

## Kevin scores with e2e

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Goalkeeper Kevin Morton was not sure which of his options to save when Grimsby Town Football Club called him up for a trial.

The chance to break into the professional game was clearly one not to be missed. But heading for Humberside would mean giving the red card to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded e2e (entry to employment) construction course he'd just begun.

Not wanting to pay the penalty of having nothing to fall back on if the football didn't work out, Kevin, 17 and from Blyth, approached his training provider, Northumberland Training Agency, for help.

And Training Officer Ann Harrington had just the answer. She arranged for Kevin to put in some extra time on the course so that he could complete it early – re-organised his programme to allow him to train for the football trial and even secured some financial help to buy new kit.

The result was that Kevin travelled to Grimsby with a joinery qualification and in good shape for the challenge, which he met to secure an apprenticeship with The Mariners. If all goes well he will be offered a professional contract with the club in the new year.

"I can't thank Ann enough for all her help," said Kevin: "She really sorted things out for me and without that I don't think I would have been able to grasp this opportunity. I came here determined and relaxed, knowing I enjoyed joinery and could always return to it if I didn't make the grade.

“So far everything is going well. My coaches are pleased with my progress and I am really enjoying the training and the playing. I just have to keep working hard to make the most of this chance.”

Added Ann Harrington: “Kevin has worked extremely hard and deserves the opportunity he’s been given. We all wish him well and hope, one day, to be watching him play in the Premiership.”

Chris Roberts, Regional Director with the LSC North East, said: “Whatever happens, woodwork seems sure to be a key part of Kevin’s future – between the sticks or in the construction industry. Either way, training will play a big part in his career.”

e2e is a highly supportive learning programme for 16-18 year olds who are not quite ready for an Apprenticeship, employment or further education. It is individually tailored to each young person to address their needs and help them achieve their goals.

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**Editor’s Note:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

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