

# A little bit about us

ENVISION

Envision empowers young people to create positive change, so that they can build the sort of society we all want to live in.

**We enable them to recognise their power to make a real difference through the practical experience of doing so.**

And while they are doing it, we use our expert facilitation skills to enable them to develop the competencies they need to go on creating positive change throughout adulthood.

The skills and qualities required to set up a social enterprise are the same ones needed in today's changing workplace. So, while young people are helping their communities, they're also benefitting themselves.

Working in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the country, most of our programmes are delivered as extra-curricular activities in a growing network of over a hundred schools.

We bring young people together with volunteers and organisations who can help them develop their ideas and turn them into reality. Through experience, everyone develops belief in their capacity to make a difference, individually and by working with people very different from themselves.

Envision seems to have identified the ingredients of a potent recipe for nurturing engaged, involved citizens.

Demos Report, Start with People



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

**Birmingham** 0121 772 7685

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**Leeds** 0113 387 6446

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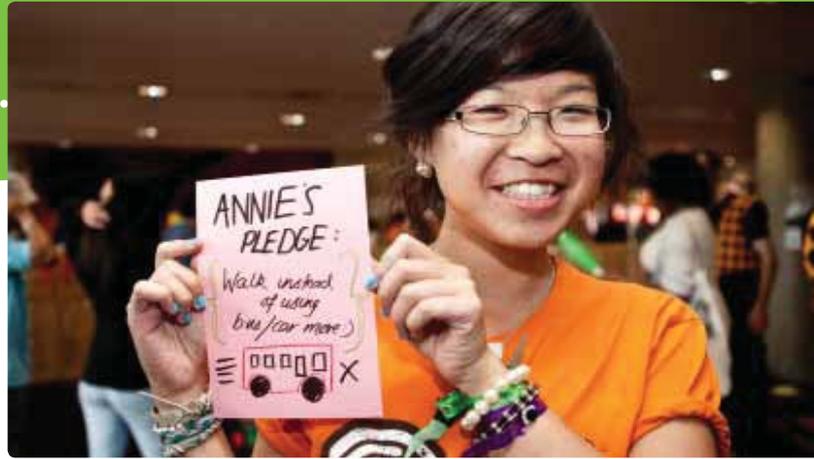
# Our Story

In 2000, when the newspapers were full of articles about 'hoodies' and 'apathetic youth', four young friends rebelled. They decided they'd had enough. Together these young people decided they wanted to create a change.

They believed that the negative view of young people could best be challenged through young people themselves setting a positive example to others. So, rather than just talk about it, they decided to do something about it. Grouped in their HQ in a garden shed, they hatched a plan, little realising at the time what their idea would turn into.

They started with one simple step: an auction of promises which, thanks to friends, family and inspired community members raised £10,000. They spent very little and worked every hour. They realised that they would achieve more by galvanising others. Together they convinced five teams of young people to get involved and supported them to set up their own social action projects. Envision was born. Over the next couple of years the programme spread across London, then in 2005 it set up in Birmingham.

People started to take notice. New Philanthropy Capital recommended Envision for its programmes that *'even out inequalities facing disadvantaged young people'*. The think-tank Demos said they had found *'the recipe for nurturing engaged, involved citizens'*.



Envision was named as a finalist for the Best Education Project in the National Lottery Awards and then, in 2008, it won the Guardian Charity Awards for demonstrating innovation and excellence in its community reach.

The dream took hold. Envision spread into Leeds and then Bristol. Today it has grown into a movement of over 4,000 change-makers supported by hundreds of volunteers and networked into a vast array of campaigns and social action projects.

Today it has professionalised its backroom functions, business plans and donor 'account management'. But the front-line delivery is still done by inspiring young people, mainly straight out of university. They are supported by hundreds of volunteers, many of whom are Envision graduates who want to inspire other young people. The founding values still guide the organisation.

Two of the original founders are still very active trustees . . . along with one of the original cohort of young people who today is just a little older and wiser, but remains just as active in driving environmental and social change.



**Envision has such an amazing culture, from the young people who participate, all the way to the volunteers and staff who make the whole thing happen. It's all about what is possible when people join together founded on the belief that, collaboratively, they can change the world.**

Nick Nielsen, Co-Founder and Trustee



# How we make our impact

envision

Our programmes engage young people in social action through which they can develop themselves whilst benefiting others



## We're enabling young people to build a better society for all of us

### Inspiring enterprise

While young people are helping others, we help them help themselves by developing competencies needed into today's workplace or to set up your own enterprise.

- » 86% said that they felt more able to resolve differences of opinion.
- » At the end of the programme, 89% felt that the programme had had a positive effect on their leadership capabilities with 84% saying they now felt 'good' at motivating others.
- » 97% said that they would be including their Envision experience on their CV or UCAS application form.

### Bringing communities together

- » Through their participation in Envision, over 70% said they had met and worked with people from very different backgrounds from themselves.
- » 63% said that they felt like an active member of their community as the result of their Envision experience.
- » Young people's projects reached an audience of 106,1000 people in their communities, thus enabling them to be positive role models and counteract negative media images of young people.

### Building a culture of participation

- » 95% of young people say that as a result of completing the Envision programme they care more about problems around them.
- » 95% of participants claim Envision has inspired them to do more in the future to help their community.
- » 88% say they are more able to influence decision-making in their school whilst half claim to have learned how to influence decision-making in the UK.

93%

students report developing skills that prepare them for employment



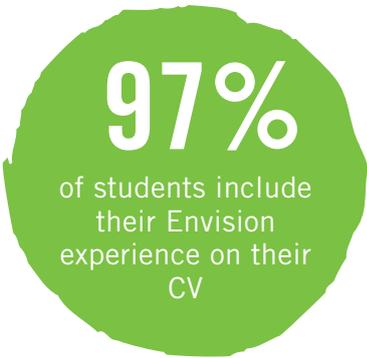
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Pitch4Change for me is a highly creative, highly engaging, very effective programme for creating experiences and change on both sides of community and corporations. I would recommend to any major corporation to get involved with a programme like this.

Matt Ostrower, Managing Director,  
Research Division, Morgan Stanley

## Our Credentials

- » We have twelve years of specialist experience in delivering extra-curricular programmes in a wide variety of schools and colleges.
- » Our reputation has fuelled consistent growth. Today we operate in over 100 schools and colleges and, as a result, understand how to make educational partnerships work.
- » We are supported by major companies such as The Cooperative Group, Morgan Stanley and EDF Energy.
- » We offer expert training in facilitation and coaching skills which many people tell us is useful back in the workplace. In fact this is becoming so appreciated, that we are now being asked to design and deliver training for volunteers on other CSR programmes.
- » Our approach is underpinned by a sound theoretical framework which identifies core principles for delivering a syllabus of clearly identified outcomes for young people.
- » Our expertise is nationally recognised: For example we have won an award for best education project from the National Lottery.
- » Because we know how to make learning relevant and fun, we have a proven track record in engaging young people who are generally not attracted to formal volunteering.
- » Our work has been highlighted as an example of best practice in recent reports by OFSTED and the Department for Education.