

## Double celebration as Hertford Regional College becomes a CoVE!

Hertford Regional College (HRC) was awarded CoVE (Centre of Vocational Excellence) status on 19th December 2005 for excellent work and achievement, in particular the NVQ provision for Childcare programmes through the Ware Assessment Centre, part of the Department of Care and Early Years Education. HRC's CoVE is one of only 18 childcare CoVEs countrywide and is the only one in Hertfordshire.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the Ware site of Hertford Regional College, we recognised this achievement with a joint celebration!

Dr Richard Dorrance, Chief Executive of the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education (CACHE) cut a special CoVE cake and unveiled a plaque in honour of the new status. This was then followed by the presentation of certificates to 53 mature students who completed a number of NVQ courses in areas such as Care Level 2, 3 and 4, Teaching Assistant Level 2 and 3, Playwork Level 2 and 3, Early Years Care and Education Level 2 and 3 and Caring for Children and Young People Level 3. All the students are currently working in a care or childcare setting, for example, in a school, nursery or care home, so they have fitted their studies around their busy working lives.

Special guests included Jeff Wren, Director of Further Education at Hertfordshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC); and Alan O'Neill, Chair of Hertfordshire LSC.

Gill Forrest, Initiative Manager of the Ware Assessment Centre, said "The achievement of Centre of Vocational Excellence status reflects the hard work and commitment from the staff and students over last few years. NVQs are at the forefront of qualifications and reflect competence in the workplace. We are delighted to be part of this initiative."

Paul Harvey, Principal of HRC commented "For HRC, the award of CoVE status is a formal recognition of the quality of teaching and high levels of service delivered to employers by the Ware Assessment Centre. Achieving this status was no easy task and took a lot of hard work. I am very proud of the staff involved."



*Photo: (left to right) Richard Dorrance, Gill Forrest (Initiative Manager of the Ware Assessment Centre) and Paul Harvey (Principal of HRC) cutting the CoVE cake.*



*Photo: (left to right) Jeff Wren, Director of Further Education at Hertfordshire LSC, Richard Dorrance, Gill Forrest, Paul Harvey and Alan O'Neill, Chairman of Hertfordshire LSC standing by the CoVE Plaque*