

23 December 2009

## **CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR COMMUNITY FOOTBALL TEAM**

Grimsby's Open Door project has teamed up with Grimsby Town Football Club to give free tickets to the under 15s youth team run by the centre's social care manager.

Social Care Manager Rob Baty took over the running of the Clee Community Football Team last summer after they were left with no one to manage them, and has since been supporting them and has entered them into a league.

Now the 15-year-olds will be celebrating a Christmas to remember as Grimsby Town Football Club donated each player a free ticket to the Grimsby Town versus Port Vale match on 28 December.

Social Care Manager Rob Baty said: "These lads have never been to a football match before and they were really pleased when they found out. At Open Door we're proud of the way we work with all sections of the community in Grimsby and delighted that Grimsby Town FC has shown the lads this support."

In 2010 Open Door will also be teaming up with the North East Lincolnshire Council Sports Development Department, working towards more Open Door clients becoming involved in football and setting up training with professional coaches.

Graham Rodgers from Grimsby Town's Football in the Community said: "It's fantastic for the Club to be able to offer opportunities to the various groups of people that Open Door works with, as not everyone is able to enjoy the experience of seeing a live football match."

**For press information please contact Communications Officer Dawn Bunnell on 0161 227 0205 or email [dawn.bunnell@thebiglifecompany.com](mailto:dawn.bunnell@thebiglifecompany.com)**

### **Notes to Editors:**

What is Open Door?

The people Open Door works with could have one or a combination of barriers which stop them from accessing mainstream services – they could be living with addiction or substance misuse, leaving statutory care, be homeless, an ex-offender, an economic migrant, a sex worker or someone who has been banned from services as a result of violent or aggressive behaviour.

The project began in 2003, when two specialist health visitors identified that around 1,000 Grimsby people did not have a GP. NE Lincolnshire PCT worked with a designer, to work with people and find out the reasons they were unable to use mainstream services.

Open Door now has a social and activity centre with a wide range of well being services on offer, and its GP service now has some 550 patients registered with them.