

West Anglia student all set for a four-footed future

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A young woman from the East of England is well on her way to achieving her dream of working with animals thanks to a Learning and Skills Council programme, Entry to Employment (E2E).

When 17 year-old Hayley Cannom from **Sutton Bridge** left school last year she was not sure what she wanted to do. "I had always liked the idea of animal care but I didn't have the belief in myself and just thought it wouldn't be possible. So I went to college to do Hairdressing but didn't like it, so I left."

Hayley then came across details of the E2E course being run at West Anglia College and thought that sounded like a good next step. E2E is aimed at 16 to 18 year-olds who aren't ready to go straight onto an Apprenticeship or into employment or higher education. As well as working on improving basic skills such as literacy and numeracy, it also helps young people develop their confidence and personal effectiveness.

At West Anglia, Hayley achieved Level 1 at Communications and ICT but just as importantly from Hayley's point of view was the support she got in helping her decide what she could do in the future.

"The course really gave me confidence because I was quite shy when I started. The College also helped me get a work experience place at The Butterfly & Wildlife Park at Long Sutton which was fantastic and gave me an insight into the working world. It made me realise that working with animals was what I wanted to do."

So much so that while she was doing the E2E course, Hayley applied to do a year-long BTEC First Diploma in Animal Care at West Anglia's Wisbech campus which she started in September.

"I'm enjoying the course so much. As well as the studying, there's a lot of hands-on stuff with the animals."

On top of her studies, she is still finding the time to work at the Butterfly Park three days a week and is already thinking about the next step to fulfilling her dream. She is planning to apply for the National Pathway in Animal Management, another year-long course starting this September.

“Doing the next level would give me the choice of working either in a zoo or a vets’ practice. I don’t mind which I end up doing – as long as it’s working with animals.”
“I’m so pleased I did the E2E course. As well as giving me the skills I needed, it has given me the confidence to go to the next level. I would never have got this far without it.”

Holly Shepherd, Hayley’s E2E Co-ordinator at West Anglia College said: "Hayley was extremely focused and enthusiastic 100% of the time. E2E helped her realise just how capable she really is and with her attitude and determination I have no doubts that she will be successful in whatever she wishes to achieve."

Denise Bangay, Senior Adviser in Commissioning Support for the LSC’s Young People’s Learning Division, added: “E2E is helping young people throughout the region turn their lives around. Hayley is a shining example of how E2E can boost someone’s skills and confidence so that they can go on to achieve their ambitions."

Notes for editors

1. The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/>
2. Entry to Employment (E2E) aims to help young people who are not yet ready or able to directly enter Modern Apprenticeship programmes, further education or employment. Young people are helped to prepare for progression to employment, employment with training, Modern Apprenticeships and further education. For more information go to: <http://e2e.lsc.gov.uk/>

**Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR East
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