



**co-operationireland**  
*working for a future together*



**2019/2020**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

## 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 2019/20 we delivered 13 youth projects with 1446 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 seminars taking place across Ireland throughout the last 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 2020 we have designed a brand new programme to develop the next generation of leaders from marginalised communities. Called the Future Leaders Programme, it will work to empower young men and women by building skills that will enable them to become the peacebuilders of the future, and ensure the successes of the last 30 years are replicated into the future.

Involvement in our 2019/20 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.

# 95.9%

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

# 67.4%

of participants demonstrated improved understanding of other traditions.

# 87.2%

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

# 70.6%

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.

# 83.5%

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

# 66.3%

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

# 63%

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 2019/20.

# 1883

People from communities across Ireland and Northern Ireland took part in training and development initiatives 2019/20, 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.





**Dr. Christopher Moran**  
Chairman



**Peter Sheridan**  
Chief Executive

## JOINT CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Emerging from 2019 among the challenges facing Co-operation Ireland was a lack of a functioning Stormont Executive.

Fast forward 15 months and political turmoil has been replaced with the Covid-19 pandemic which has had a major impact on how the charity delivers its programmes.

As an organisation that operates directly with a range of service users across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, the inability to conduct face-to-face programmes meant all staff had to quickly retool their work practices to enable the programmes to continue with their objectives.

A key objective was to not only continue to reach our participants, some of whom are vulnerable, but also to display to our funders that we are a flexible organisation that can react quickly to events. This was achieved with all funders supportive of our mitigation.

In addition to being unable to meet face to face with programme participants, a decision was taken to close our Belfast and Dublin offices with staff members working from home.

Support was provided to staff members to be able to continue their work and this was achieved with a high level of success. As the Covid restrictions relaxed a rota system was enacted and a number of staff members are now able to use the office at particular times.

Investment in automatic sanitiser stations was made

along with floor markings. Our landlord was kept up to date on all new arrangements.

Perhaps the biggest impact of Covid was on our ability to fundraise. We rely on events based income but that has largely been ruled out for the duration of 2020.

Co-operation Ireland took part in the government backed furlough scheme and also applied for the Department for Communities Covid-19 Charities Fund. This application was successful and helped us to maintain a high level of service.

In addition, we launched a new Youth Leadership Programme with an updated funding model that will go some way to make up for our loss in fundraising revenue.

Co-operation Ireland welcomed the return of the Stormont Executive and can only benefit from the leadership that ministers in post can deliver.

Ahead of the return of Stormont one of the last of the duties to be carried out by the Head of the NI Civil Service, David Sterling, was the dedication of the Amazing the Space Peace Tree in Ebrington Square, Derry/Londonderry.

This marked the end of one of Co-operation Ireland's most fulfilling programmes, that saw over 1000 young people come together every year to pledge their

support to build peace in their communities across Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

Although the programme will continue on a smaller basis in schools, the achievements of the young people will live forever in the Maiden City.

Co-operation Ireland boasts many strengths, with the range of talent on our board a particular case. This has been added to with the recruitment of Sir Julian King. Sir Julian is a former UK Ambassador to Dublin and France, and also headed the Northern Ireland Office.

Sir Julian's experience as we approach the date of the UK leaving the EU will be of huge benefit in our efforts to maintain the strong links between London, Dublin and Belfast.

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.

We thank everyone - especially our core funders, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Executive Office, all our donors and everyone who helped us deliver our vital work

## BREXIT PRINCIPLES

The Brexit referendum in 2016 was the most significant political development to impact the island of Ireland since the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement vote in 1998.

Co-operation Ireland was aware that the community was divided on the issue, and so our board agreed that the organisation would remain neutral but adhere to the following principles.

1. The importance of strengthening and deepening British/Irish relationships
2. Protecting the Peace Process
3. Maintaining the common travel area
4. Minimising the impact on the border – keeping the border as invisible as possible
5. Avoiding economic isolation in the border region.

## CEO'S WORK

**Our neutrality has not impacted on our ability to influence the ongoing debate on the issue however.**

Using his vast experience from his role as former PSNI Assistant Chief Constable and more recent peacebuilding involvement Peter Sheridan has been tasked by both the Irish and British governments to conduct tours of the border area for visiting politicians.

Recent work has been carried out with the UK Cabinet Office, the EU Commission and the Stormont Executive regarding Brexit and how we can help maintain excellent relations into the post-UK withdrawal phase. Co-operation Ireland's unique position within Ireland will continue to see the charity play a central role in developments.









## YOUNG ADVOCATES



**Young Advocates is a programme designed to develop the next generation of leaders in the City of Belfast and is being operated in conjunction with Belfast City Council.**

Set to last for three years, the programme is designed to give young people a say at the heart of local government.

Young Advocates is a programme designed to give young people who would not normally have an opportunity to address their concerns to councillors and officials in Belfast City Council a chance to address social issues they feel affect them most.

The aim of the programme is to build skills and confidence so the participants can lobby on behalf of issues they believe are critical to young people in the city, and influence positive change.



## ENTWINED HISTORIES

**This year saw the 10th instalment of Entwined Histories that helps to explore significant events in the history of Ireland that impact communities north and south.**

This year the students explored major moments in the Irish War of Independence and the programme benefited greatly from expanding cross-border as we added four post-primary schools from Dundalk and Drogheda.

Schools were paired together and after having met at the first workshop each school made a presentation on the topic they had been assigned to research. Once again we partnered with the Nerve Centre in Derry/Londonderry as they introduced our students to script development and helped them put together storylines recounting the War of Independence, the impact of the Spanish Influenza on young people, the Treaty of Versailles, and the Government of Ireland Act 1920.

Moving forward Entwined Histories 11 will explore the impact of partition in Ireland, including the creation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State, and address how the border created as a result of partition continues to affect our lives in the present day.



## RETIRED BORDER PERSONNEL

**Former members of the Irish Defence Forces Óglaigh na hEireann, An Garda Síochána and Customs and Excise Officers who served on the border during the conflict will be the focus of the EU- PEACE IV funded Retired Border Personnel programme.**

The aim of the programme is to support ex-service personnel in Donegal and to assist them to deal with legacy issues arising from their service.

It is intended that the programme will also be extended to include former members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (and Reserve), and British Army, including the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Funded projects under the Action Plan will see the promotion of positive relations characterised by respect and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland. The total budget for the programme is €60k.



## PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

**Described as the 'Oscars of the Community Sector', Pride of Place is an all Ireland community programme founded to celebrate the unsung work of community groups that selflessly strive to make local neighbourhoods a better place to live in, work in or visit.**

Organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place awards sees the country's local authorities, on both sides of the border, nominate outstanding projects that contribute to civic pride.

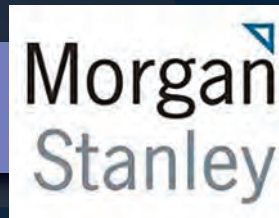
Over 1000 people travelled to Kilkenny in November 2019 to the Pride of Place awards ceremony hosted by Kilkenny County Council at the Lyrath Estate. 2020 will see the awards delivered in an online format due to COVID-19 restrictions. We look forward to celebrating the hard work and resilience of community groups across the island in this extraordinary year.



**10000 PEOPLE**



# MORGAN STANLEY



**Banking on the Future' brings students from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and London together for two days in Canary Wharf where they are given a unique insight into the workings of the bank.**

Almost 250 students have taken part over ten years.

Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled for 2020 due to Covid-19. In 2019 the young people heard from a former graduate of the programme who was inspired to follow a career in finance and now works in the industry in Dublin. The programme will return in 2021.

Banking on the future is jointly coordinated by Morgan Stanley employees Caroline McLaughlin and William Daly from Net Éire – the bank's forum for Irish employees.

student  
250

## AMAZING THE SPACE

**It's been another exciting year for the students involved in Amazing the Space. In November 2019 we were delighted to unveil the Peace Pledge Tree in Ebrington Park in Derry-Londonderry.**

Students read peace pledges and guests were treated to performances from a choir brought together from local primary schools before the tree was unveiled by Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service David Sterling.

The unveiling of the tree was followed by a celebration event where students were entertained by musical performances as the journey of the Peace Pledge Tree and stories of how our students have lived out their pledges on the Amazing the Space programme were recalled. Amazing the Space continues to provide students with the opportunity to work together in peace-building projects across the country. This year we have worked alongside regional cluster groups in Ballycastle, Ballymena, Ballynahinch, Bangor, Derry-Londonderry, and Newry and South Armagh. Students worked together on projects including learning about emigration and immigration, exploring different musical cultures and traditions, exploring issues of sectarianism through drama, and the promotion of road safety in our streets and towns.



SCHOOLS  
17

student  
400

# LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRAMME

**The All-Island Local Authority Forum is one of Co-operation Ireland's flagship cross-border programmes and the forum is comprised of ten local authority Chief Executives who meet to share knowledge for the better running of local government.**

Philanthropy, Rural Development and the Women's Leadership Programme featured strongly in the 2019 work plan of the All-Island Local Authority Forum. In addition, the Forum established a climate change sub-group as it recognises that climate change is a defining issue of our time.

Through thematic events, the Local Authority Programme contributes to building capacity in local authorities by sharing learning and good practice. In October, a series of webinars on the role of local government in climate change will take place. A key benefit of events run by the Forum is the opportunity they provide to local government personnel across the island to develop relationships with colleagues for mutual benefit.



## YOUTH PACT

**YouthPact is a cross-border partnership that provides bespoke training to youth workers delivering Peace programmes with young people across the six counties of Northern Ireland and six border counties in the Republic of Ireland.**

Made up of four regional organisations, Cooperation Ireland (Lead partner), National Youth Council of Ireland, POBAL and Ulster University, the YouthPact partnership was awarded an initial £1.16m in 2018; with an additional 0.24m granted (2018) to develop extra training for workers with little or no previous youth work training.

'Working with young men', 'Peace-building training', 'Life-coaching' and 'Young people as social activists' are among the themes explored in 2019/20.

'The role of Youth Work in peace-building', a YouthPact publication (2018), critiqued the purpose and impact of youth workers in building the civic engagement of young people.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department for Children & Youth Affairs.

RESEARCH BOOKS  
PUBLISHED

1

4  
ORGANISATIONS



## FAIR CHANCE



Co-operation Ireland's Fair Chance programme was a good relations focused project working with 30 young people aged 14-17 from both PUL and CNR communities in East Belfast in partnership with Williwilled Parish, The Short Strand Community Forum and Youth Initiatives.

The project, funded by The Executive Office, focused on breaking down the barriers that exist between CNR and PUL communities and helping young people consolidate positive relationships with their peers from a different community, through good relations focused workshops, away from home experiences including cross-border visits to Cork and engagement opportunities with local community leaders and political representatives.

The final phase of the programme challenged young people to work together to plan and implement community engagement events that brought their communities together. An event with local politicians from the DUP, Sinn Féin and Alliance Party was held to allow the young people to directly address their concerns to local lawmakers.



## SMALL CAPITAL GRANTS

The Small Capital Grants Programme, funded by the Department for Communities, was established in 2018 to support voluntary and community organisations in providing services to the local community.

The promotion of co-operation and partnership between local groups is central to the programme design, with applicants required to form consortia to be eligible for funding.

The programme is delivered by Co-operation Ireland, acting as an Intermediary Funding Body. In the 2019/20 scheme 353 grants of £1,151,452 were awarded to community groups across Northern Ireland.



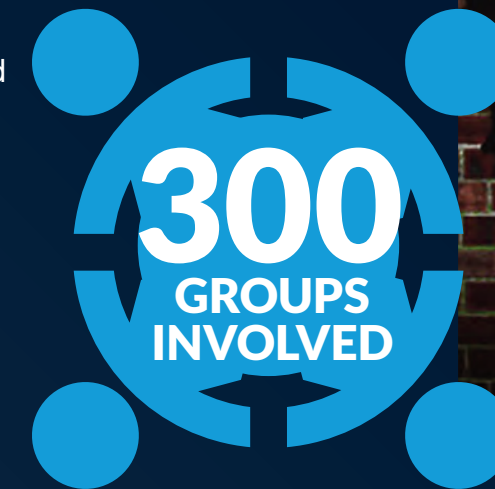
1 Million  
FUNDING

353  
Grant Awards

## COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

The Communities in Transition project is supporting the growth of community led initiatives that will reduce the vulnerability of communities to exploitation by paramilitary or organised crime groups.

The reach of the project is expected to expand over 2021, but already there are more than 300 beneficiary groups and 700+ individuals taking part weekly. The project is providing these participants with opportunities to get involved in their community, learn new skills and work with others to reduce the space for criminality within their community.



## BUILDING BRIDGES

The Building Bridges Scholarship Programme was introduced to give financially disadvantaged students in Derry/Londonderry the opportunity to study at elite US universities without the burden of being unable to pay for it.

Students from the city, who are accepted to study and who are in receipt of a full needs-based scholarship from Yale, can apply for the additional merit-based scholarship, which means they can concentrate wholly on their studies and not have to work during term time.

The cross-community Building Bridges Scholarship Programme opened to students who were applying to begin study at Yale in September 2018.

Co-operation Ireland manages the Building Bridges programmes, with the support of Yale University and a consortium of interested academics and business representatives in Derry-Londonderry.

In 2019 the programme was extended to Belfast with students being offered the chance to visit the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) from 2020. YYGS is an academic summer enrichment program for outstanding high school students from around the world.

Each summer, students from over 125 countries participate in one of five interdisciplinary, two week sessions at Yale's historic campus and places will be made available for gifted students from Northern Ireland through Building Bridges.





# OPEN DOORS



**5**  
PARTNER GROUPS

The Open Doors project has been designed to support the integration of ex-prisoners and their families into wider society, enabling them to work with a broader range of service providers.

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

In December 2019 the Open Doors participants organised a conference that sought to explore the issue of Brexit. The event, held in Toomebridge, looked at the issue from the aspect of working class communities.

The programme participants continue to work with the Commission for Victims and Survivors regarding legacy issues. The ex-prisoner/former combatant community (EPFC) represents a significant group within our society, with the number of politically motivated prisoners alone being estimated as 40,000 people

The marginalisation and exclusion of this group across society is a direct legacy of their past actions and society's response to these actions. Open Doors is currently in talks with the Commission regarding the inclusion of a wider range of society on the Victims Reference group, this includes former prisoners of the conflict. Open Doors will run until Sept 2021.

## WOMEN INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION (WICT) PROGRAMME

The Women Involved in Community Transformation Programme is delivered in partnership with Training for Women Network (TWN), Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN), Intercomm and Co-operation Ireland.

It is funded through Department for Communities. The Programme aims to increase the participation and influence of women in their communities by giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence they need.

Delivery of the WICT workshops was impacted by the lockdown from March 2020 due to Covid 19 however we adapted our sessions and delivered some of them via zoom. It was a learning curve for us all. Hats off to all those ladies that adapted and contributed so well to our new way of working.



**4**  
AREAS

participants  
**120**

# CROSS BORDER YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Youth Leadership Project was delivered in communities across Dublin and Cork, to provide local young people with opportunities to take on an active leadership role in their communities and to build relations with peers from different backgrounds in Northern Ireland.

38 young people participated in the 2019/20 project delivered by Co-operation Ireland in association with Cork and Dublin City Sports Partnerships, as well as local youth clubs and schools.

The programme is structured around the use of sport as a medium for developing leadership skills and building good relations, with all 38 participants accredited with a Level 1 Sports Leadership Award.

Participants also participate in a cross-border exchange experience, visiting each other's communities.



**3**  
LOCATIONS

participants  
**38**

## CHALLENGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING HORIZONS PROJECT – ARDOYNE AND STRABANE

CATCH is a youth and personal development programme for young men based within Ardoyne, North Belfast and a mix gender group from Strabane, County Tyrone.

In Belfast we partner with Ardoyne Youth Club, working closely with a group of young men over the course of six months who are all residents from a Catholic/nationalist/republican community background.

Focused in Ardoyne, the development project works within the local area on a weekly basis providing a space for the group of young people to meet and to explore issues relevant to them.

This year we brought in a number of guest speakers to challenge the group in terms of

identity, choices, influences, decision-making, politics and education as well as behaviour, with a particular focus on choices and consequences.

2019/20 marked the fifth year of involvement and partnership with Ardoyne Youth Club staff with whom the programme was delivered.

The Strabane project was curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions however plans to design a mural in the town were begun.

CATCH in Strabane and Ardoyne was funded by the Northern Ireland Office, with a second strand, funded by The Executive Office, operating a good relations programme in schools across Northern Ireland.

participants  
**15**  
**20**  
WORKSHOPS



# NORTHERN IRELAND NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE, 2019



16  
AREAS

Working with over 400 teenagers in 16 areas across Northern Ireland, 2019 was a great year for NI NCS in terms of awareness, engagement and output.

The project, funded by The Executive Office, focused on breaking down the barriers that exist between CNR and PUL communities and helping young people consolidate positive relationships with their peers from a different community, through good relations focused workshops, away from home experiences including cross-border visits to Cork and engagement opportunities with local community leaders and political representatives.

The final phase of the programme challenged young people to work together to plan and implement community engagement events that brought their communities together. An event with local politicians from the DUP, Sinn Fein and Alliance Party was held to allow the young people to directly address their concerns to local lawmakers.

participants  
400

# LEGASI

The very successful four-year LEGaSi project finished with a finals event in Ten Square Hotel. The project was aimed at capacity building of Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist participants from across several communities in Northern Ireland.

Some of the participants told some very important stories of their time in the project and how it has improved not only their personal lives but the lives of the people in their community.

The most prominent successes of the four-year programme have been the establishment of the Listening Ear project which has established itself as the main community hub in Rathcoole and wider areas of Newtownabbey.

It is now recognised as such by the agencies such as Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and the Education Authority and continues to grow and be an important resource within the community.

Co-operation Ireland maintains ties with these groups and working relationships will continue despite the ending of the programme.

Over the duration of the project the group visited the Dáil in Dublin and met with the Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement who returned the visit to the Shankill Road Belfast at a later date. Many connections were made with TDs and Senators which have been maintained and built upon.

Many other participants gained personally with growth in confidence, understanding, capacity, skills and knowledge.



## YOUTH VOICES ON BREXIT

The Youth Voices on Brexit project worked with 100 college students from four locations (Donegal, Derry, Limavady and Banbridge) across the North.

Concentrated on the Border Region, the programme worked to build media and journalism skills to better allow the young people to articulate their hopes for the future when the UK withdraws from the EU.

The young people were given an opportunity to share these opinions during a three-day workshop that took place in Limavady. These discussions led to the production of a number of films that featured music and animation and were shown at a premiere in the Nerve Centre, Derry/Londonderry.

The finished production went on to win a Royal Television Society award.

100  
STUDENTS



4  
LOCATIONS

## CIRCLE OF LEARNING



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

The four regional hubs support 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.

The programme succeeding in mentoring small disparate groups to bring them to a level where they were confident to liaise with other similar voluntary groups and also engage in cross community work.

Each group took control of a social action project which helped to further boost confidence and teach valuable practical skills.

4  
HUBS

12  
COMMUNITY GROUPS



# NORTH WEST MINISTRY OF YOUTH



The North West Ministry of Youth Project is a youth citizenship programme designed to enable young people to be more actively involved in local decision making.

It is a pilot project that will work with young people up to March 2021. The project has included residential and activity based work, study visits, local workshops, confidence building and skills development.

Co-operation Ireland are working in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Education Authority on this new project.



# YOUTH NETWORK FOR PEACE



Youth Network for Peace is partnership of organisations working together to deliver a PEACE IV programme of which Co-operation Ireland leads on Social Action.

This year it was delivered along with the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Youth Work Ireland.

Over the course of the year 60 young people came together from across Northern Ireland and border counties of the Republic of Ireland over summer to develop confidence, build skills and highlight issues that affect them and their communities and put into action a programme of change.

Young people under took a series of projects that tackled political division and mental health and raised these issues through a series of social action projects highlighting the changes that young people wish to see for a better future. The young people raised these issues with local political representatives and continue to lobby for better services for their peers and themselves.





# CORK COMMITTEE CO-OPERATION IRELAND

**The Cork committee of Co-operation Ireland was established in the early 1980s to support and to expand Co-operation Ireland's activities in the region. The chairman is Mr John Mullins with representatives from Cork Education and Training Board, Garda Siochana, City Council, Foroige and other prominent business figures.**

The committee has supported the development of the Cork Youth Leadership Programme which has been developed as a model and extended to other areas of ROI, including Dublin and Limerick.

Also in association with Cork City Council, the committee supports several cross border projects including the partnership between Belfast's the Féile an Phobail and Cork Life-long Learning partnership, a joint boat building project "Meitheal Mara", an exchange between Belfast and cork City Marathons and participation by young people from Belfast in Cork's Ocean to city race.

In November 2019 the committee celebrated Co-operation Ireland's 40th Anniversary with a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor for past and present participants and supporters of organisation.

## **Chairman**

John Mullins  
*C.E.O Augmentis Ltd; Chairman Cork Port*

Tim Lucey  
County Manager, Cork County Council

Ted Owens  
Chief Executive, Cork Education and Training Board

Tom Daly  
Former Education Officer City of Cork Vocational Education Committee

Barry McPolin  
Chief Superintendent, An Garda Siochana Angelsea St. Cork

Declan O'Leary  
Area Manager Southern Region, Foroige National Youth Development Organisation

Valerie O'Sullivan  
Director of Service, Corporate and External Affairs, Cork City Council

Donal O'Grady  
All Ireland GAA winner and winning manager

Jim O'Donovan  
Director of Services, Environment and Recreation, Cork City Council (retired)

Mr. Derek Nolan  
Secondary School Teacher (retired)





# FUTURE PLANS



## FUTURE

Covid-19 had a huge impact on Co-operation Ireland but with new challenges comes innovative solutions and the staff, management and board came together to implement new working practices so we could continue to make a difference to communities across Ireland and beyond.

In addition to this mitigation work, Co-operation Ireland was continuing to seek out new opportunities and as a result of this a number of new programmes will be implemented in 2021.



## PUL COMMUNITY

Our work with the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community will continue with a Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade funded programme in Carrickfergus called Community Capacity in Action.

This will work with 20 -25 participants from the PUL Communities in Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus over 12 months.

Using the knowledge of the LEGaSi project the aim will be to build capacity of a specific cohort of working class PUL participants through a series of opportunities. This will allow them to learn skills and knowledge that will assist them personally and their communities.



## SEGREGATED COMMUNITIES

In Newry, work will begin in 2021 on a project aimed at segregated communities in the area. The objective will be to bring them together to change both attitudes and behaviour to break down the segregation. This will be achieved through cross community engagement, training, trips and visits, online forum plans and support grants. It is delivered in partnership with Utopian Learning.

## ETHNIC MINORITES

Also in Newry, we will develop a programme to assist with the integration of ethnic minorities in Newry, Mourne and Down. The implementation of this has been impacted by COVID-19 but work is ongoing to develop contingency plans.



## SHARED PEACE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Shared Peace and Community Engagement initiative is a new project that is supported by a United States Department of State Federal Assistance Award.

This new work will enable Co-operation Ireland trainers to work with community leaders in the United States. This new learning and development exchange programme will allow us to work with community leaders based in Washington DC and will provide us the opportunity to share our learning and experience of peace building and practical co-operation to a new audience.

# FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

**Co-operation Ireland, like many other good causes, has seen a seismic shift in the way it carries out its charitable work, as we all try to come to terms with the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

It has been a difficult time for the Fundraising & Events Team, as the historically successful fundraising events have been completely wiped out for the remainder of the year and we have had to readjust and consider new ways to raise funds for the charity's important programmes that deal with improving the lives of our young people.

To counteract the loss of fundraising event revenue, Co-operation Ireland has designed and launched a new all-island on line Future Leaders' Programme providing a unique opportunity to put 500 young people, aged 14-17 years from challenging backgrounds, through leadership development training that will help them become Future Leaders and influencers in their local communities. Naturally these young leaders will be 'on the ground' in areas where peer influence is critical and where they can make a big and positive difference for the future of Ireland, North and South.

Future Leaders' Ambassadors are being sought from individuals and corporates with an ask to finance the delivery of this new initiative and to invest in the future of our young people, helping to create a network of future leaders and a positive resource towards steering a steady course in the development of new and lasting positive all-island relationships.

Launched initially in the United States under the leadership of Jim Clerkin, Chairman of Co-operation Ireland USA, the Future Leaders' Programme has been very successful, and to date we have received the support from the following Ambassadors for the new initiative:

Empire Merchants, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Fedway Associates, Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, Teneo, Irial Finan, Julia & Ian McLernon, Banfi Foundation, Sean Gaffey/Merrill Lynch, Donard Gaynor, Mike Peirce, Great Northern Distillery Ltd, Mark Goldstone, Garvan O'Doherty Group, Jim Clerkin, John Kennedy/IT Capital, Tommy Maguire, Sean Finnan, Oasis Retail Services, Norbrook Laboratories, Henderson Group and Heron Bros.

Donations for the programme have also been received from Shire Lane Ltd, Shaun Kelly, Bruce Holdstock, David Goldberg, Sean Griffin, Neil Crockett, Julian Marcus and Brett Carey.

These donations add to the considerable significant support received over the past few years from our Youth Leadership Ambassadors, John Griffin, John O'Connell, Paul Kavanagh, Peter Moores and Paul Coughlan.

Anyone interested in supporting the Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders' Programme is asked to get in touch initially by email at [futureleaders@cooperationireland.org](mailto:futureleaders@cooperationireland.org). Details are also available on the Co-operation Ireland website.







## JOINT PATRONS

Her Majesty  
The Queen

President of Ireland  
Michael D. Higgins

### CHAIRMAN

**Dr Christopher Moran**

Christopher Moran  
Group of Companies

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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**Donard Gaynor**

President Donald P. Gaynor

**Liam Lynch**

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**Ian McLernon**

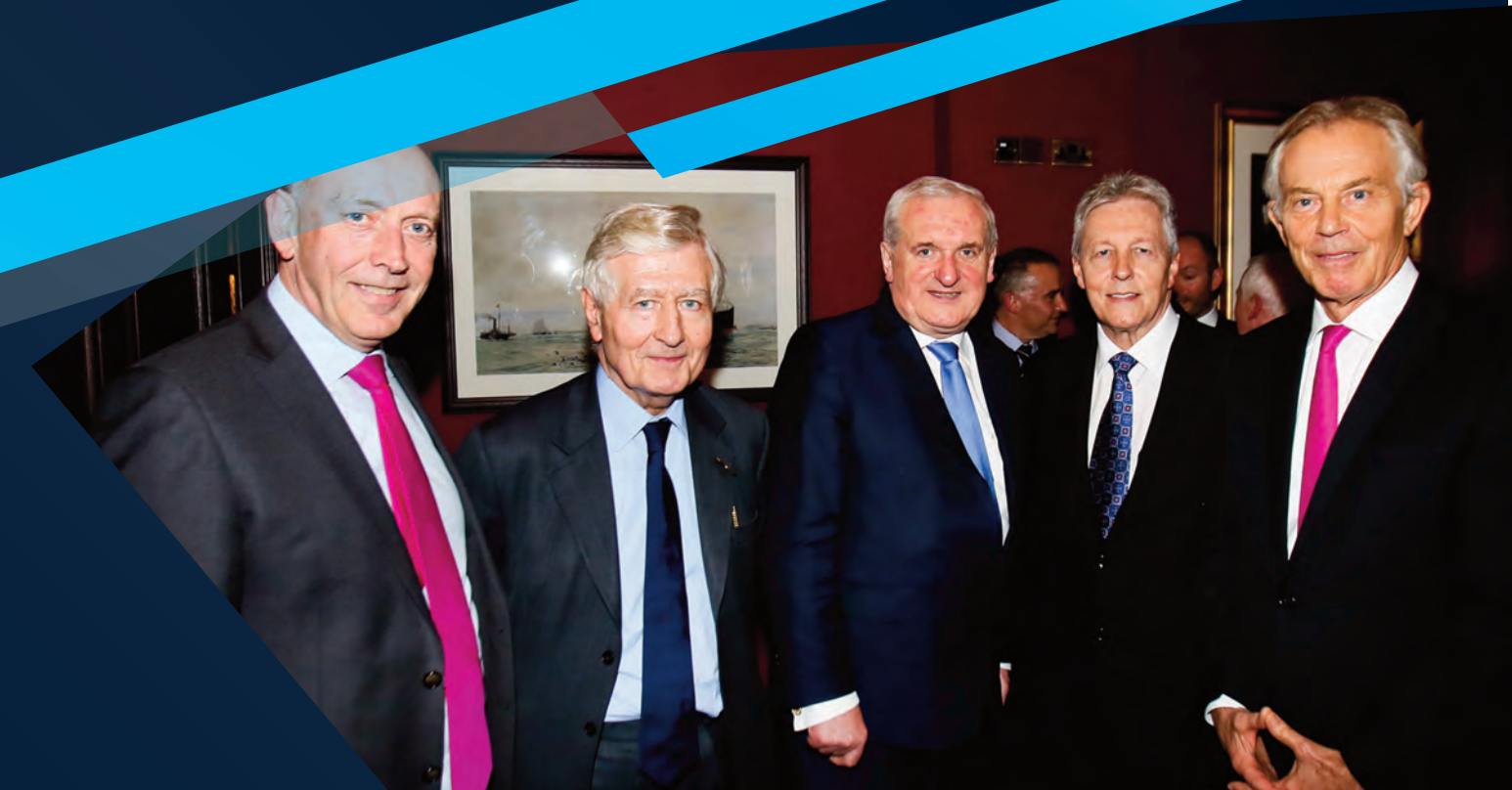
President and CEO, Remy Cointreau Americas

**James Morrissey**

Founder and CEO, East Houston Holdings

**Peter Sheridan**

Chief Executive, Co-operation Ireland





# FINANCE

The following figures show the operating income and expenditure for the Dublin and Belfast companies, extracted from the annual accounts audited by KPMG.

Income and Expenditure Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2019

|                    | Dublin | Belfast | Dublin | Belfast |
|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|                    | €K     | £K      | €K     | £K      |
|                    | 2019   | 2019    | 2018   | 2018    |
| <b>INCOME</b>      |        |         |        |         |
| Donations          | 709    | 2,888   | 962    | 1,643   |
| Other Income       | 267    | 626     | 75     | 495     |
|                    | 976    | 3,514   | 1,037  | 2,138   |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b> |        |         |        |         |
| Programme Costs    | 924    | 3,494   | 943    | 2,082   |
| Administration     | 50     | 18      | 62     | 27      |
|                    | 974    | 3,512   | 1,005  | 2,109   |
| Surplus            | 2      | 2       | 32     | 29      |

Results are after transfers between companies and adjustment for deferred income.







**co-operationireland**  
*working for a future together*



**Co-operation Ireland**

Unit 1 The Court  
Bridgefoot Street  
Dublin 8  
DO8 CC63

**Tel:** +353 (0) 1 819 7692

**Fax:** +353 (0) 1 894 4692

**Co-operation Ireland**

5 Weavers Court Business Park  
Linfield Road  
Belfast  
BT12 5GH

**Tel:** +44 (0) 28 9032 1462

**Fax:** +44 (0) 28 9089 1000

**Email:** [info@cooperationireland.org](mailto:info@cooperationireland.org)  
[www.cooperationireland.org](http://www.cooperationireland.org)