



co-operationireland

working for a future together

2017/2018
ANNUAL REPORT



JOINT PATRONS

Her Majesty
The Queen

President of Ireland
Michael D. Higgins

Board Members and Patrons	02
Joint Chairman and Chief Executive’s Report	03
Key Achievements	04
Role and Impact	06
Youth and Education	08
Community	18
International	23
Business Development	24
Fundraising and Calendar of Events	25
Co-operation Ireland GB and USA	27
Finance	29
Calendar of Events	30
Co-operation Ireland Team and Contact Details	31

Chairman
Dr Christopher Moran
Christopher Moran
Group of Companies

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Terence Brannigan
Chairman, Tourism Northern Ireland

David Campbell CBE
Chairman of the Loyalist Communities Council

Jim Clerkin
President and CEO, Moët Hennessy (USA)

Terry Crossan
Former Chairman, Loughs Agency

Paula Dobriansky
Senior Vice President and Head of Government Affairs (Americas), Thomson Reuters

Pat Doherty
Harcourt Developments Ltd.

Mark Durkan
Former SDLP leader and MP for Foyle

Tom Hartley
Former Lord Mayor, Belfast City Council

Mary Heaney
Director, Global City Media

Vice Chairman
John Bruton
Former Taoiseach

Ossie Kilkeny
Special Olympics International, Washington

Sheila McClelland
Former Chief Executive of Carrickfergus Borough Council

Dr Malcolm McKibbin
Former head of Northern Ireland Civil Service

Daithi O’Ceallaigh
Director General, The Institute of International and European Affairs

Sir Jonathan Phillips KCM
Warden, Keble College, Oxford

Trevor Ringland MBE
Partner, Macauley & Ritchie Solicitors

Peter Robinson
Former First Minister

James Walsh
Government Affairs Counselor, K & L Gates LLP, (Washington)



Dr. Christopher Moran
Chairman



Peter Sheridan
Chief Executive

JOINT CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the founding of Co-operation Ireland the charity's work has arguably never been more important.

Any fears that the bedding in of the peace process may have seen our relevance reduced have evaporated as we look at a short to medium term future with Stormont in mothballs and still unresolved Brexit negotiations.

A year ago the hope was that these two issues would have been resolved, but in 12 months despite genuine efforts both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland we have no greater clarity on what the future holds.

It is in this turbulent period that Co-operation Ireland has come into perhaps our most important phase since we were established.

We are proud of our neutral stance on the Brexit issue and our reputation as honest brokers has allowed us to facilitate tours for both the British and EU Brexit negotiators to the border area. Ours is a hard earned reputation and the fact many senior politicians from across the continent look to us to facilitate sensitive visits speaks to this reputation. Away from politics, a highlight of the last 12 months was the visit of HRH Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle to Amazing the Space in March. In a visit that garnered worldwide media coverage for Co-operation Ireland, the royal couple wowed the 2,500 young people who travelled from across Northern Ireland to commit themselves to building peace across in their own communities.

As time progresses, it is ever more clear that the next generation of young people will be entrusted to deliver the peace process in post Brexit Ireland, and we can be proud of the part we have played in training these future leaders to develop through our various programmes.

In the coming year the organisation will seek to strengthen our position within the Republic of Ireland to deliver more projects and increase fundraising.

Dublin's global position will be enhanced regardless of the outcome of Brexit and we are perfectly placed to aid new relationships between London and Dublin thanks to our profile in both cities.

Good governance has always been a hallmark of Co-operation Ireland and our board has been a huge support to us in everything we do, underpinning all of our successes over the last year.

We want to welcome Mark Durkan, Malcolm McKibbin and Sheila McClelland onto our board who have replaced Noreen Wright, Henry Mitchell and Breidge Gadd who stepped down last June.

Mark is well known as a former MP and leader of the SDLP, while Malcolm McKibbin is a former head of the Civil Service and brings a great deal of experience to the charity. Sheila is a former Chief Executive of Carrickfergus Borough Council and is Chair of the Board of Directors at the Consumer Council.

In addition, we have also gained the experience of former SDLP leader Margaret Ritchie who is an ex officio member of our Finance and Governance Committee.

For Co-operation Ireland, the next 12 months will be challenging but also exciting as new opportunities appear. We are committed to continuing our vital work at home and with other societies across the globe, to bring people from deeply divided societies together and encourage them to work toward building stronger and more inclusive societies.

WHAT WE DO

Co-operation Ireland is an all-island peace-building organisation. We work to build a shared and cohesive society by addressing legacy issues of the conflict and facilitating contact and collaboration between people from different backgrounds across these islands.

Under our current strategic plan, our programmes are primarily targeted at young people and marginalised communities which have experienced the worse impacts of the conflict.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Co-operation Ireland delivers a range of youth programmes which facilitate young people from different community backgrounds in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to meet, work together and build positive relationships. Our programmes aim to prepare young people for living in a shared society by widening social networks, challenging negative attitudes and behaviours, and developing skills for working with others from diverse backgrounds.

In 2017, we delivered 12 youth projects with over 800 young people taking part. Programme themes included positive youth development, youth leadership, shared history, and preparation for further education and employment.

ALL-ISLAND CO-OPERATION

Co-operation Ireland continues to support co-operation for mutual benefit between Northern Ireland and the Republic and works to facilitate strategic leadership for the building of good relations and collaboration across these islands. Our flagship Local Authority Programme supports exchange of learning and practical experience around shared objectives, with over 340 people from North and South attending events and seminars during the year.

MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

We support marginalised communities to take the lead in their own development and to capitalise on the opportunities for social and economic renewal created by the peace process. Our programmes aim to build leadership capacity and to encourage greater openness to networking and collaboration, including on a cross-community basis.

In 2017, almost 500 participants took part in three programmes targeting new and emerging leaders and previously disengaged groups. The reach of these programmes has expanded considerably over the past number of years and now includes communities from across Northern Ireland, including several areas of Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus, North Antrim, Lurgan, Lisburn, and mid-Ulster.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WE MAKE?

Involvement in our 2017 youth projects helped participants to build links with other communities, improve their understanding for other traditions, and develop the skills and attitudes necessary for living and working in a shared society.

93.4%

of participants reported new links/friendships with others from a different community background

62.7%

of participants demonstrated improved understanding of other traditions

84.3%

of participants indicated better ability to work with others from different backgrounds

70.5%

of participants socialised more frequently with young people from a different community background Young people also developed improved personal and social skills which will benefit them as they progress to further education and employment, including communication, teamwork, and leadership

76.9%

of participants were more confident about working with others in a team

60.7%

of participants were more confident about being the leader of a team

59.2%

of participants were more confident about speaking in front of a group.

Our community programmes helped to build the capacity of local leaders and facilitated networking and exchange of learning between communities emerging from conflict across Northern Ireland. Community capacity and networking programmes were delivered in 26 areas across during 2017.

61

people from marginalised communities took part in training and development initiatives in 2017, gaining skills for local development and good relations

Participants across the various programmes developed a range of skills for leadership and community involvement, including negotiation, dealing with conflict, action planning, preparing funding applications, and running effective meetings. Groups and individuals broadened their networks by developing new links and contacts with fellow participants and outside agencies, with some beginning to support each other's work by sharing practical knowledge and expertise.



YouthPact is a cross border-partnership of four regional organisations: Co-operation Ireland (CI) (Lead Partner); Ulster University (UU); National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and Pobal.

YouthPact has been **awarded €1.16m** by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programme Body (SEUBP) to work as a Quality and Impact Body for EU PEACE IV Children & Young People's Programme.

YouthPact provides various training at geographical areas of all delivery partners in order to enhance their deliverable goals. Within this training, there are opportunities for networking, sharing practice and learning from each other.

YOUTH PACT



Our Heritage Lottery Fund Young Roots project is a completely new initiative for the organisation. We have been working in partnership with the Resurgam Community Development Trust Youth group from October 2017.

We are working with **22 young people** from the Old Warren and Maze areas of Lisburn and being supported in our delivery by the Ulster Aviation Society, Hillsborough Historical Cultural and Arts Society and Belfast Exposed.

Our project will use a number of methods to **explore the heritage and history of the entire Maze site**. The project is about providing meaningful opportunities for young people to learn about their own local history, heritage and communal experiences.

INFORM, TRANSFORM AND RE-IMAGINE YOUTH PROJECT



Our Programme Delivery facilitators Barry Fennell and Dr Alan Largey continue to work closely with the Global Peace Foundation.

Our partnership with the Global Peace Foundation has evolved and developed from 2012 and continues to enable us to share our learning and experience of peace building and practical co-operation in other locations outside of Ireland.

They delivered two days of capacity building and peacebuilding training to senior members of the Southern Kaduna Peace and Reconciliation Committee in Belfast, March 2018.

We also co-hosted the **'Building a Momentum for Peace - Peacebuilding Forum'** in Belfast also in March 2018 **attended by 400 people.**

Barry and Alan presented at the International Character Summit in Arlington, USA in October 2017.

Barry and Alan attended and supported the Cross Community Engagement showcase event in Jersey City (June 2017), which brought together participants, parents, local stakeholders, and government departments.

Our citywide Cross Community Engagement (CCE) joint pilot project worked with youth groups within Jersey City; endorsed by Rutgers University it will continue later this year.

We are very much hoping to expand and develop this work within the United States during 2018 and beyond by cultivating relationships with other cities and communities.

INTERNATIONAL AND PEACE SHARING



INTERNSHIPS AND MENTORING

Every year we look to bring fresh ideas to the organisation by taking on between four and six interns either locally or internationally. We get new talent and creativity, plus an insight into how we can deliver for instance the best opportunities to young people; students get to learn new skills while on an internship and in turn make useful contacts for the future.

The interns that we have worked with take part in a range of project development work, where they are encouraged to apply their project management and team working skills as well as receiving career advice and training that provides them with real direction and perspective to take away on completion of their work experience. We endeavour to make the whole process as eye opening for us as the student. We continue to work closely with local institutions and others in this evolving area.

CO-OPERATION IRELAND'S CORK COMMITTEE

The Cork Committee are the voice and focus for Co-operation Ireland in the Region, creating an awareness of the work of the Charity and supporting the implementation of programmes and cross border partnerships across the Region through fundraising activities and the creation of local networks with suitable partners, donors and other supporters.

Key activities of the Committee include the support and development of the Cork Youth Leadership Programme which has since been extended to Dublin based on the model developed.

Also a number of cross border projects have been set up with the support of the local committee and Cork City Council including the partnership between Belfast's though the Feile an Phobail and Cork Life-long Learning partnership which have seen the development of a joint boat building project "Meitheal Mara" and participation by young people from Belfast in Cork's Ocean to city race.

North Belfast and Lurgan

The CATCH Project for schools doubled its participant intake for the 2017-2018 academic year.

This highly rated educational initiative-commended by Shared Education inspectors in participating schools-recruited an additional 60 young people from four new schools.

CATCH, which stands for Challenging Attitudes, Changing Horizons is about young people making their voices heard and being a force for positive change within their communities.

It is a cross-community project which addresses identity, culture, conflict and the issues facing young people in their communities (eg. drugs, mental health, anti-social behaviour).

Through a series of workshops, delivered with R City facilitators, young people identify and address the challenges they face in their communities.

The project finale and celebration events combined an in depth question and answer session with various service providers and support agencies who work in dealing with these issues with a screening of the project video.

CATCH

(CHALLENGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING HORIZONS)



CATCH

(CHALLENGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING HORIZONS)

Strabane

This year's Strabane CATCH programme demonstrated a distinctive step forward in developing former participants from the 2016 – 2017 programme which initiated the partnership between the Education Authority's Youth Service and Co-operation Ireland.

In this year's (17/18) programme eight returning young people aged 17+ availed of the opportunity to develop leadership skills and work under the supervision of qualified youth leaders to deliver a residential programme for a new cohort of younger members aged 13 – 15yrs.

In total 20 young people participated in this year's programme, eight of whom achieved an Open College Network level 2 Certificate in Youth Work and the production of a PR DVD which will form part of a resource pack. Younger members (13/15yrs) of the project availed of residential experiences and celebrated personal development and participation in the CATCH programme by receiving commemorative t-shirts and hoodies.



Amazing the Space is a youth-led Peace-building initiative empowering young people both locally and internationally to become ambassadors for peace in their communities.

From the programme's inception in 2016 over 400 schools across Northern Ireland have created peace pledges articulating young people's commitment towards a more peaceful society for themselves and their peers.

This year's project focused on challenging young people to contribute to a more peaceful society by actively living out these peace pledges. This was achieved by supporting young people to engage in youth-led projects exploring how young people can be advocates for peace in their communities, culminating in a large scale finale event at The Eikon Exhibition Centre in March, which brought together 2,500 young people to celebrate young people as ambassadors for Peace. The finale event was attended by HRH Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle.

AMAZING THE SPACE



OVER 1,500 PUPILS BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY PARTICIPATED



5 REGIONAL CLUSTER PROGRAMMES INVOLVING OVER 250 PUPILS AND 20 SCHOOLS WERE COMPLETED AS PART OF THE AMAZING THE SPACE INITIATIVE.



AMAZING THE SPACE ENGAGED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM JAPAN, INDONESIA, KENYA, UKRAINE, USA AND JORDAN.





Co-operation Ireland's Fair Chance programme, is a cross-community, good relations project designed for 15-18 year olds from Seymour Hill Youth Club and Colin Glen Trust.

The project provides an opportunity for sustained and meaningful contact between young people from different community backgrounds by providing opportunities for young people to engage in activities focused on breaking down barriers, building positive relationships with their peers from another community background and promoting positive dialogue that challenges stereotypes and encourages respect for diversity.

The programme also reaches beyond the participants by challenging young people to develop a community engagement event and bring together members of their community in a shared space, helping extend the impact of the project beyond programme participants.

FAIR CHANCE PROGRAMME



30 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SEYMOUR HILL AND COLIN GLEN PARTICIPATED



50 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CORK AND BELFAST ATTENDED CORK RESIDENTIAL



PARTICIPANTS HOSTED TWO PEER-LED TOURS OF EACH OTHER'S COMMUNITIES GENERATING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE 'OTHER' COMMUNITY.

ALL-ISLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRAMME

As one of Co-operation Ireland's flagship cross-border programmes, the All-Island Local Authority Programme promotes shared learning and best practice by facilitating cooperation between local authorities on the island of Ireland.

One of the core objectives of the programme is to build positive relationships between local government, north and south through dialogue and collaboration on both a policy and a practical level.

The All-Island Local Authority Forum is made up ten Council Chief Executives, five from the County and City Management Association (CCMA) and five from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, Northern Ireland (SOLACE).



71% STATED THAT NEW LEARNING ABOUT POLICIES AND PRACTICE IN THE OTHER JURISDICTION AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK WITH CROSS-BORDER COLLEAGUES WAS OF BENEFIT.



90% OF THE PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED STATED THAT IDEAS FOR NEW APPROACHES AND PRACTICES IN THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITY WAS THE MAIN BENEFIT FOR TAKING PART IN EVENTS RUN BY THE ALL-ISLAND LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRAMME.



42% OF PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED STATED THAT THEIR COUNCIL HAS OR WILL TAKE STEPS TO DRAW ON LEARNING FROM LAP EVENTS IN THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF ITS OWN POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES



December 2017 saw the culmination of the 15th annual Pride of Place competition hosted by Donegal County Council in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny.

Each year the competition continues to grow and a conservative estimate of close to 10,000 people are directly or indirectly involved every year. The 2018 Competition is once again sponsored by IPB Insurance with Cork City Council as the host council. On November 17th 2018, over 100 community groups will gather in Cork City Hall for the Awards Ceremony, resolute in their pride of place.

PRIDE OF PLACE



PARTICIPANTS: 700 PEOPLE



COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED: 106

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Co-operation Ireland launched our cross border Youth Leadership Project in 2017, working with Finglas Youth Service and Finglas Resource Centre, Cork Sports Partnership, Dublin Sports Partnership, South Belfast Community Resources in Sandy Row and Foyle Youth Ambassadors.

Facilitated sessions were provided locally in partnership to develop the young people's confidence and leadership skills and explore their potential to make positive change in their community. Sports was used as a methodology where the young people were accredited for running sporting and team building activities for younger children in their community.

15 Young people were involved from Finglas and were also partnered with a youth club in Sandy Row in Belfast where the two groups prepared community videos of their local area to exchange with other before crossing the border to visit each other communities.

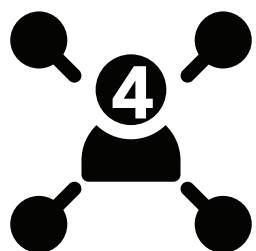


Circle of Learning brings together groups from Belfast, Mid Ulster, Lurgan and Derry/Londonderry over a series of events, site visits, residentials, social action projects and networking meetings.

The four hubs are Groundwork NI (Belfast) , Shankill Parish Caring Association, (Lurgan) Leafair Community Association (Derry/Londonderry) and Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association (Mid Ulster) that supported the work of 12 smaller groups across a range of interests including community groups, youth groups, men's health, cultural associations and women's groups.

A visit from TEO officer (Bernie Brown) in Feb to Leafair Community Association with representation from the Fountain Group, and a trip out to the Glenabbey Community Hub went very well.

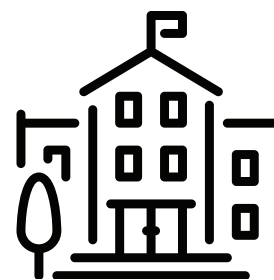
CIRCLE OF LEARNING



HUBS: FOUR



COMMUNITY GROUPS: 12



CITIES: DUBLIN AND BELFAST



PARTICIPANTS: 15



Co-operation Ireland created *Together Apart* to provide young people with a platform to get their voices heard in the ongoing debate around the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Between October 2017 and February 2018, we worked with over 60 young people from six groups across the island to explore their views around Brexit and to develop practical proposals to address their concerns and priorities.

The first stage of the project culminated in a very successful event at Stormont where the young people presented their messages directly to an invited audience of cross-party politicians, civil servants, and youth organisations.

TOGETHER

APART



PARTICIPANTS: 60



WORKSHOP EVENTS

ENTWINED HISTORIES

September – November 2017

Entwined Histories is an on-going schools-based initiative now in its sixth year of delivery. This series of projects aims to enable cross community exploration of significant anniversaries and themes emerging from the current Decade of Centenaries.

Entwined Histories 8 examined the broad social, economic and political history of the decade 1912-1922, focusing in particular on the lives of women, foregrounding their experiences across the decade and examining the long-term consequences for the lives of women in Ireland, North and South. We explored the particular impact of events such as the Ulster Covenant, the First World War and the Easter Rising on women's lives, as well as highlighting the political impact of the Suffragette movement.

As in all projects in the Entwined Histories series, the arts, in this case drama and filmmaking, is the vehicle used for the young people to make sense of and express their learning.

Thanks go once again to the delivery team that make Entwined Histories an enduring, valuable and fun project - our history and drama facilitators, the drama department at Queen's University and the Nerve Centre.



80 YOUNG PEOPLE



SCHOOLS

Net Eire at Morgan Stanley and Co-operation Ireland worked together for the 9th year to deliver a tailored 'Academy Course' for young people aged 16-18 years from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and London.

The aim of this custom designed engagement programme is to bring together young people from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds in order to benefit their personal and social skills development, by experiencing first hand, new and aspirational environments.

Young people gain a first hand insight into the workings of the corporate world and get involved in a series of workshops, tasks and activities that will bring out their potential, enhance skills and boost confidence.

Morgan Stanley

Bloomberg
The Dorchester

“Banking on the Future, it is by far the best cross-community scheme I have seen for a plethora of reasons, such as creating new connections and friends, bettering myself by learning new skills and from the brilliantly organised experience. I would recommend this program to anyone!”

BANKING ON THE FUTURE



AREAS: YOUNG PEOPLE FROM LONDON, NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



PARTICIPANTS: 24

NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE (NI NCS)

NCS is a once in a lifetime opportunity for 15-17 year olds in Northern Ireland to build skills for employment such as resilience, confidence and leadership, build trust between people of different backgrounds, and create stronger communities where giving back is a way of life.

NI NCS is open to all, regardless of background, experience or whether their strengths lie in sport, creativity or academics, with additional support provided to young people with learning or physical needs.

Co-operation Ireland and partners - Belfast YMCA, YouthAction NI, Start360, Volunteer Now, St Columb's Park House and YouthWorks NI – have delivered NCS together in Northern Ireland since 2012, with almost 2000 graduates to date. Nationally, more than two million hours have been volunteered by almost 300,000 NCS participants to communities across England and Northern Ireland.

The two to four week programme, which takes place in school holidays, includes outdoor team-building exercises, a residential for participants to learn 'life skills', a community-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event.



HOURS VOLUNTEERED: TWO MILLION



PARTICIPANTS: 2000 GRADUATES



Co-operation Ireland's LEGaSi group met with the Good Friday Agreement Committee of the Dáil on Thursday 31st May 2018 in Leinster House - the third in an ongoing series with the politicians.

At this meeting two members of the LEGaSi group presented the thoughts, feelings and perceptions of the PUL community with regard to what the PUL community had gained from the agreement over the last 20 years.

These included thoughts on; social development, educational under achievement, suicide rates, policing and justice and cultural erosion to name a few.

The committee welcomed the representation from the PUL committee as they expressed the opinion that they did not have enough from that particular community.

There was a frank and robust discussion and informal agreement to look at some sort of joint initiative on the issue of 'drugs'.

The most significant outcome was that the treatment of the Protestant population after the formation of the Republic of Ireland would be put before the Committee for the Centenary Commemorations as a point of discussion.

The LEGaSi group will now submit a paper to the committee for consideration.

THE LEGASI PROJECT

FUTURE

TEO

'The Communities in Transition Programme is building capacity supporting eight geographic areas that have historically experienced high levels of paramilitarism.

During Phase One of the project, (November 2017-March 2018), we undertook over 325 interviews and focus groups to engage people in defining the shape of the programme. This phase culminated with the submission of eight area based transition plans to TEO. Delivery is due to commence later this year.

The project is part of the Executive Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime and is being managed by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the Mitchell Institute, INCORE and the Institute for Conflict Research, on behalf of The Executive Office.'



OPEN DOORS

The Open Doors project is a new regional project funded by Peace IV and will run over a three year period from April 1 2018 – 30 Sept 2021.

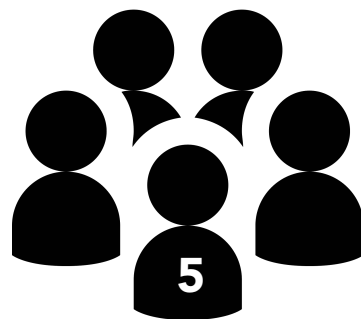
Open Doors is a joint partnership project between Cooperation Ireland, Charter NI, Teach Na Failte, Ex-Prisoners Interpretive Centre and The Plough Historical and Cultural Group.

There are 12 staff assigned to this project consisting of a project manager, support officer, three area coordinators and seven outreach and advocacy officers.

The project's purpose is to support the integration of ex-prisoners and their families into wider society, enabling them to work with a broader range of service provider



BUDGET: €1.6M



GROUPS IN PARTNERSHIP: 5



WOMEN



The Women Involved in Community Transformation (WICT) programme has been designed to increase the participation and influence of women in community development.

The first phase of the programme has now ended and plans are underway for Phase Two.

It is being delivered by four organisations - Training for Women's Network, Co-operation Ireland, Intercomm and Foyle Women's Information Network.

A key part of the programme has been the development of the Women's Intervention Forum which will be a resource for women not involved in the programme but who would benefit from the support of women on the programme who would become WICT Programme Mentors.

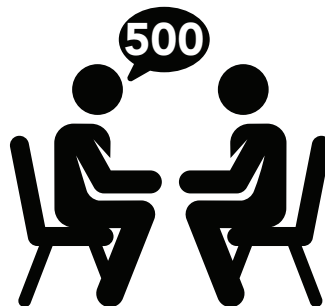
The Programme is being funded by the Department for Communities and will last 18 months.



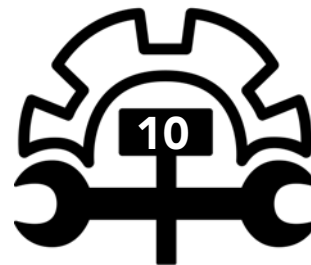
WOMEN'S INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP



LOCATIONS: 25



PARTICIPANTS: 500



WORKSHOPS COMPLETED: 10



PARTICIPANTS: 25

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The Women's Development Programme provides personal development opportunities to women who are emerging leaders within their communities. Each Programme works with a group of 20-25 women who can join the Programme either as individuals or as part of their women's group.

The Women's Development Programme seeks to contribute to a vibrant, integrated civil society, in which the participation of women is valued and in which there are opportunities for women to organise and influence the peace-building process. Participants are given an opportunity to develop skills and capacity to take on leadership roles within their communities and help them have an impact in their local area. This is a cross community programme and as such participants link and collaborate with cross community peers around shared issues.



FUNDRAISING

20TH ANNIVERSARY AGREEMENT DINNER



Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern and George Mitchell were the guests of honour at a special Co-operation Ireland event organised by the charity's chairman Dr Christopher Moran to mark the **20th anniversary of the signing of The Agreement.**

Held in the Titanic Hotel, Belfast, on Tuesday, April 10, the event brought together business leaders and supporters of the peace building charity.

CITY OF LONDON DINNER



Business and political leaders from Westminster, the City of London, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland gathered in the beautiful surroundings of Stationers Hall, home to the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, for the Co-operation Ireland City of London Dinner held on Thursday 1 February. BBC journalist Fergal Keane addressed the attendees along with City of London Policy Chief Catherine McGuinness.

SPORTING CHALLENGE



Co-operation Ireland has a longstanding link to the cycling community who have been some of our most loyal fundraisers over the past four decades. From the famous Maracycle we have developed our annual events and 2017 saw our Tuscan Cycle Challenge join our North Antrim Coast Challenge as major fundraising efforts.

A huge thanks go to the over 100 cyclists who took to two wheels to help us deliver our peacebuilding programmes.

ANNUAL LEGAL DINNER



The 21st Annual Co-operation Ireland Legal Dinner was held at The Dorchester on Thursday 19 April, 2018 and was attended by around 400 guests from the UK, Ireland and the US. The event, which was chaired by Mary Heaney and James Stewart, was a great success and **raised over £70,000** for the Co-operation Ireland Youth Leadership Programme. Guests included, Sarah, Duchess of York, Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore (Justice of the Supreme Court) and Lord Hain (former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland).

