

# Northern Ireland Legacy Impact Report

**On 28 & 29 January 2025 Common Purpose delivered Northern Ireland Legacy**

Legacy is a global campaign by Common Purpose which invests in young people across the world so they can become a connected generation of leaders with a clear vision for what their legacy will be.

We ran our third Northern Ireland Legacy programme on 28 and 29 January, at Belfast Harbour and Belfast City Hall. 102 young people applied for the programme and 76 completed it. They had a challenging and full agenda where they met with civic and business leaders from across Belfast.

This diverse group of 76 young leaders aged 18-25 came from different communities, backgrounds and beliefs. Some in employment, some not; some studying, some volunteering; many are activists, others finding their own causes. What they all have in common is their generation and the place they live, work, or study.

Without Northern Ireland Legacy these young leaders may otherwise have never met - let alone worked together to cross boundaries in Northern Ireland.



The programme was made possible with the invaluable support of our sponsors:

- Belfast City Council
- Translink
- Power NI
- Queen's University Belfast

# What did the participants say?

*"One aspect of the programme which resonated with me, and has shifted my mindset was the Lord Mayor's speech. In his closing line, he mentioned that young people are not the future, as we are relevant right now. I found this to be a very true and powerful message, and it is one which young people do not hear very often. This has inspired me to grasp opportunities now, and do not wait until I am older to become a changemaker."*

*"What goes on in the country with different companies and people trying to make a change and trying to make Northern Ireland move forward in a positive way."*

*"I am very grateful and appreciative of all of the Common Purpose staff, the sponsors of the Legacy programme and the organisations who participated in it for the time, effort and money they invested in providing such an experience for me and for investing not only in my professional development, but the development of my generation and for their vision of a better future that works for everybody."*

*"Previously, I focused primarily on my personal leadership growth and achievements. Now, I see leadership as a shared responsibility, where success is measured by the ability to empower others and create an inclusive, high-performing environment."*

*"Appreciation of a wider set of views, values and opinions. There is hope for the future of Northern Ireland."*

*"From this leadership program, I have learned the true value of confidence, communication, and resilience. It has reinforced the importance of stepping outside my comfort zone, taking initiative, and making decisions with clarity and purpose. I've gained a deeper understanding of how to lead with integrity, listen actively, and work effectively within a team. Most importantly, this experience has been a reminder that leadership isn't just about authority—it's about influence, responsibility, and the ability to inspire and uplift those around me. This program has strengthened my belief that I have the mindset and skills to make a real impact in any path I choose."*



# Programme details

**Northern Ireland Legacy provides an opportunity for young people to think bigger, get new perspectives, be challenged to think differently, and understand the power of unexpected connections with people they might never normally meet who are playing a role in the big and small changes shaping the future of Northern Ireland.**

## **Keynote:**

- Paul Murnaghan, Chair, BT (NI) Board
- Micky Murray, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Belfast

## **Immersion visits**

- East Belfast Enterprise
- Danske Bank
- MSC Group
- NOW Group
- Tourism NI
- Turnaround Project
- Translink

## **Café Conversations**

- Maebh Reynolds, CEO and Founder, GoPlugable
- Sara McCracken, Founder, The PR Club
- Kayley Curtis, Production Coordinator, Makematic
- Conor Forker, Youth Worker in Charge, Clonmore Youth Club
- Diane Davis, Director, Minority Recognition Awards NI
- Maeve Brennan, Programme Officer, Belfast Healthy Cities

## **Panel**

- Jacqui Kennedy, Chief People Officer and Corporate Services Officer, Translink
- Caroline Young, Vice-President (Students and Corporate Services), Queen's University Belfast



On Day Two of the programme we asked the group about issues that matters to them and where they they can play a role in Northern Ireland.....





# Programme Impact

**83%**

have greater confidence in their role as a leader

**92%**

feel more willing and able to impact Northern Ireland

**85%**

feel that they will be more open to diverse perspectives

**87%**

have identified shifts they want to make and have set goals to help them reach them

\*The questions are scored on a scale of 1 – 5 with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who scored a 4 or 5.

# Northern Ireland Legacy Sponsors – January 2025

"Belfast City Council is proud to once again sponsor the Northern Ireland Legacy programme, working with Common Purpose to engage with the next generation of future leaders. This is an exciting time for our city with the recent refresh of our community plan, The Belfast Agenda which sets out our ambition to deliver inclusive growth and ensure that Belfast is a great place for everyone to live, work and study and somewhere that people dream to visit. The Northern Ireland Legacy programme provides an excellent opportunity for young leaders to imagine their Northern Ireland of the future and consider how they can help to inform the decisions that we are taking now to create a city that continues to support all our residents to participate in city life to their full potential."

John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy, Belfast City Council

"Translink is delighted to support Common Purpose in the delivery of their Legacy programme for young people in Northern Ireland. We see this as not only a great development opportunity for our own young leaders but also a chance for Translink to play a wider role in supporting the development of young leaders across NI. encouraging them to become the strong leaders for the future"

Jacqui Kennedy, Chief People & Corporate Services Officer, Translink

# Programme Name Sponsors

**"Queen's University Belfast has a proud history of offering world-class education. We prepare our students for leadership and citizenship in a global society, at home and around the world. Queen's University Belfast are therefore delighted to partner with Common Purpose, on this common mission, to support and develop the leaders of tomorrow."**

James Dillon, Assistant Director  
(Head of Government Affairs and Civic Engagement),  
Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility, Queen's University Belfast

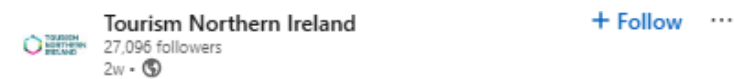
**"Power NI is proud to continue its long-standing support of Common Purpose and we are delighted to be part of this year's Legacy programme, inspiring and educating our young people in Northern Ireland to become future leaders and create a legacy they can be proud of."**

William Steele, Director of NI Customer Solutions, Power NI

More information - Marie Mohan, Managing Director,  
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# Social Media



Tourism Northern Ireland welcomes future young leaders

Young people taking part in a future young leaders programme were today given an insight into how tourism continues to make a positive contribution in Northern Ireland.

The group, aged 18 to 25, visited [Tourism Northern Ireland](#) in Bedford Street for an immersive visit as part of the [Common Purpose](#) Northern Ireland Legacy programme.

A global not-for-profit development organisation, the mission of [Common Purpose](#) is to develop leaders who can cross cultural, institutional, and social boundaries, both at work and in society.

Founded in 1989, the organisation delivers compelling, surprising, and powerful leadership programmes and workshops in more than 100 cities and online.

The Northern Ireland Legacy programme is part of the [Common Purpose](#) Global Legacy campaign, which invests in young people so they can become a connected generation of leaders with the confidence to make a difference and a clear vision for what their legacy will be.

The group were welcomed to [Tourism Northern Ireland](#) by [Carolyn Boyd](#), Industry Development Manager and [Jessica Hoyle](#), Experience Brand Development Manager.

During the visit, the group learned about the work of [Tourism Northern Ireland](#), gained an understanding of the importance of shaping compelling tourism experiences, and were given an overview of career pathways and good jobs in the sector.

The group also explored how the organisation's work contributes to shape Northern Ireland.

Speaking after the meeting, Carolyn Boyd, Industry Development Manager at [Tourism Northern Ireland](#), said: "We were delighted to welcome the [Common Purpose](#) delegation to our offices today.

"It is so important to highlight the contribution tourism makes to Northern Ireland and the role it has played in transforming the region as it continues to boost the local economy and provide good jobs across the sector."

[Victoria Moore](#), Projects Leader at [Common Purpose](#), said: "Tourism NI has long been a supporter of Common Purpose and we were delighted that the organisation hosted a group of young leaders as part of the programme.

"The group gained an invaluable insight into how tourism is key to creating a forward-and outward-looking Northern Ireland."



Yesterday, we had the pleasure of hosting a group of emerging leaders from [Common Purpose's](#) Legacy program. 🌟

They spent the day with [Chris Busby](#), who shared his leadership journey over the past nine years, from starting as a trainee to becoming an Associate Director. It was a great opportunity for open discussions about career growth, leadership challenges, and lessons learned along the way. 📢

We enjoyed welcoming such an engaged group and look forward to seeing where their journeys take them. 🌟

#futureleadership #leadershipskills



Ruth Cunningham and 9 others

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4 comments · 6 reposts

# Social Media



Josh Blair · 2nd

Working at Utility regulator while studying Fintech HND part time.

2w · 🌐

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★ I recently attended the NI LEGACY workshop by Common Purpose, a two-day leadership programme. It was a great opportunity to explore what it means to lead with purpose and to gain valuable insights into how we can all make a difference in our communities and workplaces. ★

Day 1:

Started at Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office, we engaged in activities designed to help us identify our personal purpose and develop the skills necessary to stand up for our ideas.

Later, I joined a small group for a visit to Danske Bank Belfast. We were greeted warmly and had the chance to tour the bank and learn more about its operations. Listening to [Aileen McAvoy](#) story of how she rose to her position was particularly inspiring. She emphasised the value of embracing mistakes as opportunities for growth, especially when stepping into new and challenging roles. Huge thanks to [Aisling Howe CIPD Assoc](#) as well, who made the experience even more insightful.

Day 2:

At the iconic Belfast City Hall, where we were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Belfast. Hearing his story of resilience and determination to step into a leadership role was both motivational and thought-provoking.

We also had the opportunity to speak with local business owners and managers, who shared their diverse experiences. One message that stood out to me was from a business owner who highlighted that no one can do everything alone. Leadership is about recognising where to focus your time and resources to create the best outcomes for your team and organisation.

The day concluded with group discussions and presentations on pressing social issues affecting communities today. It was amazing to hear a variety of perspectives and suggestions for driving positive change.

🌈 Over the two days, I gained a wealth of knowledge and skills, including leadership and decision-making, collaboration and active listening, adaptability and resilience, strategic thinking, and presentation and communication. I learned how to identify purpose and align it with actions, work with individuals to tackle complex issues and embrace mistakes.

A massive thank you to [Anna Colao](#) and [Victoria Moore](#) for hosting such a fantastic event, and to everyone who shared their inspiring stories. I'm sure I will bring my new skills into the workplace along with my Utility Regulator colleagues who also attended.

🔑 Key takeaways:

- Leadership is about passion, purpose, and learning from mistakes.
- Collaboration and diverse perspectives are crucial for growth.
- Strategic thinking helps leaders focus on what truly matters.
- Purpose-driven leadership can make a real difference in communities and workplaces.

If you're ever given the opportunity to attend a [Common Purpose](#) workshop, I highly recommend it.

#Leadership #Purpose #CommonPurpose #NILEGACY #PersonalDevelopment  
#Teamwork #StrategicThinking  
Tola Lally



Aisling Howe CIPD Assoc · 3rd+

Early Careers Lead

2w · 🌐

+ Follow

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We were delighted to host NI's future leaders this week at Danske Bank. The young people have completed the Northern Ireland legacy programme through [Common Purpose](#).

We had great conversations with the curious young people about what we're doing to help make customers, colleagues & society thrive, our role in the community and how we are contributing to the future legacy of Northern Ireland ⚡

Aileen McAvoy

