



Former nursing student sets up free health checks project

Former nursing student Mek Mehmet-Yesil has launched a project providing free health checks to disadvantaged communities.

Earlier this year she set up Health Screen UK with Erim Metto, CEO of the Turkish Cypriot Community Association where she has been the secretary since 2011.

Four other ex-students from CONEL – Ryannah Benjamin, Shanique Smith, Camilla Crockett and Maris Onuigbo – helped establish the project, funded by the National Lottery and Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Health checks are carried out at the project's premises in Green Lanes, Stoke Newington, and patients' homes, community centres, schools and care homes.

The check includes a full medical assessment including measurement of height, weight, body mass index and blood pressure and a blood test. It also looks at cholesterol and hydration levels, posture, diet and fitness.

Mek, 48, said: "While studying at CONEL I noticed that many people being diagnosed with life threatening conditions were from less advantaged communities, so I teamed up with a group of friends in healthcare to form Health Screen UK.

"We wanted to support the screening of people within their communities so they would feel at ease, and successfully secured funding from the National Lottery and CQC last year and the rest is history."

The project comprises six trustees and eight clinicians and works closely with the NHS Choices, Health Diagnostics, Council of Turkish Cypriot Associations (UK) and Turkish Women's Philanthropic Association.

Mek studied an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Nursing to update her skills with a view to studying



Mek Mehmet-Yesil has set up Health Screen UK to provide free health checks in the community.

a degree in nursing, but has currently put this on hold.

She previously gained a BSc in Physiology and Anatomy and is currently studying for a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Our Pass Rate

A huge **94.5%** of Health and Care learners at the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, achieved their qualifications in 2016-17.



To see a full list of courses and to apply, visit www.conel.ac.uk

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French Exchange students visit CONEL

Conel welcomes over 40 French students to the College each year as part of a visit to find out about care and health education in England.

The students from Lycee Edmond Michelet in Etiziche in western France sat in on several classes throughout the day. They met our Health and Social Care students and found out how they were taught.

Our students helped the French students with their English Language skills helping them to understand and also played a vital role in the success of the visit.

The students shared experiences and exchanged emails so they could continue to share best practice and experiences in the future.

Head of School Syma Mohsin-Shaikh said: "We're always happy to welcome students from other countries to meet with our students and share experiences. They were all very impressed with our facilities and left with a good idea of how things operate in the UK."

The students also visited a nursery and care home so they had a good understanding of how the sector is run, and how students are prepared through voluntary work and apprenticeships.



An inspirational healthcare worker who left school aged 12 with no formal qualifications looks set to fulfil her childhood dream of becoming a nurse.

Audrey Lakeman, 54, who works at North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, says her life was transformed after studying at The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CONEL) and is now applying to study for a nursing degree.

Audrey achieved a grade B in GCSE English in 2015, which along with her Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths gave her the springboard to study for a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care. While studying for the diploma she became one of 19 students from CONEL to land a job as a Healthcare Support Worker after a visit by staff from the hospital in Edmonton.

"I was so nervous," said Audrey, on her job interview. "My self-esteem was low and I did not think I was the right person and did not see myself getting the job. They then asked me back into the room and congratulated me. I cried and cried. It was a dream come true."

Audrey is based in the Acute Stroke Unit but has also worked in the T4 Surgical Ward, Maternity Unit, children's Rainbow Ward and A&E, and has been told by doctors her patient observation has potentially saved lives.



CARE



CONEL Early Years Students

Student Profiles: Tipped for Success

Oluwapelumi Akintunde, Early Years Education Certificate Level 2



The course taught me about child development from birth to infancy, but also helped me as a mother. My teacher was very supportive and understanding in helping me to progress, and made things 10 times easier. I couldn't have done it without her. It's been great."



Sevgi Bostanci
Health and Social Care
Extended Diploma



My teachers were kind and supportive, and helped me get the highest grade possible – a triple Distinction. The course was well structured and the work placements helped me gain the skills and experience needed to move onto a teaching degree at London South Bank University."



Monroe Williams, Access to Nursing



College was a great experience for me. I did well on my course and now I am going to university to study nursing."



Lisa Besemer, Children and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship



I studied the Children and Young People's Workforce Apprenticeship Level 3 and I thought the course was amazing. My tutor was very supportive, I learnt an awful lot doing the course. Now I'm working at the nursery where I did my apprenticeship."



On the job experience

The College is committed to helping learners prepare for their future careers in the health and social care sector, which is why we work closely with local universities and employers to ensure students get as much hands-on experience as possible. Additionally, the College hosts regular employer forum meetings, giving local businesses the chance to influence the curriculum.

It's important to prepare people for the workforce of the future. At the College, we don't just bring students in and teach them – we make sure students are ready for employment.

One thing the College is working on at the moment is a partnership with YMCA North London, who have asked us to help out with their after school club. We are also working with the Challenge Network to provide paid opportunities for our students this summer.



Students from Northumberland Park Community School taking part in the taster session

'Excellent' taster session

The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London welcomed a group of 15 Year 10 students from Northumberland Park School to take part in a practical taster session within the Health, Care and Early Years department. 100% of its participants rated the session as 'Excellent' overall.

The class that visited the College was made up of future nurses, care-givers, paediatricians and early years teachers.

Students raise funds for great causes

Social Care Level 3 learners from the College raised an amazing £357.90 for Great Ormond Street Hospital – all in a single day. But the fundraising won't stop there. There are already plans for Level 2 learners to host a fundraising event, to coincide with Volunteer Week.



Social Care Level 3 learners from the College

Are you an employer?

Taking on an apprentice can help you grow and develop a diverse workforce. If you'd be interested in taking on apprentices, why not invite one of our experienced account managers for a free consultation on **020 8442 3442**