

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Lambeth College
Region: London
Age range: 16 - 17 years old
Issue: Refugees



What issue did they tackle and why?

This team were shocked to discover that in Britain many children were affected by poverty. They found out that children and their families seeking asylum were particularly vulnerable, receiving little support.

To learn more, they contacted Action for Refugees in Lewisham and the charity invited them to visit their centre and take part in their Children's Christmas Party. Meeting the children at the centre helped the team learn more about the challenges they faced and strengthened their resolve to develop their own project.

What did they decide to do?

After their trip, the team began to plan an awareness-raising event at their college to challenge negative attitudes towards asylum seekers. They designed and ran an interactive stall in their student centre, making and finding a range of resources to inform other students about the issue, and encouraging them to write positive messages to refugees.

Later in the year, inspired by the success of their first event, the team ran a more ambitious creative stall for two days. This time, they were aiming not just to raise awareness but also to raise money for Action for Refugees in Lewisham, so they included quizzes and sourced several prizes to encourage people to donate.



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

Raising awareness in their college and community

The team challenged negative stereotypes of refugees and asylum seekers using creative resources and games to engage and inform young people at their college.

Learning more about their area

They built links in their community by visiting a local charity and meeting people affected by poverty in South London.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Communication skills

Through running activities on their stall and talking to other young people about a complex and sometimes controversial issue, the team overcame their lack of confidence and developed their communication skills.

Problem solving skills and self motivation

Faced with the challenges of a small team and time pressures, the young people re-designed their project to ensure they would still achieve their aims of raising awareness and money, demonstrating impressive problem-solving skills and self motivation.

Knowledge of local issues

The Lambeth team knew that before they could change the negative attitudes of other young people towards refugees and asylum seekers, they needed to build their own knowledge of the issue. They worked hard to find out more through research and their visit to Action For Refugees in Lewisham.

Testimonials

'It was a challenge running a stall as some students were hostile but I'm proud that I achieved it.'

Sophie Johnson, Envision student, Lambeth College

'The team worked very hard to change attitudes to a controversial issue. Their commitment was impressive!'

Zoë Fishel, Envision Coordinator.

'It was fantastic to help the Envision team at Lambeth College develop their project to raise awareness of refugees. It was clear they learnt a lot - not only about the subject area but also project planning, working with others and communication skills.'

Emma Bulmer, Civil Servant and Adult Volunteer.

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