

THE AWARDS 2021

Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community

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| Institution name | National College of Ireland |
| Submission title or project name | Early Learning Initiative |
| Nominee/key personnel | Dr Josephine Bleach is Director of the Early Learning Initiative at National College of Ireland. Home Visitors are primarily women living in the neighbourhood surrounding NCI: Dublin's North East Inner City (NEIC) and this connection – serving the community of which they are part – is essential to the acceptance and success of the programme. |
| URL | https://www.ncirl.ie/ELI |
| Submission | <p>Established 15 years ago by National College of Ireland (NCI) as an innovative access programme, the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is a complex community initiative, which addresses the educational divide in Dublin's Inner City and beyond.</p> <p>Inequality in education begins pre-birth. Central to young children's learning is high quality adult interactions and a stimulating learning environment at home, school, services and across the community.</p> <p>ELI's multiple, multi-level interventions with multiple stakeholders are designed around 4 themes: Home Visiting and Parent Support; Literacies; Educational Guidance; Capacity-Building. ELI's strong integration with the communities around NCI meant it was vital for their work to continue during restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19, which disproportionately adversely affected those already living with disadvantage; and also ensured they had the networks and trust in place to ensure their work continued, and flourished! At-risk children and young people are being supported to achieve their full potential.</p> |