



co-operationireland future leaders

AUTUMN REPORT 2023

In September, not only did we welcome another 216 young leaders onto the 2023-24 Programme but we also launched the Co-operation Ireland Future Leaders Peace Awards with 180 young people recruited onto our year-long targeted programme, now our Bronze Level Award; 32 graduates progressing onto our newly launched Silver Level Award. We have also continued to work with some of our self-starters from last year and our mentor trainers to pilot a range of potential programme activities to be incorporated into our Gold & Platinum Award Levels for next year.

When Future Leaders was developed in 2020, it was designed to help prepare the next generation of community leaders and peacebuilders across the island, supporting them to develop the skills and confidence to work with others from diverse backgrounds and to take an active role in peace building and the development of their own communities and wider society. It is exciting to see the programme model continue to evolve to cater for the diverse needs of our young people, with activities delivered in a layered approach depending on the experience, needs and interest of the young people, enabling them to build on their learning and experience gained as they progress through the programme.



We have continued to grow our network of schools & youth organisations across not only this Island but also on an East-West basis, and we are delighted to welcome 4ward2gether Youth Club in Kilmarnock, Scotland and Dundonald High School Belfast onto our Bronze Level Programme this year. As part of the International Delegation visit to Hawaii our peer mentors worked with young people on the Island of Hawaii, exploring together our sense of identity; sharing our different cultures but shared commitment to a better future for our island communities; including our commitment to building & maintaining peace, while supporting each other to protect our natural environment.

As we come to the end of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our young leaders, our teachers, and leaders, and our programme ambassadors for your continued commitment to the programme. On behalf of all the Future Leaders team, I would like to wish all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Margaret Lucey
Programme Manager



PROGRAMME DELIVERY



Progression Route 1: As part of Our Bronze Level Award – which is our yearlong leadership cross border programme delivered in designated disadvantaged communities in ROI & NI. Currently we have 5NI/ROI partnerships and 1 East/West partnership confirmed:

On the 21st of September we brought all the teachers and youth leaders delivering the cross-border leadership programme together in Gormanstown Co. Meath for a planning and training event. They had the opportunity to work with programme staff and as a cross border partnership to plan the year together, and to share best practice and resources with each other as a group.

Since then, 180 young people have been recruited onto the programme and have started their leadership training, which has included Sports Leadership Level 1 award, Guided Reading, the John Muir Award, or the Future Leaders leadership training module designed by programme staff. We have had 4 of our cross border residentials with 2 based in NI when St. Columb's Park House hosted their partners from Galway, Youth Work Ireland Galway on the 22 – 23 November 2023 in Derry/L'Derry and Belfast High School hosted Nagle College Cork in Belfast on the 22 – 23 November.

The 2 residentials in the Republic of Ireland took place in Dublin when Finglas Youth Resource Centre hosted Lagmore Youth Club Belfast 3- 4 November 2023; and Crescent Comprehensive Limerick hosted St. Joseph's High School Belfast on the 6 -8 December. The focus for these first residentials was on building relationships between the groups, sharing their sense of identity and having the opportunity to visit the local communities of their partner group.

Some of the highlights from the residentials included visits to a range of Ambassadors including Glenveagh Homes, Hendersons Food Group, Musgraves, as well as participating on a range of team building and community based activities.

In 2024, our bronze groups will be completing their assessment in leadership, commencing their local social action projects and participating in their reciprocal cross border exchanges.

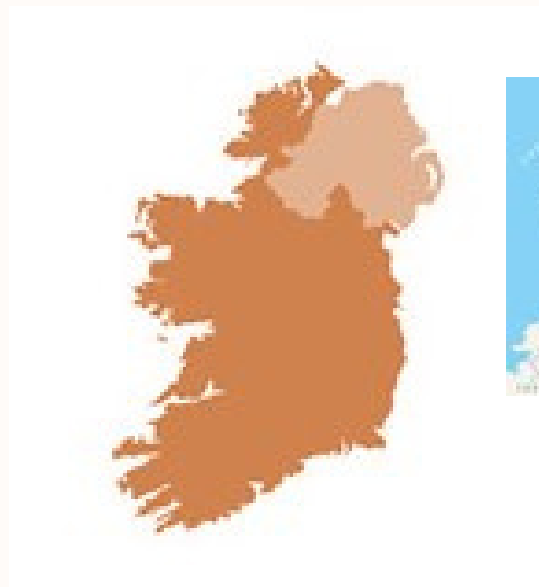


Progression Route 1: As part of Our Bronze Level Award – which is our yearlong leadership cross border programme delivered in designated disadvantaged communities in ROI & NI.

Currently we have 5NI/ROI partnerships and 1 East/West partnership confirmed:

- 1.Lagmore Youth Club, Belfast
- 2.Belfast High School, Belfast
- 3.St. Joseph’s College, Belfast
- 4.Dundonald High School, Dundonald
- 5.St. Columb’s Park House, Derry/L’Derry
- 6.4Ward2Gether, Kilmarnock Scotland

- 1.Terence MacSwiney Community School, & Carrignafoy Community School, Cork
- 2.Nagle Community College, Cork
- 3.Crescent College Comprehensive, Limerick
- 4.Youth Work Ireland, Galway
- 5.Finglas Youth Resource Centre, Dublin
- 6.Ballymun Youth Resource Centre, Dublin





Progression Route 2: 32 Graduates from last year's targeted groups were recruited onto our Silver Level Programme working as one all-Island group on a range of programme activities delivered by the Future Leaders programme staff.

The group started the year with a team building residential on 1st – 2nd Sept in Carlingford Adventure Centre, Louth, with 28 young people from across the Island of Ireland attending. The focus for this event was group formation and team building, with the young people having the opportunity to get to know each other and learn to work together as they participated in several outdoor team building activities and facilitated discussions. They continued their learning journey when they travelled to Belfast on the 1 – 3 November for their leadership training when they undertook an ILM Level 2 Award for Young Leaders which was delivered by the Training for Women Network. The training was delivered in person to 30 participants at Lorne House Residential Centre, Belfast and the young people covered such topics as Developing Self-Leadership and Resilience for Young People Leadership Skills & developing awareness of equality & diversity.





They are currently undertaking their all-Island Social Action project, which is delivered weekly online by programme staff with a range of ambassadors inputting into these sessions. The group have decided to tackle Homelessness as their issue, with plans being made for a series of sleep outs in Dublin, Belfast and Cork to raise awareness, and funds where possible.

One of the young leaders, Edel Farrington, spoke at a dinner for Co-operation Ireland's Future Leaders Programme hosted by the Tánaiste Micheál Martin in the Merrion hotel on the 17 October where she spoke about her journey on Future Leaders. She started on the programme in September 2022 as a young participant on the cross-border leadership programme with Ballymun Youth Resource Centre where she had the opportunity to work with a group from Portadown and to tackle the issue of raising awareness on the dangers of drug abuse within our own community. The experience and confidence she gained from that experience encouraged her to apply for the Silver Programme where she is now working independently with young people from across the Island. She highlighted the importance of young people being given the opportunity to work with others from outside their community, to challenge themselves to make the most of every opportunity.

In 2024, the silver group will be participating in 2 corporate residentials, one hosted by the Titanic Centre in Belfast and the other by IRES in Dublin, during these residentials the young people will have the opportunity to gain a first-hand insight into the workings of the corporate world and get involved in a series of workshops, tasks, and activities to enhance their skills, create networks and boost confidence.

London Visit



Progression Route 3 : As part of the Gold Level Programme 4 of our graduates from last year's self-starters programme joined other young people recruited from partner schools in Belfast, Dublin and London to participate in an East-West Corporate residential "Banking on the Future" hosted by Morgan Stanley in partnership with Co-operation Ireland.

Our aim is to develop this initiative as part of the gold level award as an east-west engagement event bringing young people together across these Islands from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds to enhance their personal and social skills development.

This residential took place in their London based offices from the 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2023 and gave the participants introduction to the world of work and firsthand experience of the corporate world, they participated in a series of workshops, tasks and activities to develop their potential, enhance skills and boost confidence.

In February 2024, we will be launching a mentoring programme for young people with a range of programme ambassadors.



Progression Route 4: As part of the ongoing development of the Platinum level Programme, 4 of our peer mentors who have been part of an international design group participated in an international delegation visit to Hawaii in September 2023, exploring the potential for an international youth exchange programme between the 2 islands. As part of this visit they visited a range of youth and educational institutions to share learning and collaborate on the creation of joint exchange activities. (full report available on <https://cooperationireland.org/co-operation-irelands-young-leaders-build-connections-in-hawaii/>)

We are looking forward to the return visit by young people from Hawaii in 2024 when they will have the opportunity to visit partner schools and youth groups across the Island of Ireland.

3. East/West & International Links

As part of the ongoing development of the programme, our young people have had the opportunity to participate in building good relations not only within their own communities, but also across communities on a cross border basis, East/West and internationally, sharing learning, exploring common issues and concerns. A series of pilot activities with been established in England, Scotland, and the USA to create opportunities for East-West and international engagement.

- These collaborative initiatives are built into each of the progression levels and include:
- Delivering the Future Leaders Model in other jurisdictions/countries, for example our Leadership Programme is now being delivered by 4ward2gether Youth group in Kilmarnock, Scotland. They have been partnered with Ballymun Youth Resource Centre and are supported by our programme staff, as they participate in the reciprocal exchanges element of the programme with 1 residential taking place in Dublin and the other in Kilmarnock. It is hoped to extend this pilot to create other East/West links, possibly with Luton Irish Forum who have already participated in a number of Future Leaders connect days.
 - Themed residentials - Bringing young people together from across Ireland, Northern Ireland and England, Scotland & Wales to work collaboratively on themed residentials similar to the residential hosted by Morgan Stanley as part of the Golf level Pilot.
 - Create International Learning Clusters where young people have opportunity to explore wider culture, identity, globalisation and create opportunities for volunteering and internship, as piloted with the Hawaii partnership.



Ambassador Programme

The ambassador programme began in September with a series of Briefing Sessions which took place on September 4th, 5th, 6th for new ambassadors & new staff within our current organisations. The presentations made at these sessions are available to share, if required. In September we were delighted to participate in Deloitte's Impact week when they hosted a group of young leaders from Belfast High School for a professional skills development workshop and site visit on 3rd October.

With the introduction of the newly redesigned Peace Awards, with the introduction of clearly defined activities & outcomes to be achieved at each level incorporating potential for engagement with ambassadors across all levels.

If you would like to host a site visit or offer a workshop to our groups on teambuilding, leadership, diversity & inclusion, values, career progression etc., i would love to hear from you.

I cant thank you all enough for the support you have given to us with the Future Leaders programme. I will be in touch with a save the date for our Annual Showcase in Dublin in April.

Wishing you all a lovely restful break and looking forward to connecting with you in 2024.

Katrina

Ambassador Engagement Officer

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