



## NEWS RELEASE:

02 November 2009

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### **Envision debut in Leeds; helping the city's young people make a difference to their communities**

**After 10 years of success in both London and Birmingham, Envision, the award winning youth empowerment charity, will be kicking off its work in Leeds with its debut event; the Launch.**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November in the Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, over 100 students from schools and colleges across Leeds as well as teachers and leaders of the business and charity sectors will come together to enjoy an exciting day of music, workshops and activities. The Launch is a fantastic opportunity for young people from across the city to come together to learn about social, environmental and community issues as well as discuss concerns that are important to them. The young people will be joined by Jeremy Piercy, pioneer of the ethical high street, to learn how he founded Shared Earth, the UK's number one Fair Trade retailer.

Students will be able to take part in taster sessions on a wide range of activities, from fashion design to MC-ing, as well as educational workshops on topics from homelessness to global development. The aim of these workshops is not only to educate, but also to enthuse young people in Leeds into taking positive action in their local areas on issues that they care about.

Envision's youth-led approach to citizenship education centres around 'learning through doing' and youth action, empowering young people to become active and confident citizens. The young people attending the event will also be working with Envision throughout the academic year on their own projects tackling issues from racism and cultural awareness to homelessness and social support. Through these projects students not only have the opportunity to take positive action in their local communities but also learn key skills and knowledge helping them participate in society and become active citizens.

"Envision was an extremely enriching experience for me. Envision made me more aware of issues facing young people today and inspired me to tackle them; it gave me the confidence to express myself and become more vocal". - **Envision Student Beanish aged 17.**

"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.**

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Envision London, 47-49 Pitfield Street, London N1 6DA

[www.envision.org.uk](http://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

**For further information please contact:**

Katherine Myles; Leeds Regional Coordinator.

Tel: 0113 387 6446

Email: [Katherine@envision.org.uk](mailto:Katherine@envision.org.uk)

Web: [www.envision.org.uk](http://www.envision.org.uk)

**Event Details:**

**THE LAUNCH**

Where: Carriageworks, Millennium Square

When: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Time: 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Attending: Over 100 students from schools and colleges from around Leeds, teachers, business and community leaders. Jeremy Piercy, founder of fair trade high street retailer Shared Earth.

All press are welcome to attend; to confirm your attendance please contact Katherine

There will be plenty of photo opportunities throughout the day as the young people take part in the interactive workshops, discussions and debates.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.envision.org.uk/donate)
- 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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