



co-operationireland future leaders

AUTUMN REPORT 2024

The new Co-operation Ireland Future Leader Awards were introduced last year to enhance retention and provide improved progression pathways for young people, enabling them to develop their skills and competencies in three key areas: personal learning, social action, and relationship building. As we enter the 5th year of the programme (2024-25), we have fully implemented three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold, and continue to pilot and develop a range of activities for the Platinum level to be implemented fully next year. We have developed a learning framework across all progression pathways, with clearly defined outcomes to be achieved, with ambassador engagement included at each level. Already the schools and youth clubs have started their planning and the dates for their proposed residentials which we have circulated already.



PROGRAMME DELIVERY



Progression Pathway 1- Bronze Level

We have recruited 5 cross-border partnerships (10 schools & youth clubs across the Island) with 150 young people taking part, with an emphasis on disadvantage and improving retention. We have welcomed Saintfield High School onto the programme who will be partnered with a school in the Republic of Ireland.

Progression Pathway 2 –Silver Level

Thirty-five young people were recruited onto the Silver level from across all of our partner schools and youth clubs, all graduates of last year's bronze programme. These young people work as an all-island group, supported directly by the Future Leaders team. They will participate in leadership training (IML award), an all-island social action project, and a corporate residential that introduces the young people to the world of work, hosted by our ambassadors.

Progression Pathway 3 -Gold Level

Another Twenty-four young people progressed from last year's Silver level last year onto our new Gold award, this is the first year of the Gold level. These young people come from across the island of Ireland, working as one all-island group, supported directly by the Future Leaders team as well. They will participate in a lobbying and advocacy module, giving presentations to public representatives in both Stormont and the Dáil. Additionally, they will take part in a mentoring programme with our programme ambassadors and engage in an East-West corporate residential that introduce them to the world of work, hosted by our ambassadors.

Progression Pathway 4 – Platinum (Pilot)

Our four mentor trainers will host an international delegation from our partner organisation, HawaiiKidsCan, with young people from both islands participating in an international youth engagement event. This event will inform the design of a framework specifically designed for our international programme.

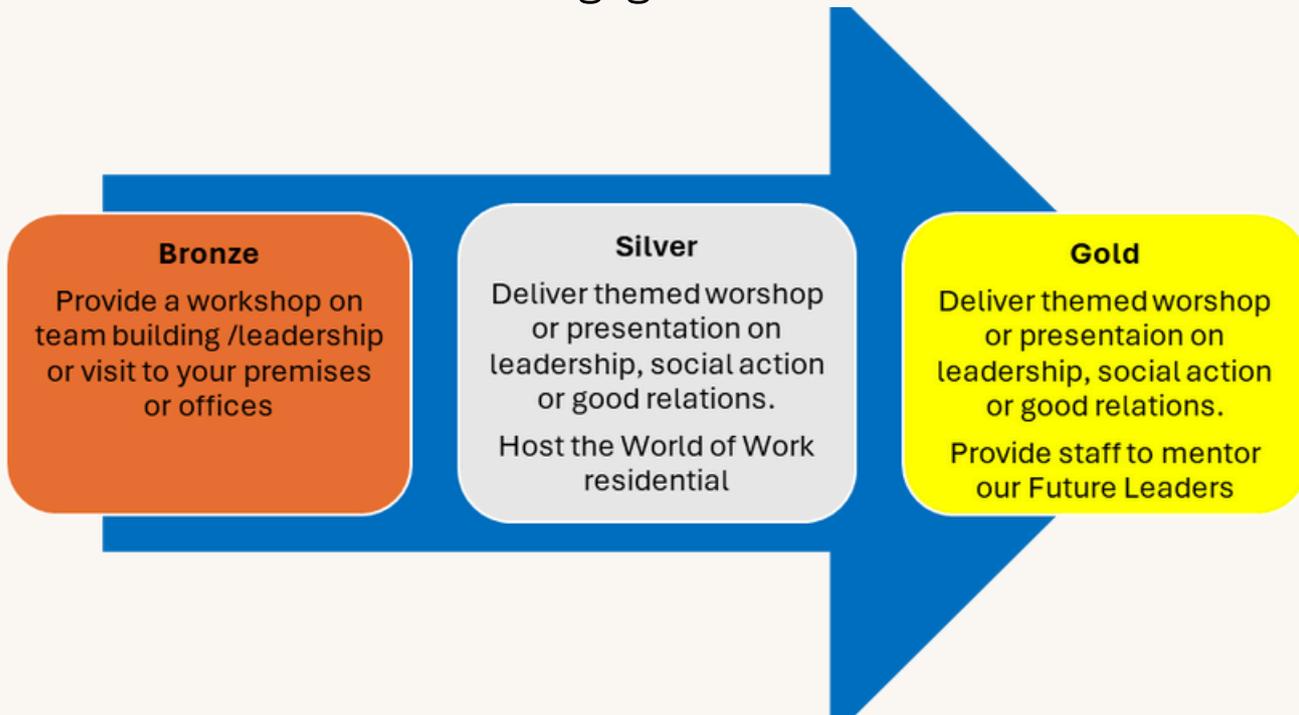
Gallery





Ambassador Programme

Potential for Ambassador Engagement



Feedback from young people

"I learned a lot from the World of Work residential...it gave me a real insight into what I want to do in the future...I have a clearer picture of what I want to do."

" All of the other young people I met from across the border...were very positive people and are very welcoming, not to mention they are very easy to work with. I am still great friends with many people from Cork and would speak to them regularly, which has been one of the main positives from the journey"

"I remember, back in Bronze they asked us "Do you think you would be able to do something about an issue?", and we all said no, and then they said "Well who's tried to do something about it?", and then I realised I actually could do something about it if I wanted to. And I think taking part in the social action has been really good for that. It made me realise that I can actually have a say and if there was an issue I wanted to talk about now I would know how to go about making my voice heard"



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Thank you for your continued support!

Co-operation Ireland
**FUTURE LEADERS
PROGRAMME**

*Accredited Leadership Development Training,
empowering young people to become influencers
and leaders in their own community.*

