



GIVING A VOICE TO YOUNG TALENT

By Jenny Waddington
BUSINESS REPORTER

WARWICKSHIRE teenager Kallum Bell has helped the region gain a noticeable UK first after the Young People's Enterprise Partnership was officially launched this month.

The 17-year-old, who is the founder of web design specialist Good Links, has been selected to help drive forward the group so it becomes the voice of Young People's Enterprise in the region.

Backed by the Young People's Enterprise Centre of Expertise and Advantage West Midlands, the partnership will give some of the area's brightest young talent the chance to speak up and influence future enterprise policy and strategy.

After holding its first meeting at

the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce's headquarters, it will also look to urgently address some of the issues around rising youth unemployment, with an estimated 110,000 now without work – nearly 26 per cent of young people living in the West Midlands.

Furthermore, the region has seen the number of young Job Seeker Allowance claimants increase by 4.1 per cent in just over a year, the highest rise recorded across the UK. Kallum, who set the business up when he was just 14, said: "It has never been more important to encourage young people to be enterprising, whether that is starting their own business, in education or in the development of their chosen career.

"Previously we have not had a vehicle to get across our thoughts, feedback and ideas. What the En-

terprise Partnership gives us is a dedicated voice where we can influence policy, strategy and activities in the West Midlands. In a recent survey, 22 per cent of under 25s think they'll be in business or self-employed within five years and our job will be to ensure that the support mechanisms are 'young people' friendly so these aspirations can be fulfilled."

Members of the partnership were selected following a series of interviews and chosen for their differing skill sets and backgrounds in the public, private and voluntary sectors.



FIRST CLASS:
Kallum Bell

TV Jamie praises a 'shining star'

CELEBRITY TV chef Jamie Oliver has praised 35-year-old Alison Harling from Rugby as one of his shining stars for her amazing contribution to his new business venture, Jamie at Home.

The local woman achieved top sales for her region of East Midlands for the venture.

Jamie personally invited Alison to dine with him at his exclusive Gala Dinner, held at the prestigious Grosvenor Hotel in London where she received five-star VIP treatment and got to sit next to the famous chef himself.

Jamie at Home, the thriving direct-sales business, has taken the country by storm and Alison has achieved outstanding team sales of more than £110,000 in just ten months.

Logistics firm wins outdoors show deal

A COVENTRY firm has secured a major new contract with one of the UK's largest consumer events companies.

International Lifting and Shipping has won a contract to supply logistics services to VOS Media – the organisers of three flagship consumer events, including The Ski and Snowboard Show, The Vitality Show and The Outdoors Show.

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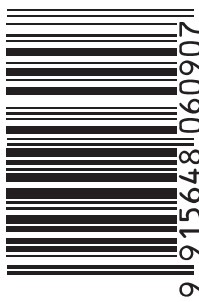
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