

NEWS RELEASE:



18th March 2011

What couldn't you live without?

Young people challenge the negative stereotype of Homelessness

A team of 7 Envision students from Morley High will be taking to the streets and speaking to local people about the issue of homelessness in Leeds. The group is hosting an interactive stall in the Merrion Centre from 10am-2pm on Friday the 25th March to find out your views.

Calling their event '**What couldn't you live without?**' the students will be promoting local charities *Simon on the Street*, *Saint George's Crypt* and *St. Anne's*, challenging the negative stereotype of homelessness and asking people to take action. The group will be asking shoppers to voice their opinions on homelessness and hope to show to the public that young people care about their community.

Morley student, Hayley (17) said, "We're holding this event because we feel it's important to change attitudes towards homeless young people in a creative and engaging way"

The group, who have been supported by national youth charity Envision, have spent their free time researching and planning the event since September. They have also been in touch with Oxfam who ran a campaigning workshop in their school to help prepare them for the event.

Lauren (17) says "We have learnt so much about the issue and through this event we feel that we can positively impact on other people opinions."

Students pitched their idea to *Live Unlimited* and successfully obtained a grant to help them put their idea into action. **Joanne from Live says** "Their idea is really inspiring as it not only raising awareness but also proactively engaging new audiences. I look forward to helping them to develop their project further to make a longer lasting impact."

You can find out more about the amazing projects being delivered by Envision teams at www.envision.org.uk/envisionteams or you can show support for these inspirational young people at www.facebook.com/envisionuk

-Ends-

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Notes to editors:

For more information, photographs or to arrange an interview please contact :

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Envision

- Envision was founded by four young people in June 2000 as a response to the environmental and social issues facing British society in the 21st Century.
- Envision won the Guardian Charity Awards 2008 and recently reached the finals of the National Lottery Awards,. Nick Nielsen the Director has recently won the Shackleton Leadership for his innovative leadership techniques.
- Envision trains adult volunteers to deliver its Schools Programme to young people. Envision has received a GoldStar Award – a cabinet office initiative – for its ability to engage underrepresented young people and adults in volunteering with a difference.
- Envision relies on voluntary donations to fund its schools and colleges programme. To donate please visit www.envision.org.uk/donate
- Today Envision supports teams of 16-19 year olds from 130 schools and colleges in Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and London, helping over 2000 young people every year to design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.
- Last year 93% of Envision students indicated an improvement in their confidence and 95% in communication skills. 97% of participating young people said that taking part in Envision had improved their understanding of social issues and 93% indicated an improved understanding of environmental issues.

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