

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Great Barr School
Region: Birmingham
Age range: 16 - 17 years old
Issue: Sexual Health



What issue did they tackle and why?

The team at Great Barr School decided to focus on teenage pregnancy as a number of girls in their school had had children. The team were very concerned about the impact this had had on the young girls' lives and felt that their school was not taking adequate action to prevent teenage pregnancies.

What did they decide to do?

The students made contact with the NHS's Birmingham Primary Care Trust Young People's Health Advisor and gained their support. Through working with the NHS the students gained in-depth knowledge about sexual health and contraception and designed a sexual health workshop to educate younger students.

They persuaded the school to give them a space and to allow 80 year 10 students to have time off from their lessons. The team worked alongside NHS staff to deliver their workshop.

After their impressive workshop and some negotiation with the school, the team is now committed to delivering an ongoing sexual health programme.

Envision students will be involved in tailoring the structure and delivery of the programme ensuring this is an ongoing project with a long-term impact in the school.



What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, "What do you want to change?" teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

For further information please contact Emma Bird
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Achievements

Reached 80 year 10 students in their school

These students had previously been receiving very little sexual health education and are now have been informed through the team's workshop.

Partnership between the school and the local NHS Teen Pregnancy Team

The NHS is now working with the school to develop a long-term sexual health programme in the school.

Article in the local press

The team's project was showcased in the Sutton Observer, which is delivered to more than 57,000 homes – further raising awareness about this important issue and demonstrating young people making a difference.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Team working skills

From the beginning of the project to the end the team have worked well together, sharing workload and ideas successfully.

Project planning skills

The students were involved in all aspects of the project from the structure of the workshop, booking the school hall to gaining permission from the teachers to allow the year 10 students to attend the workshop.

In-depth knowledge on STDs and contraceptive methods

Confidence and Presentation skills

The girls demonstrated how to use a variety of contraceptive methods, including condoms, and talked about sexually transmitted diseases to large groups of male and female students.

Testimonials

"I think having a youth-led project is important as it focuses on addressing their needs and issues relevant and important to them. It also sets a good example to the lower years in school that older students think it is important to talk about contraception.

I really enjoyed working with the students; they were a good bunch with some great ideas! I think they were a little shy at first but I could really see them develop confidence."

Alicia Doyle, Young People's Health Advisor

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