

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Priesthorpe School
Region: Leeds
Age range: 17-18 years old
Issue: Community Cohesion



What issue did they tackle and why?

The team wanted to offer their perspective, as a diverse group of young people, on racism and community cohesion in the Leeds and Bradford area.

In the wake of the Bradford riots and the recent rise of the BNP in their area they were keen to get a positive message across to older generations, as well as educate those younger about the causes and consequences of racism.

What did they decide to do?

The group decided that the most effective way to get their message to the widest audience possible was to create a short film which they could showcase and share.

They began by researching further into the issue and attended a talk on community cohesion by *Stop Hate UK*.

To raise funds for their idea the team took their project to Envision's Pitch 4 Change where the panel awarded £500 towards the film's production. They also met Harvey Ascott from *Leeds Bridge* who offered to shoot the documentary with them for a reduced fee as well as provide additional support with the filming and editing process.

Entitled 'Broken Identity' the documentary was premiered to local young people and teachers and uploaded to YouTube to increase their audience further still. The film was entered into the Bradford Young People's Film Festival and Peerlink National Awards.



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

Planned, filmed and edited a professional-looking documentary

The team saw their project through from first ideas to the finished product, putting in a lot of work and a few late nights to ensure it was edited in time for the premiere.

Won a national award

'Broken Identity' was awarded the 'Resolving Community Conflict' Award from conflict charity PeerLink. The team were invited to an awards ceremony in London to collect their award.

Challenging stereotypes

The team aimed to combat negative stereotypes around many groups of people through their documentary. During the filming and production of the film they were real role models for other young people as they talked passionately about the project to peers and at networking events.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Filmmaking skills

As part of the collaboration with *Leeds Bridge*, the team took part in a three-day crash course in writing, shooting and editing a documentary, which they then put into action when making their film.

Networking skills

The team went from shy sixth-formers to savvy networkers in the space of three or four months, talking confidently about the group's project and aims with a variety of decision-makers and community representatives.

Team work

With such a creative project the team had to work especially hard to ensure that everyone's ideas were considered and brought together to make the finished item.

Testimonials

"The ten students involved personally benefitted greatly from the experience, which has particularly enhanced their communication, team work and organisational skills, as well as raising their self-confidence. They worked hard and with commitment to meet deadlines, and certainly learned some useful lessons about how to avoid last-minute panics in future!

Their project has made a good contribution to resolving conflict in the community because it was entirely led and devised by the students themselves and therefore has great authenticity and credibility with other students."

Jinny Lazenby, Head of Sixth Form at Priesthorpe School

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