



## News Release

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Katherine Harford, Programme Manager of Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme receives prestigious Civic Award from the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Dr John Sheehan**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020, at City Hall, Katherine Harford, Programme Manager of Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme, was presented with a Civic Award from the Lord Mayor of Cork City, Cllr. Dr John Sheehan.

The Lord Mayor nominated Katherine and five other recipients for the award, in recognition of their impressive individual contribution in their chosen fields and the impact of their work in their community and to the city.

Following COVID-19 guidelines, Katherine was presented the award in the Lord Mayors Offices in the presence Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress only. The Lord Mayor presented the award in recognition of her commitment, energy and enthusiasm in her advocacy for improved childhood services for the greater Knocknaheeny area.

Since 2007, Katherine has been working in Knocknaheeny and surrounding areas of Cork city. She is currently the Programme Manager of the Young Knocknaheeny Area Based Childhood Programme, leading a multidisciplinary team delivering a Prevention and Early Intervention Programme, which aims to get every child's life off to the best possible start and seeks bring about lasting community change.

Previously she was Manager of Northside Community Health Initiative (Cork) Ltd, and brought about a number of innovative programmes, reducing the impact of health inequalities for which she is very proud. She started her work in Cork as a Community Health Worker with the HSE.

She is a founding member and former Chairperson of Cork Healthy Cities, and has contributed to many local, city and national networking and policy forums on issues of social inclusion, equality, health and programming for child development, wellbeing and family support.

On receiving the award Katherine said, "to be recognised in this way by the Lord Mayor and Cork city is such a huge honour for me. It is a privilege to work so closely with families,





communities and groups in this city, especially in the Knockhaheeney area. Equality of access and opportunity from the start of life, and throughout life, to have the best life possible is something I care very much about. I am grateful for the partnerships that have been built, the team I work with, parents, families and the community. By working together and learning together, we find practical, creative and quality responses that benefit everyone, especially children”.

Chairperson of NICHE Board (who host the Young Knocknaheeny Programme) is Professor Ivan Perry, UCC. He pays tribute by saying, “I am delighted to see Katherine’s work recognised by our city. I have known Katherine for more than 10 years in my role with NICHE and through research and project collaborations with the School of Public Health and city-wide Partnerships. She is a truly exceptional person with vision, energy, drive and an absolute commitment to the promotion of health and wellbeing in disadvantaged communities and bringing about change for social, collective gain”.

On behalf of the Young Knocknaheeny Management Group Dr Pat Corbett recalls, “Katherine was one of the small group of people working in the area, who came together use our knowledge and resources to nurture, protect and ensure the health and wellbeing of all of our children, particularly those who are vulnerable and live in disadvantage. The group had an understanding of the impact of adversity on young children’s lives and an understanding of the science and evidence showing how best to respond to this. It also had a commitment to building collaborative working relationships in and with the local community. Led by Katherine as Manager of YK, this group began to build the YK Programme.

Katherine has a unique ability to work collaboratively with others to achieve a shared vision. Her leadership and understanding, along with her dedication to the children and families with whom Young Knocknaheeny work, has built a responsive, science-based organization, which is making a powerful contribution to the lives of our youngest children. The Management Group of the YK Programme is very proud and delighted that our Manager, Katherine Harford, is receiving this award from the Lord Mayor of Cork”. Ends.

For queries please contact: Lynn Buckley, Tel: 086-0316109 or E: [lynn.ykabc@nicheonline.ie](mailto:lynn.ykabc@nicheonline.ie)





**Young Knocknaheeny continues to be here to support families and communities, and work with our service partners at this time.**

Do not call the office number. Please call Tracie **086 185 4976** or Lynn **086 031 6109** during office hours. They will respond to your query or redirect you to the appropriate team member.

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**For up to date COVID-19 information please go to: [www.hse.ie/coronavirus](http://www.hse.ie/coronavirus)**

Young Knocknaheeny is part of the National Area Based Childhood Programme, funded by Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Tusla PPF Programme. NICHE is the lead Agency.

**Notes:**

The Lord Mayor’s Cultural and Civic Awards and Community and Voluntary Recognition will take place this week with a difference – this year, owing to COVID-19 restrictions, they will be held virtually.

The ceremonies will be broadcast on Cork City Council’s [YouTube](#) channel at 3.30 p.m. over the next three days as follows:

- **Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> – Lord Mayor’s Cultural Award**
- **Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> – Lord Mayor’s Civic Awards**
- **Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> – Lord Mayor’s Community & Voluntary Recognition**

Please click on the following link to navigate to Cork City Council’s YouTube channel to mark the occasion with us.

[Lord Mayor’s Cultural and Civic Awards and Community and Voluntary Recognition 2020](#)

