



"A college that listens..."

annual review 2006-07

our mission, vision & values

Our mission

We will provide an opportunity for everybody to participate and learn, realise their full potential and raise their achievement, by providing learner-centred high quality education, training and excellent services, in a professional and friendly manner.

Our vision

CONEL will be the preferred choice for our learners. Through excellent teaching and learning we will develop the potential of our communities and empower local people to take advantage of employment, business and lifelong learning opportunities.

Our values

A positive and friendly environment
A participative and supportive culture
Others' opinions and ideas
Diversity and equality
Respect for each other
Fairness and consistency
The chance to learn and achieve our full potential

Our strategic objectives

1. Equalise opportunities, secure progression and support learners to achieve above average levels of performance by 2006 and sustain that improvement to 2008.
2. Encourage take up by learners, increase demand for and widen participation in learning, from all communities and businesses.
3. Increase the engagement of employers in workforce development, with an emphasis on basic skills and the key sectors, through working with employers and trade unions.
4. Put lifelong learning for college staff at the heart of improving the learner experience.
5. Ensure the scope and range of our provision and services are appropriate and developed to meet learner, employer and community needs.
6. Ensure the quality of all our provision and services improves and becomes consistently good to be excellent by 2006 and sustain that improvement to 2008.

introduction

A small diagram on the bottom of page three of this report tells CONEL's recent story. After last year's impressive hike in exam passes to 91 per cent the question on everyone's lips was: 'Can the College keep it up?'

This year's figures confirm that the answer is 'Yes. And do even better!' The chart on the page opposite shows pleasingly stepped improvements year on year in terms of 'success'. Success is a hypothetical figure but a very important one for our funders. It is a measure that combines both exam pass rates and the number of students who stay on their courses. A high 'success' rate means that CONEL is not just teaching its students well, it is also keeping them on track in other ways and crucially they are continuing to attend college. Low drop out is clearly a sign of student satisfaction. CONEL staff should be proud of our 93 per cent retention rate for this academic year.

The improvements have not come without effort. Encouraged by Government guidelines such as 'Every Child Matters' the College has paid increasing attention to the holistic support needs of students inside and outside the classroom. Our new mentoring suite creates a peaceful environment for those who are struggling with their studies where they can get help from more confident peers, an enriching experience for both parties. This year students themselves wrote our student handbook – a marked improvement! Over the last three years we have invested significantly more resources into tutorials. This year alone our team of trained senior tutors carried out over 600 interventions with students in difficulties, using the motivational techniques in which they have been trained. We have also worked closely with the local police to ensure our learners feel safe when they are in college. The overall quality of our student support was recognised again this year when the college won the prestigious Matrix kitemark. CONEL also came in the top five in a national competition run by the Centre for Excellence in Leadership for its ability to listen to the 'student voice'. Our experience is that a college that listens retains satisfied and successful students.



Nicky Harrison

Nicky Harrison
Chair of Governors

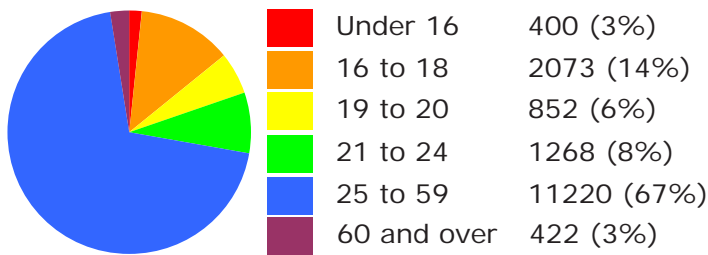


Paul Head

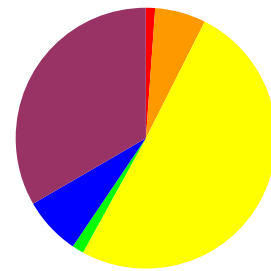
Paul Head
Principal and Chief Executive

student statistics

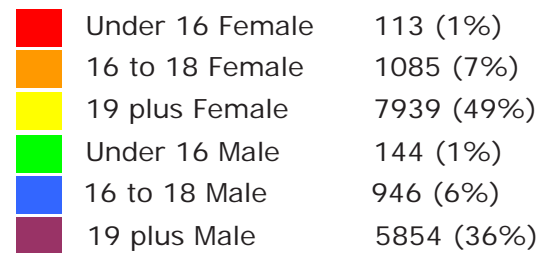
Age Profile



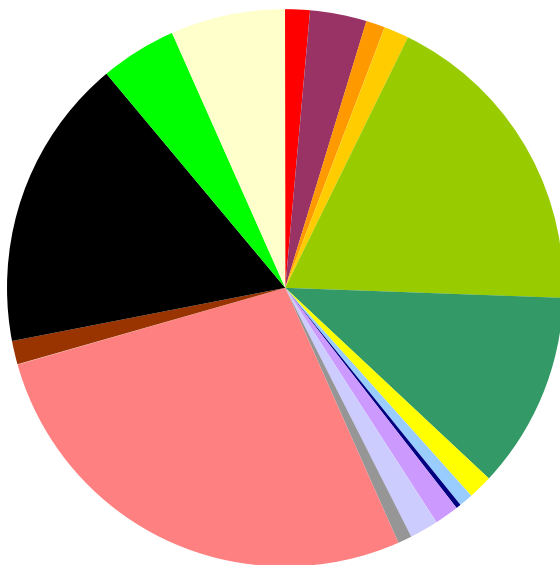
Gender



Mode of Attendance

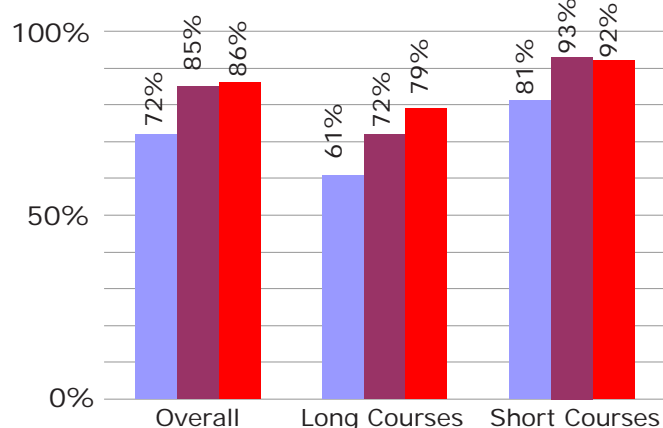
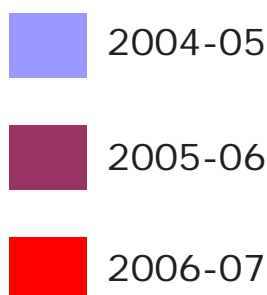


Ethnicity



Asian - Bangladeshi	199 (1%)
Asian - Indian	531 (4%)
Asian - Pakistani	153 (1%)
Asian - other	223 (2%)
Black - African	2778 (18%)
Black - Caribbean	1734 (11%)
Black - other	206 (1%)
Chinese	115 (1%)
Mixed - White and Asian	71 (<1%)
Mixed - White and Black African	179 (1%)
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	248 (2%)
Mixed - other	138 (1%)
White - British	4149 (27%)
White - Irish	195 (1%)
White - other	2577 (17%)
Any other ethnicity	692 (5%)
Not known or not provided	1004 (7%)

Success Rates



financial review 2006-07

The College's financial position remained robust with cash balances of £5.8 million and general reserves of £19 million at 31 July 2007. The operational surplus for the year was £261,000 on turnover of £31 million.

The major source of income came from Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding of £27 million, accounting for 87% of total income for the year.

A full income analysis is as follows:

Income source	£000s
LSC Grants	26,819
Tuition fees and education contracts	1,798
Other grant income	189
Other income	1,691
Investment income	311
Total income	30,808
Expenditure	
Staff costs	20,119
Other operating costs	7,989
Depreciation	1,803
Total expenditure	29,911
Restructuring costs	636
Surplus for the year	261

The College continues to hold LSC Category **A** financial health status. Further detailed information regarding income, expenditure and financial out-turn can be found in the Report and Financial Statement for 1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007.

board of governors

Mrs N Harrison	Co-opted (Chair of the Corporation)
Mr L Brissett	Business (Vice-Chair of the Corporation)
Mrs J Bax	Business
Mr K Brown	Business
Mr R Brown	Student
Mr M Cooke	Business
Mr F Ellis	Community
Cllr D Goddard	Local Authority
Mr P Head	Principal
Mrs C Maginley	Staff
Cllr G Meehan	Local Authority
Mr S Mehmet	Community
Rev. N Obunge	Co-opted
Ms G Ortanca	Staff
Ms Gillian Prager	Business
Ms C Sullivan	Business
Dr. M Wing	Co-opted
Mr Derek Mathieson	Secretary to the Corporation

We're in fashion

The academic year 2006/07 was a good one for fashion at CONEL. Not only did the college start a new level three vocational training course in fashion design, it also organised two catwalk displays. At the first, College staff strutted their stuff as models in a light-hearted show designed to raise money for the Jill Turner medical fund. In the second, the College's fourteen year old Young Apprentices demonstrated their considerable design skills in a collection based on the 1960s. The clothes were produced during their work experience sessions with our employer partner Cloth of Gold.

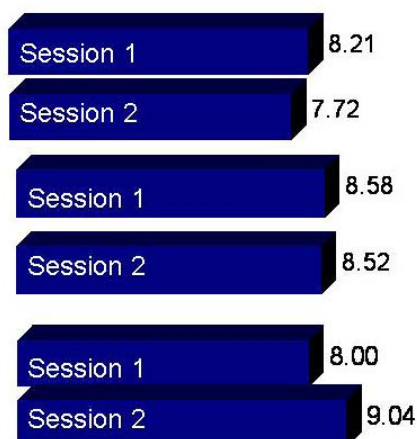


Wine course goes down well

It's been harder in recent years to find funding to run interest only courses (as opposed to vocational training courses) but this year's Wine Appreciation programme demonstrated that many people will pay a reasonable fee to enhance their knowledge, just for pleasure. And a lot of pleasure was had as the topics moved through New World whites, Old World reds, production and harvesting methods and different ways to keep the bubbles in champagne. As with all good education, learning strategies were both theoretical and.. ..hands on!

Not so great expectations?

Colleges like CONEL teach an increasing proportion of younger learners, but what is it like for them to step out of school and into this new world? A research group at CONEL decided to find out. Using anonymous push-button voting technology to agree or disagree with certain statements, the students told us they enjoyed college, thought teaching standards were high and felt optimistic about their futures. The survey showed a worrying discrepancy between their rather low expectations of college life and their positive experiences when they got here. These issues will now be addressed through our marketing campaigns.



An experience to build on

Level four design students provided the artwork for a Haringey Council-run campaign to encourage residents to vote for their favourite local buildings. The campaign was designed to foster greater appreciation of local architecture and at the same time, it gave the students a real brief and a real client to work for. The campaign managers were delighted with the resulting posters.



Making a safer CONEL

"We haven't found one blade", commented Sergeant Ian Williams contentedly after a day with the knife arches at the entrance to CONEL. The arches fit over the entrance turnstiles and are rigged to indicate the presence of metal. So why have the arches? "It makes the current students feel safer and it sends a message out that carrying a knife is unacceptable. The College is helping us spread the word in our London-wide anti knife campaign 'Operation Blunt'", says Sergeant Williams, head of the Tottenham Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Making Waves and winning awards

Women Making Waves, a European Social Fund project managed by CONEL, won the prestigious 'Best Adult Project' award at a dinner hosted by North London LSC at the Science Museum. The project gave 45 women the chance to further their media career ambitions through technology-based work placements at BBC London and Overtones recording studios.



Getting the right start

Sound initial advice and guidance is often the first step to a good career, so it was particularly pleasing that the College once again won a Matrix Award for its work in this area and in other student support functions. The Matrix award is reassessed every three years and is the recognised kitemark of quality for this kind of work.



Food for thought?

People who eat well and drink enough water can study well. That was one of the messages behind April's Healthy Eating Week when extra healthy snacks and drinks were available to sample in the canteen free of charge. This event, as well as support to stop smoking and free chlamydia testing, were all part of the College's involvement in the Government's Every Child Matters Agenda.

CONEL student powers to success

BTEC Sports student Guy Djedje made his mark this year in the competitive world of powerlifting. Representing England in the Junior Championships in Northumberland, Guy lifted personal bests in all of his three events, seeing off competition from all over the UK and Ireland. Still only 19, Guy can lift 265 kilos, over twice his body weight.



What next?

What should I do after my exams? Help was on hand to answer this common student question at the annual Employment Fair in July, arranged by the College's Careers Service. Dozens of businesses and recruitment agencies were on hand all day to answer students' questions and offer practical careers advice about their particular industries.



Lest we forget

In November two of CONEL's students made an emotional trip to Auschwitz in Poland, sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Kylie Gregory and Jayme McClory came back keen to tell others what they learned about the one million people murdered there by the Nazis. "A Rabbi told us that if we held a minute's silence for everyone who died, we would be silent for at least four years" said Kylie. "Nowadays, people can stand up for other races. In those days, no-one stood up for them."

Learning with the Unions

The College's groundbreaking work with people in jobs and with their Trades Unions was recognised in June when CONEL landed one of the first ever unionlearn awards. The presentation was made by Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Alan Johnson. He acknowledged the leading role the College plays in training union based Learning Reps, people who then promote training opportunities in their workplace.

