

NEWS RELEASE:

15 March 2010



Leeds Young People Debate Hot Topics of the Generation

Young people from schools and colleges across Leeds took part in **Global is Local** on Wednesday 10th March 2010 at Hillside, Beeston. The event, hosted by award winning educational charity Envision, gave the young volunteers the opportunity to take part in a range of workshops on major global issues such as climate change, poverty, fair-trade, HIV/AIDS awareness and gender equality. Through interactive debate and discussion the young participants were encouraged to voice their opinions on global issues and challenged to come up with ideas for how they can take positive action in their local communities.

The event is part of the Envision Schools Programme; an extra- curricular programme run in Leeds schools and colleges over one academic year. Envision aims to empower young people, enabling them to realise their capacity to make a difference.

The day kicked off with a Key Note Speech from inspiring young campaigner, **Jacinta Kent**, of **Childline and the Leeds Anti Sex Trafficking Network**. Also joining the young people on the day were representatives from third sector organisations such as **Christian Aid, SPEAK, Leeds DEC, Oxfam, Water Aid, Friends of the Earth** and **War on Want**. As well as delivering workshops the organisations had stalls set up giving the young people attending the chance to really get stuck into some big issues as well as discovering some great opportunities to get involved in future.

Envision were pleased to welcome **Councillor Lisa Mulherin** at the event and the young participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet a key local decision maker and talk to her about issues relating to their communities.

Envision Leeds, Hillside, Beeston Road, Leeds, LS11 8ND
T: 0113 387 6444

www.envision.org.uk

Envision (full name Environmental Vision) is registered as a Charity and a Limited Company in England and Wales
Charity Reg No. 1095328 Company Reg No. 442212

The event ended with 5 fantastic presentations led by the young people. Following each presentation the rest of the young people were invited to vote on whether they agreed or disagreed with the issue in question, which sparked some lively debate.

"It was engaging, but most importantly, it taught us a lesson"

Participating student.

"The best bit about Global is Local was fighting for what's right, knowing some facts and getting involved in charities and activities that could help make the world a better place"

Participating student.

"Envision fosters young people's potential in giving them the opportunity to act; to create and implement their own ideas. This allows them to discover the extent to which they can be active and important agents of positive change throughout their lifetimes."

Ian Pearson MP, former Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment, October 2006.

-Ends-

For further information please contact:

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Event Details:

Global is Local

Where: Hillside, Beeston

When: Wednesday 10th March 2010

Time: 10:00 – 15:30

Notes to Editor:

- 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.
- Today Envision supports teams of 16-19 year olds from 130 schools and colleges in Birmingham, 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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