



co-operationireland
working for a future together
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WINTER

Our Vision
A peaceful and stable Ireland
where people of all
backgrounds live and work
together for a better future.

Our Mission
Our mission is to harness
energy by helping to build a
thriving and cohesive society.

2022/23



FUTURE LEADERS

REPORT



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Welcome & Introduction

The winter period has been super busy with a flurry of cross border residential, with lots of travel, chats and great enthusiasm. The residential have consisted of a range of facilitated discussions, community tours and team-building activities, which have helped them to build relationships and share learning.

By the end of 2022, our 'self-starters' (independent learners) have engaged in a range of learning opportunities to get inspired and gain skills while exploring 4 'passion project themes' of mental health, climate change, equality/diversity and peacebuilding. They are continuing with the next part of their journey in 2023 with an OCN training course in Youth Activism.

Our programme ambassadors have continued to support the work of our young leaders, contributing to our all-island connect day and on-line training courses, hosting groups and providing opportunities for the young people to participate in virtual workshops and work experience.

We have explored new relationships East-West, working with groups in Luton, Manchester and Scotland as well as continuing to develop our international partnership with Hawaii.



It has been wonderful to see the buzz and energy not only from our young leaders but also from the facilitators, trainers, programme ambassadors and volunteers who have all participated in a range of activities with us over the last few months. We are looking forward to showcasing all this work, and the learning gained by the young people at our Future Leaders Showcase which will take place on Thursday the 4th May in W5, Belfast.

Margaret Lucey,

Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders Programme Manager

Programme Delivery Update

Targeted Groups

(i.e. groups of approx. 10-20 young people working directly with teacher/youth worker in their local area)

The young people involved in our 6 North/South partnerships have continued work on their year-long programme of leadership training, social action, and relationship building. Each partnership has now completed at least 1 of 2 cross border residentials where the groups visit each other's communities to learn from and about each other.

Groups work with CIFL staff to plan an agenda which not only facilitates discussion & sharing of learning but gives the young people the opportunity to build relationships, while enjoying the opportunity to learn more about each other's lives and communities.

Despite the long bus journeys, the late nights and the venture into the unknown, the young people embraced it all with a sense of excitement and openness.



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Cross Border Residentials

Highlights

Based in Northern Ireland	Based in the Republic of Ireland
<p>St. Columb's Park House, Derry & Youth Work, Galway 2 - 4 December Environmental-themed Residential</p>	<p>St. Joseph's High School, Belfast & Crescent Comprehensive, Limerick 7- 9 February Guided tour of Limerick and Football Match at Thomond Park</p>
<p>Belfast High School, Newtownabbey & Nagle College, Cork 10 - 11 January (Hosted by Gilbert Ash)</p>	<p>Belfast High School, Newtownabbey & Nagle College, Cork 23 - 24 February Hosted by Arup Cork & Reception in Cork City Hall</p>
<p>Uniting Communities, Lurgan/Portadown & Ballymun Youth Resource Centre 3 - 4 February Student-led Community Tour</p>	
<p>Lagmore Youth Project, Belfast & Cork Group 24 – 26 February Student-led Community Tour</p>	
<p>Finglas Youth Service & Luton Irish Forum 15 - 16 February Belfast Tour and participation in the Future Leaders Connect Day at Allstate</p>	
Based in England	
<p>Uniting Communities Belfast - 17- 19 Feb Joint activities with the Muslim Youth Foundation & Proud Trust Manchester</p>	



Self-Starter Groups

(i.e. Independent Learners working directly with Co-operation Ireland)

Via weekly online sessions, participants explored 4 'passion project' themes of mental health & well-being; climate change; equality & diversity; and peacebuilding.

These sessions were delivered by programme staff with input from a range of ambassadors and relevant charities/organisations to the themes. These included Pavee Point (equality & diversity; What the Sea Saw (climate change); Co-operation Ireland (peacebuilding); Deloitte – Positive Psychology (mental health); and Henry Brothers - Health & Wellbeing (Mental Health).

To continue this journey and offer to our group practical skills to bring their passion projects to life, participants are now engaged in an accredited OCN level course in Youth Activism, delivered by Utopian Learning.



On 16th February we ran our second all-island Connect Day, kindly hosted by Allstate in their Belfast offices.

31 young people from across these islands worked together on a range of workshops focused on skills development with an overarching theme of mental health.

We were delighted to be joined by staff from Carson McDowell who ran their very engaging negotiation skills workshop, and Jennifer Cruickshank from Henry Brothers who co-facilitated a workshop on communication & lobbying skills with our PR staff. Thanks also go to Aware NI & TAMHI (Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues) for their facilitation to help our participants explore the theme of mental wellbeing.



East-West Partnerships

We have continued our partnership with Luton Irish Forum, and this year again offered residential experience for a group of 6 young people to travel to Belfast and come together with our Finglas group who travelled from Dublin.

During their experience, the groups had a chance to socialise, tour the peace walls, engage in team-building and engage in our all-island Connect Day.

The Uniting Communities Belfast group travelled to Manchester where they met with similar groups exploring together the potential to develop an East/West link with their existing North/South partnership with Finglas. During the trip the groups engaged in workshops with Muslim Youth Foundation & Proud Trust Manchester.

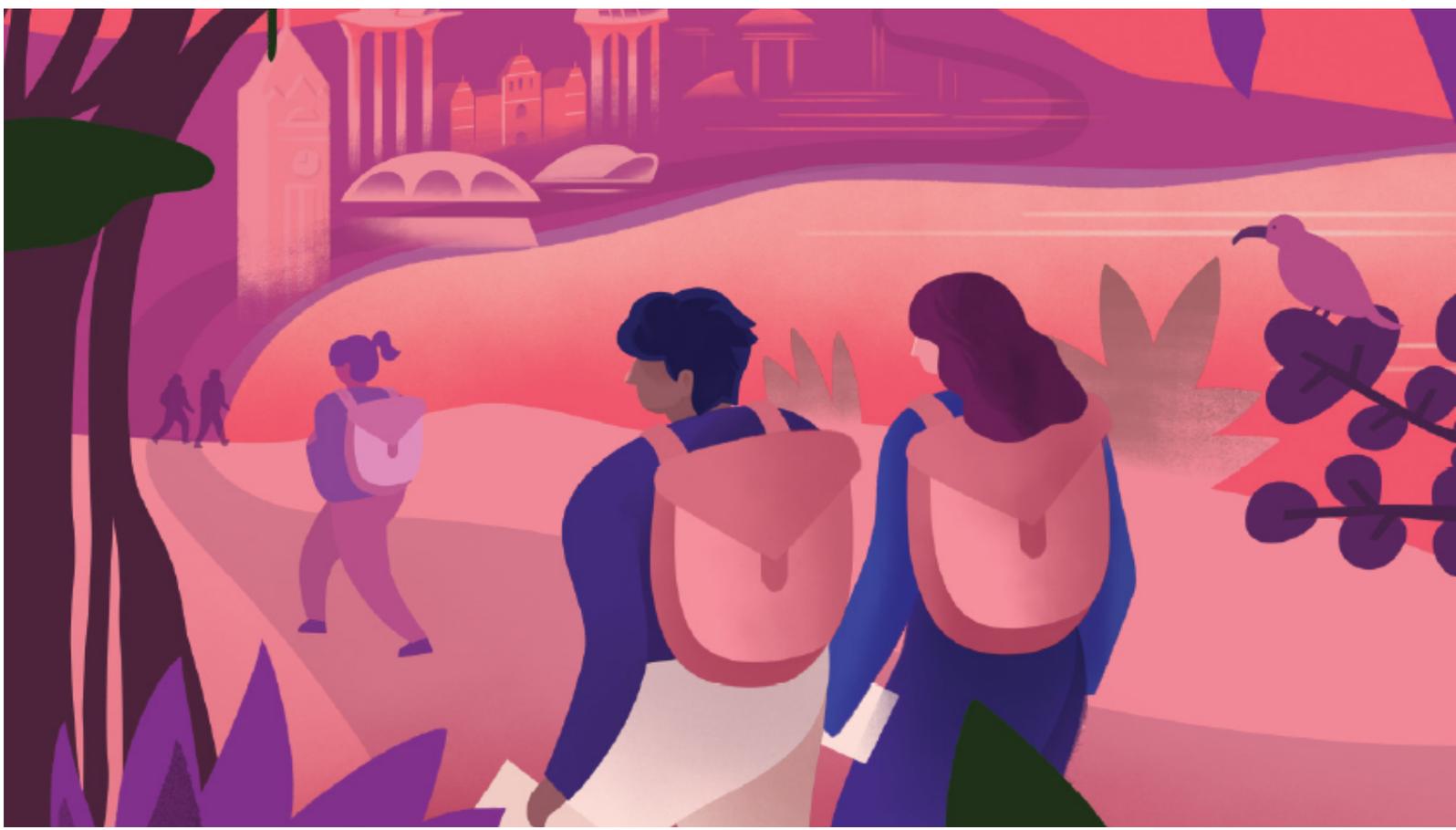
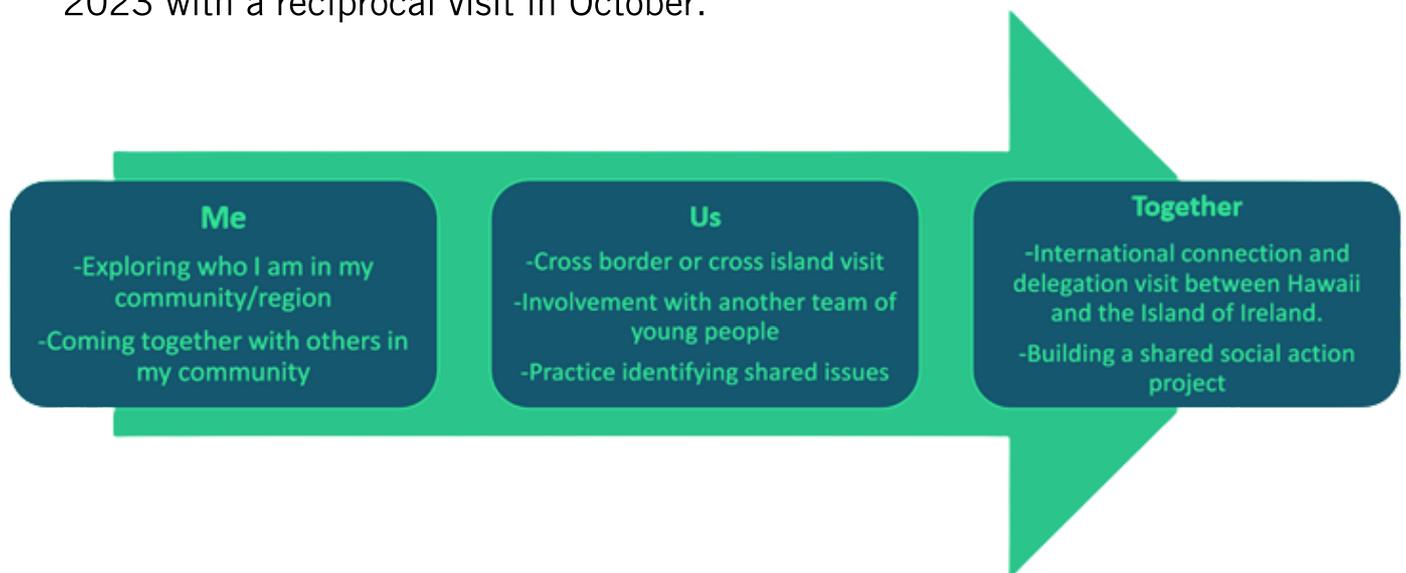
We are currently exploring the potential to work with an initiative in Scotland called 4Ward 2Together, which brings together young people from across Scotland to tackle sectarianism. We are hoping to participate in a joint “Diversity and Inclusion” youth conference with them at Corrymeela (Ballycastle) this summer.



International Partnerships

The Hawaii/NI/ROI peer mentor group have continued to work on an online youth exchange programme. They are currently recruiting young people to engage with them on this exciting initiative and have developed the project model below.

Plans are underway for a delegation visit of our peer mentors to Hawaii in July 2023 with a reciprocal visit in October.



Ambassador Programme

Volunteer engagement online is an integral and valuable part of the Future Leaders offering. We are moving to more and more in-person activity, with an emphasis on developing relationships and partnerships between our Future Leaders groups or individuals and our ambassadors.

The breadth of online and in person volunteering in the last few months is outlined earlier in the report. Here are some of the particular highlights: Glenveagh Homes continue to support the Dublin Youth Leadership programmes directly, creating a video journal of the young people's experience on the programme, and will host a site visit where the young people experience a day in the life of their employees & managers.

Gilbert Ash gave a warm welcome to one of our Cork/Belfast partnerships at their Belfast offices. Here they were treated to lunch, heard about the range of opportunities available in the construction industry from some young employees. The highlight of the day and a perfect team builder was the construction of some flatpack furniture, facilitated by GA staff - we can all agree, a task to test any relationship! The young people personalised the furniture and donated it to a local nursery.

Thank you to those of you who responded to the call to explore the possibility of hosting a group of Future Leaders for an intensive 2-3 day engagement, modelled on the programme we have run for over 10 years with Net Eire at Morgan Stanley.

We're exploring options but are delighted to announce that we are piloting this custom-designed engagement event with IRES REIT from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th March 2023 based at IRES REIT's Dublin head office. There has been a huge amount of thought and enthusiasm from the staff at IRES in putting together the programme, and thank you in particular to Emma and Jess for driving it and keeping an eye on the detail. We'll let you know how it goes in the spring report.

We also asked for volunteers to start a conversation around setting up a Future Leaders mentoring programme that will aim to provide support and open up networks to our older Future Leaders who are entering 3rd level education and/or the working world.

Many thanks to those who responded. We have now set up a working group with interested representatives from Energia, Deloitte, JP Morgan & Chase and IRES to explore how we can develop a structured programme and are developing an action plan with a view to piloting from September.

It was great to welcome a group of trustees of The Honourable the Irish Society to St Columb's Park House in Derry to hear all about the work of the Future Leaders group there. The focus for this group is very much focused on the environment, particularly in their immediate surroundings, and it was a treat to see their 'secret garden' meeting place.

Finally, a very warm welcome to new ambassador, Biopax/Hinch and thank you for treating CIFL staff to some lunch and a tour of their sustainable packaging factory. We were really motivated by their enthusiasm and offers of support for our young people and hope to send our Limerick/Belfast groups their way soon.

Two young leaders, Karina Falvey & Rory Gilroy, completed Deloitte's Virtual week-long work experience beginning the 30 January. They had the opportunity to work with other young people and engage in a series of workshops and discussions on employability, confidence building and communication skills.

That's all for now – we really hope to see you at the showcase and celebration event on Thursday 4th May at W5 in Belfast. Please see our latest email for details on how you can RSVP.

Thank you

We thank you for your continued support for the Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders programme.



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