

co-operationireland future leaders

SUMMER REPORT 2023

Following the wrap up of the 2022/23 delivery year, the team have taken the opportunity of the summer months to flesh out our plans for the coming year, in refining and developing our programme delivery. We aim to simplify our messaging, improve accessibility to our young people and deliver as high quality a programme as we can.

The summer months also allowed us to explore some new partnerships and relationships, and of course, gear up towards our second international CIFL experience.

Team member Muireann was delighted to attend the Ballymun Youth Resource Centre in July where the Future Leaders group received a Garda Youth Award, recognising them for the value of their social action project in making a positive contribution to their community.



Aaron Smith, member of the Future Leaders design group and now valuable member of our sessional delivery staff, supported 4 of our independent learners to deliver several themed identity workshops as part of a 'Diversity and Inclusion' youth conference in Corrymeela, Ballycastle this summer. The conference was delivered by 4Ward 2Together Youth Group, Kilmarnock Scotland, which brings together young people from across Scotland to tackle sectarianism. This engagement gave us this opportunity to recruit the group to CIFL and they will be working in a new East-West partnership with Ballymun Youth Resource Centre in the coming year on the bronze level programme.



PLANS FOR CIFL 2023-2024

co-operationireland

FUTURE LEADERS
Leadership & Peacebuilding Programme

SILVER
Peace Awards 2023 2024

Applications Now Open

1. Team Building Residential
2. Accredited Leadership Training
3. World of Work Residential

We continue to build and develop the CIFL peace awards scheme. Not only as a reward to the young people who complete each level, but also as a mechanism to clearly demonstrate and offer progression and expanded opportunities as they stay with us for a number of years, thus achieving our ultimate goal of creating the next generation of peacebuilders.

To this end, we have analysed evaluations and feedback, kept the best bits and used the learning to put the peace awards at the heart of the programme design. A unique selling point for CIFL is the extensive range of good will, experience, expertise and networks we have at our fingertips through our Ambassadors, and so every level will have Ambassador interaction of increasing depth and length.

The previously named 'targeted groups' will now be known as the 'bronze level'. We have kept the same model, engaging with 12 school or youth groups, largely in areas of need North and South. They are paired up on a North/South basis and will follow a set structure with essential outputs, but have the flexibility to set their own content to suit their needs as a group.

The previously named 'self-starter' route now begins with the Silver Peace Award. This silver level award is designed to create a bridge for young people (graduates of the Bronze award or other Co-operation Ireland youth programmes) to transition from their youth/school groups to come and work with CI directly, forming a new all-island group.

FIRST ALL-ISLAND CIFL SILVER GROUP...

The new 'silver award' was launched at the showcase event in May, and following an application and interview process during the summer, we are pleased to report we have 32 young people signed up, who launched their new experience with a team building residential in Carlingford the first weekend in September. Young people travelled from near and (mostly!) far to attend and we thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm as they embark on this new phase of their CIFL experience.

The gold and platinum levels are in pilot this year and we'll be absorbing our East/West and International offerings to young people in these levels. Our long-standing 'Banking on the Future' programme in partnership with Net Eire at Morgan Stanley will become a part of the gold level, ensuring its legacy 13 years on from its inception.

CIFL NEW Peace Awards

PLATINUM >> International Residential >> Internship >> 8-10 YP

GOLD >> Corporate East/ West Residential >> Mentoring >> 15-20 YP

SILVER >> Corporate NI/ROI Residential >> Accredited Award >> 25-30 YP

BRONZE >> Cross border Residential >> Certificate Award >> 150-180 YP

CIFL AMBASSADOR NEWS...

We warmly welcome Titanic Belfast and Frank Reeves of Avvio as new CIFL Ambassadors, and look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Thank you to all Ambassadors who attended our information and Q&A drop in sessions at the start of the month. For those who were unable to come along, please see below the slide deck with all the information shared, our plans for the coming year and options for how you can get involved in programme delivery (also available as a separate presentation at <https://cooperationireland.org/projects/future-leaders-programme/reports/>)




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Programme Plans 2023-24



Hawaii Project

We've been keeping you updated over the past year about our on-going development work with HawaiiKidsCan and after all their commitment and hard work, including a lot of early starts, the time finally arrived for 4 of your young leaders to visit Hawaii from 1-9 September.

The delegation visited schools and youth organisations in Hawaii to learn about how young people can actively engage in peace building and create positive relationships within and across communities. The group also participated in a cultural programme, working directly with volunteers and young people, and met with legislators to discuss youth advocacy and the impact of young people in contributing to peace building.

We'll provide a full account of the benefits for all involved in the autumn report, but in the meantime, our heartfelt thanks to Brett Carey, Kekoa McClellan, and David Sun-Miyashiro of HawaiiKidsCan for their support in setting up the programme, and their warm hospitality during the trip.

Co-operation Ireland is looking forward to hosting a reciprocal visit from HawaiiKidsCan in autumn 2024 to continue the international exchange of cultural experiences, networking, learning, and sharing.

Back on solid ground, core programme delivery begins in earnest on the 20 and 21 September in Dublin, where our staff team and bronze level teachers and leaders will meet to plan their programme activities, explore opportunities for collaboration with our programme ambassadors and help inform the development of the programme over the year. We are looking forward to working with over 180 young people embarking on a new journey for the 2023-24 programme with us and can't wait to see what they accomplish!

MEET THE TEAM

As CIFL develops, so too does our staff team. Here's a quick introduction – some established faces and some new!



Rachel Thomson

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

“I have been working with Co-operation Ireland for one year on the Future Leaders Programme. Previously over the last 13 years I have predominantly worked in Youth & Community settings. Last year on CIFL I worked on the Bronze Peace Award supporting partnerships as well as developing progression pathways for young people to continue their journey. This year I will be working on the Silver Peace Award and will continue development of Gold & Platinum Awards which we hope to launch next year.”



Muireann Kavanagh

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

“I started on Future Leaders at the beginning of this year working with our groups in the Bronze Level. I've helped to develop the new structure for the programme and this year I'll be working on the Silver and Gold Peace Awards (although lending a hand elsewhere when needed.) My background is in theatre and performance studies, and it was through facilitating youth theatre that I found my love of working with and helping young people.”



Katrina McIlmail

AMBASSADOR ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

“I am excited to be joining the Future Leaders team this autumn! My background is in Mental Health supporting adults and more recently children and young people. I have been working on the Our Generation Project which is a Peacebuilding project aimed at improving resilience and mental wellbeing in targeted areas of Northern Ireland and the border counties of ROI. I have been responsible for designing and developing bespoke programmes for marginalised groups. I am an accredited Mindfulness and Meditation Teacher for children and young people and am passionate about helping young people to achieve their full potential. I love the great outdoors, photography, and travelling. I am very much looking forward to working with the Future Leaders Ambassadors to develop the programme further.”



Nicole Fitzsimons

PROJECT OFFICER

“I've just joined the team and am really looking forward to getting started, looking after the Future Leaders Bronze Award Programme. I hope that in the future my hard work will contribute to the success of the programme. Beyond my professional life, I enjoy the simple things in life, being sociable and enjoying the company of friends. In my downtime, I enjoy baking cakes and treats.”



Margaret Lucey

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

“It is my privilege to head up the CIFL programme as we embark on this exciting new phase of development. I’ve worked on a number of programmes within the education and youth sector over the years, including the Cross Border Youth Leadership Programme and Civic-Link. Since my return to Cork in 2010, I have acted as Regional Development Officer for the Munster Region, promoting the work of Co-operation Ireland within the region, supporting the development and implementation of programme activity on a regional basis with a cross border focus. In a previous life, I was a secondary School teacher and also worked as a Curriculum Development officer with the Department of Education ROI.”

FAREWELL...

Agnès Breton – with Co-operation Ireland for over 16 years, Agnès has decided to embrace retirement. We wish her all the very best and thank her for keeping us all on the straight and narrow through various projects and most recently CIFL.

Me (Corinna!). I’m handing over the baton to Katrina as Ambassador Engagement to focus on my new role as Priority Team Leader for Co-operation Ireland’s Youth Team. It has been my pleasure to work to develop the Ambassador programme and to have met and worked with everyone along the way. I’ll still be around, not disappearing completely 😊

Katrina will bring you the next report and will be the point of contact going forward for CIFL Ambassador activities. She’ll reach out to you directly, but if you’d like to contact her at any time, her details are: kmcilmail@cooperationireland.org, +44 7799 871000.

