus)
- Environmental Health and Safety Leader (process excellence)
- Senior Process Excellence Manager
- Quality Director / Senior Quality Manager

Participants often progress from mid-level project leadership into these senior/strategic positions, or use the programme to strengthen their influence as senior leaders sponsoring large-scale change.

Workshops Covered in the Programme:

Strategic Leadership, Deployment & Policy Implementation

Map organisational strategies to improvement roadmaps using Hoshin Kanri; prioritise projects via benefit-cost analysis; simulate governance boards for multi-project oversight.

Lean Six Sigma Mastery (DMAIC & DFSS)

Build detailed project plans with Gantt charts and work breakdown structures; integrate process mapping into milestones and critical path analysis.

Advanced Statistical Analysis & Hypothesis Testing

Apply hypothesis testing to risk registers; use Monte Carlo simulations for contingency planning and quantitative risk analysis.

Voice of the Customer (VoC) & Value Stream Mapping

Conduct VoC analysis for stakeholder mapping; create value stream maps to align customer needs with project success criteria.

Leadership & the Psychology of Change

Role-play change impact assessments (ADKAR/ Kotter's models); integrate into project lifecycles for effective stakeholder communication and change control cultural enablers for long-term continuous improvement success.

Governance & Risk Management for Enhancements

Develop hybrid risk registers (e.g., addressing scope creep in Kaizen rollouts); apply qualitative and quantitative mitigation tools.

Coaching & Mentoring for Excellence

Design coaching plans for teams; mentor on benefits realisation to sustain gains and optimise resource allocation.

Capability & Process Control (SPC)

Track KPIs and sigma levels with SPC charts; perform variance analysis for process stability.

Financial Impact & Benefit Realisation

Create benefits realisation plans with tracking mechanisms; conduct post-project reviews to secure ROI and lessons learned.

Sustaining Culture, The Kaizen Mindset

Embed Kaizen into project closure; review.

End Point Assessment Method

Two methods ensure rigorous evaluation:

1. Written Dissertation Report (4,000–4,500 words) with a one-page A3 visual summary, plus a 45–50 minute presentation and 35–40 minute Q&A to an Independent Assessor. Demonstrate tangible business benefits and strategic alignment.
2. Professional Discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence (project reports, feedback, meeting minutes, etc.) gathered throughout the programme.

Possible Grades: Fail, Pass, Merit, Distinction

English, Maths and Functional Skills within the Apprenticeship

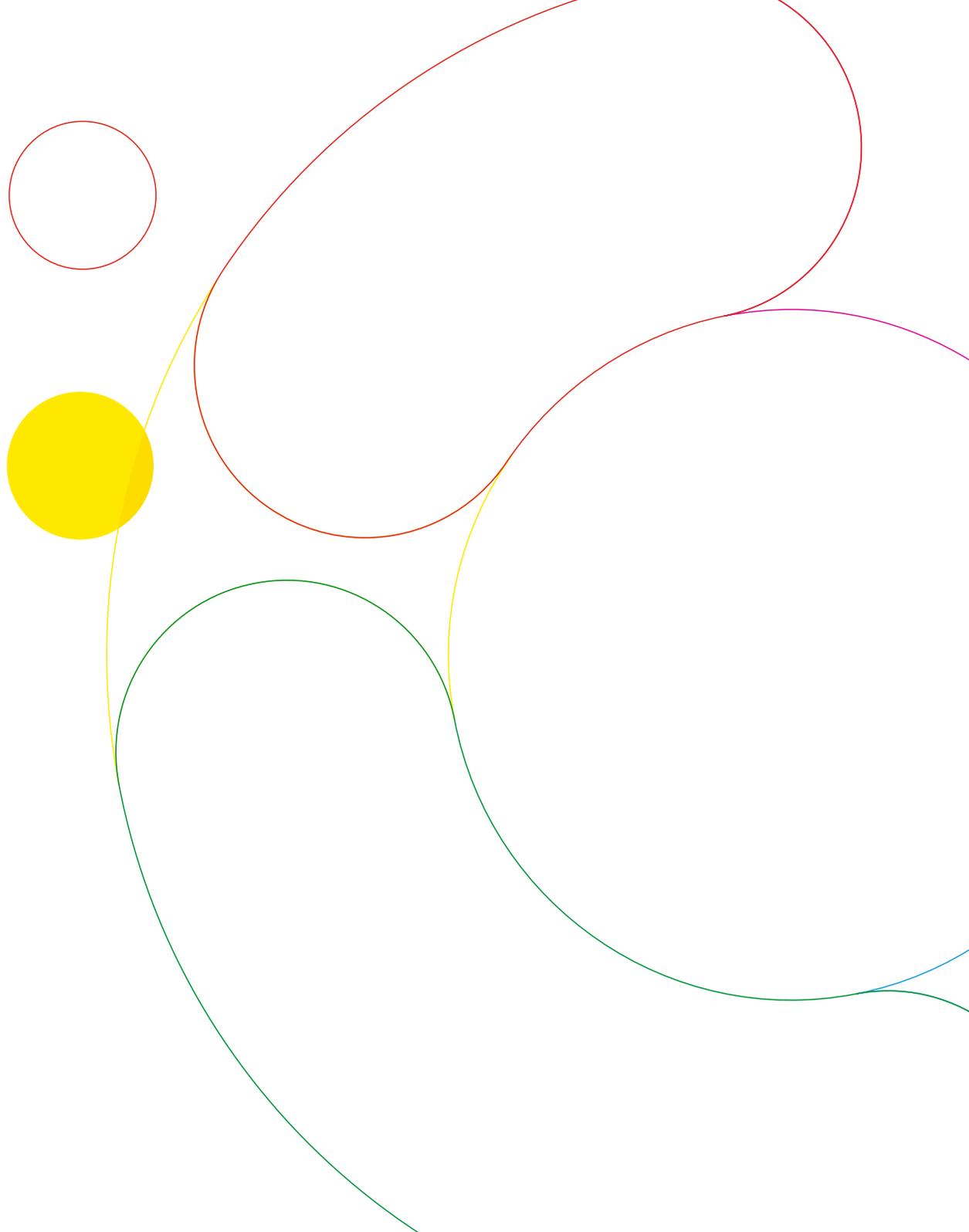
All apprentices have the opportunity to develop their English and maths skills as part of their apprenticeship and will need to develop sufficient skills to demonstrate competence in their chosen apprenticeship standard.

A 16-18-year-old must complete functional skills qualifications if they do not already hold any qualifications.

An individual aged 19 or over who does not hold existing qualifications should, with their employer, decide whether to pursue functional skills; however, these are not mandatory for programme completion.



 **1st for Awarding**



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