

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT VISIT: MAIN FINDINGS

Name of College: Coulsdon College
Date of visit: 13 November 2006

This feedback contains brief findings from the annual assessment visit. It focuses on the themes explored during the visit and does not attempt to give a comprehensive overview of the college's performance.

Achievement and standards

College data for learners completing in 2005/06.

- Overall success rates in 2005/06 continued the recent trend of improvement. Success rates for long level 3 courses rose to 78%, slightly below the national average for sixth form colleges. Retention improved to 1% above the national average.
- Value added data (both ALIS and ALPS) indicate that most learners make the progress that would be expected based on their prior attainment at GCSE. The progress they make at AS level is good.

Strategies to improve success rates for 16 to 18 year olds, particularly at level 3.

- Courses that are under-performing are identified successfully. The 'Success Review' process ensures that appropriate actions are in place and regularly reviewed. There is evidence that this process had a positive impact on success rates in 2005/06.
- The attendance rate improved by 5% in 2005/06, to 83%, which is around the national average for sixth form colleges. Attendance to date in 2006/07 has been 85%.
- Work is continuing to review entry requirements for level 3 courses based on an analysis of average points scores. It will be some years before the impact on success rates can be assessed.

Quality of education and training

Impact of recent changes on teaching and learning.

- Staff development continues to focus on teaching and learning through initiatives such as 'supported experiments', learning coaches and the developments in e learning.

- The proportion of teaching and learning judged to be inadequate fell in 2005/06. All key indicators support the college's view that the quality of teaching and learning is improving.

Leadership and management

Improvements to the lesson observation scheme since the last AAV.

- 95 lesson observations were undertaken in 2005/06 of which 64% were judged to be good or better and 4% were judged to be inadequate. Overall, this is a realistic profile set against other key performance indicators.
- The lesson observation form has been re-designed to improve feedback and to link more effectively with staff development. The policy has been reviewed and a new observation team is in place. 'Mock' inspections are continuing to contribute to the overall profile.
- The use of the information generated through lesson observations is inconsistent. There are good examples of issues being effectively addressed. However, not all curriculum areas are using the information well to support improvement.

Improvements to self-assessment since the last AAV, including the use of value added information at course level.

- A standardised procedure has been introduced for 2006. The use of performance data, including value added information, is improving. Generally there is clear identification of areas for improvement together with effective strategies to address the issues. The overall outcomes are realistic.

Any other observations from the visit not identified in the pre-visit analysis:

- Enrichment opportunities for learners through sport and recreation have been enhanced by the appointment of two people whose prime focus is to encourage participation in sporting activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.