



co-operationireland  
future leaders



# PROGRAMME

# REPORT

December  
2021





## INTRODUCTION

# Welcome to the Future Leaders 2021 Winter Report

Co-operation Ireland, the leading Peace building charity on the Island of Ireland, is well into the second year of the Future Leaders Programme.

This year, much of our leadership training has been delivered online, but we are also planning to organise our inaugural Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders Conference, an all-Island youth led conference in February 2022. This conference will give young leaders from across these islands the opportunity to continue to develop their leadership skills, learn from business and political leaders, while connecting and networking with each other.

We have also launched our Co-operation Ireland Peace Awards, to recognise and celebrate the learning and achievements of all participants on their journey with us. The awards cover three components: Personal Learning, Community and Relationship Building, where young leaders have the opportunity to develop new skills and are able to harness these in practical ways. They will do this through social action and outreach projects on a North/South basis, with similar groups in the UK and internationally. These projects will be showcased at a Future Leaders Showcase event in May 2022.

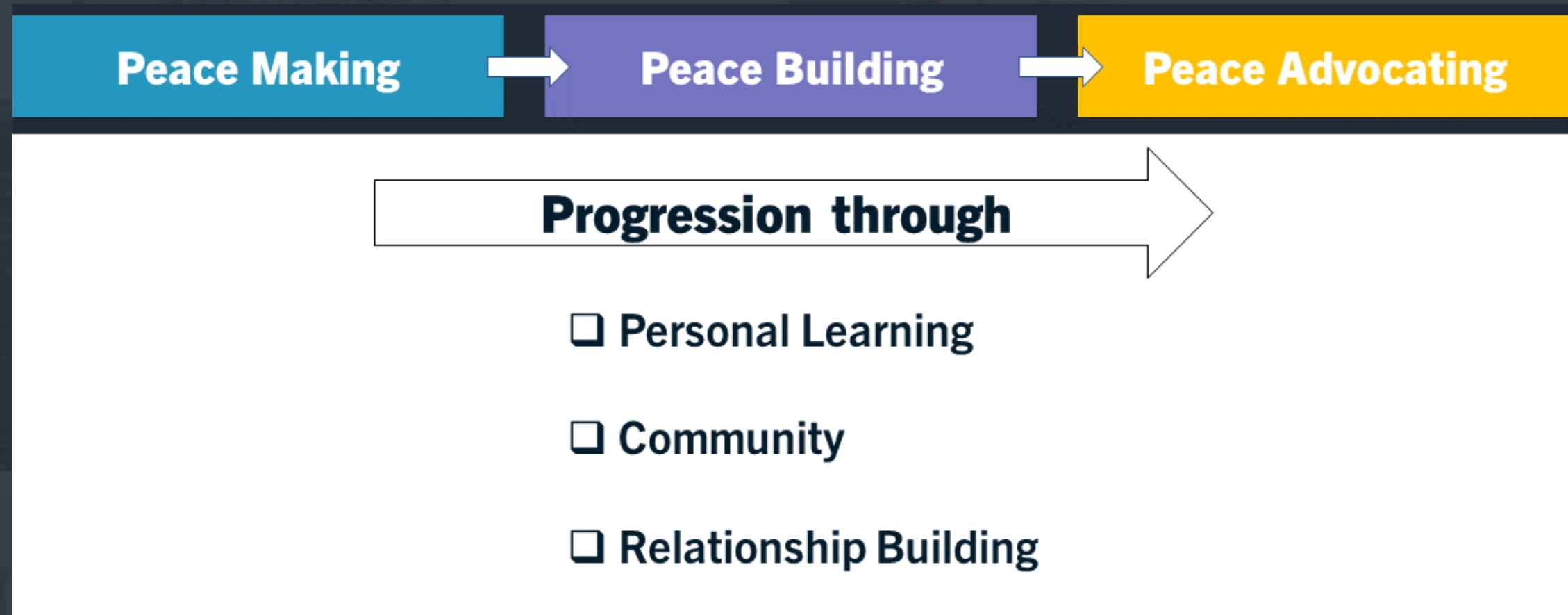
**Margaret Lucey**  
Programme Manager



# FUTURE LEADERS PEACE AWARDS



In order to provide progression through the programme outcome areas, we have created the Co-operation Future Leaders Peace Awards. These awards provide a structure for our young people to stay with us long term, moving through 3 levels with clear tasks increasing in depth and challenge in terms of learning, skills and experience. The awards element ensures they can track and be acknowledged and rewarded for their efforts as they progress.



## PARTICIPANT TRACKING

We have set up a Future Leaders CRM to record the learning journey for each of our young leaders. The registration system, monitoring and evaluation requirements are in place with further development continuing in relation to the community and relationship building options.







# RECRUITMENT AND PROGRAMME DELIVERY

We have created two participation paths with the aim of catering for young people of different needs and abilities.

## Targeted Groups

- Focused on areas of disadvantage and working in partnership with local youth organisations and schools.
- Delivered over the academic year for young people aged 15-16, providing targeted support & intervention, building the capacity of the young people.
- All young people will engage in personal development activities, leadership training, working in partnership and social action.
- **2021/22 Groups: 5 North South Partnerships totalling 146 young people.**
- Our ROI groups are based in Cork (Knocknaheeny, Mahon, Cobh), Limerick (City Centre) and Dublin (Finglas & Ballymun), partnered with groups from NI in Belfast (North & East) and Derry/L'derry.
- Groups have been forming their team, working on personal development, confidence building activities and are currently completing their leadership training.
- The 5 planned cross border residentials for November 2021 have been postponed until the New Year, with introductions and team building exercises completed virtually.

## Self-Starters

- Open recruitment with a focus on graduates from year 1 and other CI programmes, with 30 participants on our Leadership and Communication & Lobbying training.
- Delivered as a hybrid model, with the accredited training delivered on-line, the young people will then be clustered on an all-Island basis to undertake a range of social action projects.
- The young people will come together for an All Island Conference in Queens University Belfast (18th & 19th Feb 2022) and to present on their social action projects as part of an all Island Showcase event in Trinity College Dublin May 2022.

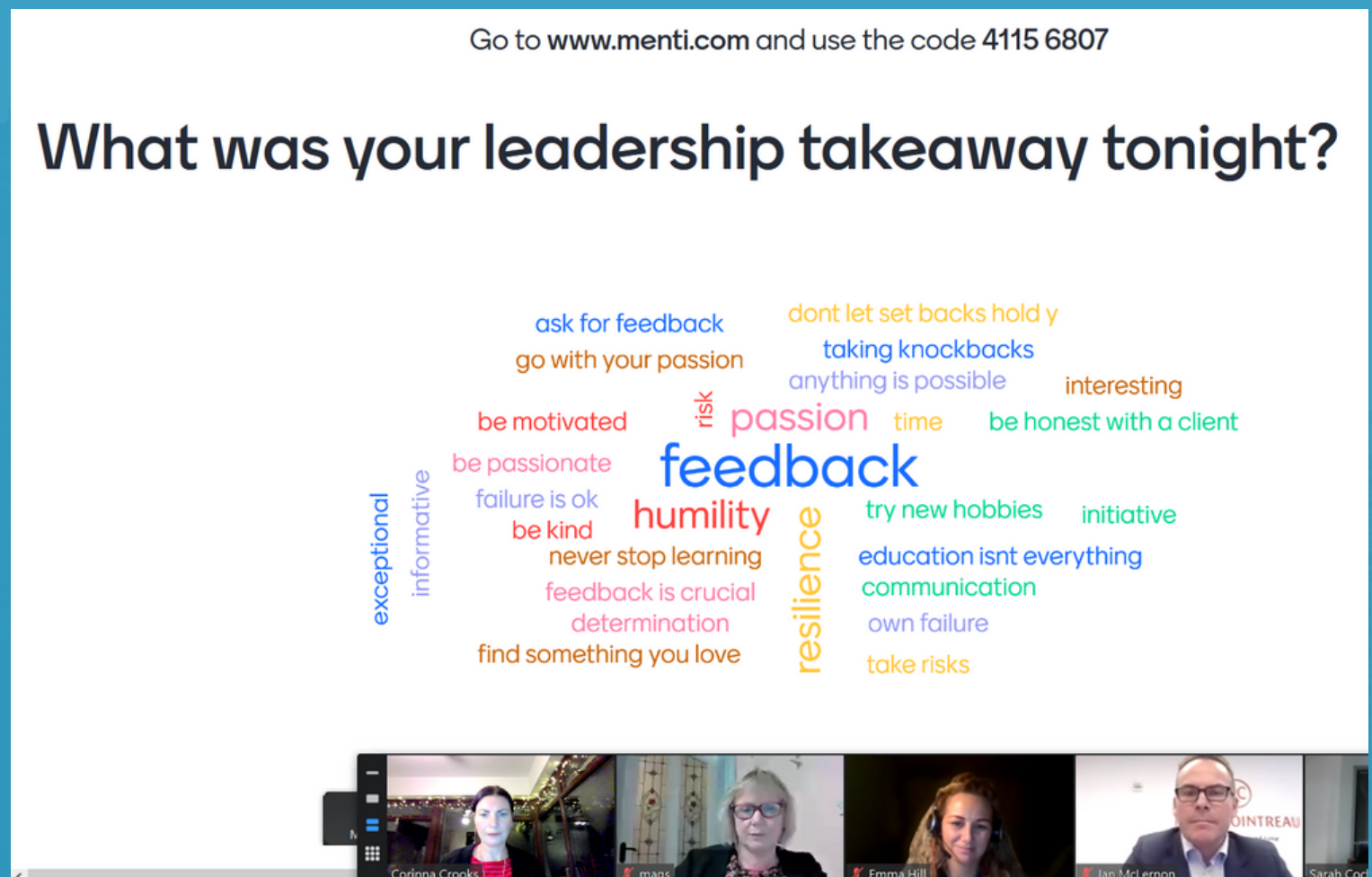




# AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

As you know, we have given the title of 'Ambassador' to the 45 individuals and organisations who make Future Leaders possible through their generous sponsorship.

However, it was clear last year that apart from contributing financially, many of our ambassadors were really keen to get involved and contribute with their time too. Therefore, we created a structured programme that would complement the core delivery with the young people. So far:



- A series of 3 briefing meetings for ambassadors took place on the 14th, 15th and 16th September providing an overview of potential volunteering opportunities. 32 ambassadors attended.
- As part of each of the self-starter training courses, a bespoke session has been included delivered by programme staff in partnership with ambassadors. These are interactive sessions where ambassadors can share stories from their lived experiences in the world of work and share tips and advice. The first of these in November was a leadership themed session with volunteers from Rémy Cointreau, Ires Reit, Henry Brothers, Deloitte and Carson McDowell. The second a communications themed session with volunteers again from Deloitte, Ires Reit, Carson McDowell and Henry Brothers as well as JPMorgan, Chase & Co and ABP Food Group.
- We've sent save the dates for our All-Island Conference at Queen's University Belfast, 18th & 19th February 2022, and our Showcase & Celebration event at Trinity College Dublin on 17th May 2022.
- We've asked for expressions of interest to deliver part of the content of the conference and thank you to those who have come back to us. Hopefully you have seen recent emails around contributing – it would be great to see as many of you as possible there.
- Going forward, we hope to have more opportunities for ambassadors to get involved in supporting groups as they embark on the next stages of their programme in designing and delivering social action projects.



# EAST–WEST PARTNERSHIPS

**We have been developing and enhancing our East/West relationships.**

- We have expressions of interest so far from Scotland Youth, Luton Irish Forum and Birmingham Youth who have participated in a range of exploratory meetings with ROI/NI youth leaders.
- We are recruiting a group of up to 12 young people from England and Scotland to explore Future Leaders and help us to develop the programme in GB.
- They will be partnered with an NI /ROI group recruited from our targeted & self-starter groups.
- We hope to facilitate a themed exchange - based on sharing their sense of identity and active participation
- There will be a blended approach – online and community visit centered on the All-Island Youth conference in February.



## FL HIGHLIGHT



The young leaders involved in the Active Citizens Social action project for climate change (on-going from last year), ran a number of events as part of their social action projects in September. These included The Circular Gastronomy cooking demonstration and music festival in Dublin and “Climate Craic” a festival to raise awareness about the climate crisis in



Northern Ireland which took place at the Stormont estate. All 5 social action groups presented as part of a British Embassy hosted showcase to representatives from both the Irish and Northern Irish governments.

**Andrew Ramsay (pictured to right), who led on the Circular Gastronomy project, participated in the EU ‘Active Citizens: Social Action for Climate Change’ programme in partnership with Co-operation Ireland and delivered a welcoming address at a COP26 reception event organised by the British Embassy Dublin.**