

My name is Morgan Brown I am 16 years old and love playing football. I began playing at 5 years old in a group called football in the community. I was the only deaf player but played with a lot of my friends from school. I attended a main stream school with a deaf unit. The group formed a team at under 7s and I still play for the same team today at under 18 level. I have had the occasional comments from opposing teams, due to lack of understanding. I.e. what are those on your head? At the age of 10 I started attending a disability session for football on Saturday morning in Sheffield. The session was a mix of training and mini games with a wide range of disabilities taking part. After a few months my parents were asked if I would be interested in attending a player development session on Sundays. The sessions were aimed at players who had the potential to move on up the level ladder to hopefully then play for their country. After a year of attending these sessions the head coach said he would like me to move to the next level, unfortunately there was no level 2 sessions for me to move to. Sheffield were hoping to bid to run the sessions but at that time there was nowhere for me to move to, so I continued to attend the Sunday sessions. One of the coaches then put together a team and we entered a disability league, winning it the first season we played. The second year someone from the Doncaster disability team spoke to my dad about me playing for Doncaster Deaf Trust. After speaking to the manager my dad explained I was still only 15 years old, so I trained with them until I was 16 and old enough to play for the team. I now captain the B team and play for the A team. Through playing for Doncaster Deaf Trust I was asked about attending trials to play for Great Britain at under 21 level. I have attended 2 sessions and am now shortlisted to attend a tournament in Poland later this year. My goal has always been to play for my country as this is great honour. My confidence has improved not just on the field but in everyday life as well. My only issue with being selected is the funding. Self-funding will be a big issue for me as I am 16 years old and at sixth form at school so I don't work. I and my parents will have to fund raise to enable me to afford the cost involved. My goals are to be successful playing for my country and achieve my ambition of becoming a PE teacher.