

# The Early Intervention Award

## Criteria

For the initiative that has intervened early and most effectively with children or young people at risk from problems such as homelessness, crime, substance misuse, poor health or dropping out of education, and prevented the transmission of poor outcomes from one generation to the next.

## Also shortlisted

- BME Outreach Project – Early Break
- E.Quality F.C. Doorstep Sport Club, Manchester – Chapter 1 The Limes
- Families First – Islington Council and Family Action
- Firebreak – Essex County Council Fire & Rescue Service
- The Money House – The Hyde Group
- Out of the Dark
- Teens and Toddlers

## Special High Commendation

- Cafcass Intake Team

*The judges awarded Cafcass a Special High Commendation for the work of the Cafcass Intake Team. Although entered for the Early Intervention Award, the judges determined the entry did not fit any of the categories clearly, but believed strongly that the work of the Cafcass Intake Team merits a Special High Commendation.*

*After Ofsted inspections between 2007 and 2010 raised “significant concerns” about Cafcass’s practice, it opened the Intake Team to streamline and improve the process of safeguarding children and families in private law proceedings through early intervention. This allowed Cafcass to receive applications from the family court centrally, to be screened by a dedicated team of family court advisers within 24 hours of receipt of the case – which is achieved currently in 99 per cent of cases. It previously processed applications in more than 90 offices with inconsistent rates and different methods for collecting safeguarding information.*

*In its first national inspection in February 2014, Ofsted rated Cafcass as “good”, with “outstanding” national leadership.*



## Winner Starting Out, Together It's Child's Play - Borough of Poole

Children who have fallen behind their peers by the age of five are more likely to underachieve at primary school and into later life.

That is why a key aim of this successful scheme is to get in early, recognising the essential contribution parents make to children's early development and learning.

Starting Out, which has also scooped this year's Early Years Award, was devised by Poole's 0 to 5 services team and features activity packs that parents can use at home, plus training for early years practitioners.

“At the core is a great respect for parents, recognition that they are their children's first and most important educator and the belief that they should not feel ‘done to’ or disempowered,” according to its developers.

Parents were involved from the start including helping decide the name and testing materials. Those accessing the scheme through nurseries and schools can also attend workshops on topics

such as brain development, managing children's behaviour and establishing routines.

Parents who come via children's centres attend six group sessions and may also get home visits from a family outreach worker.

The chief challenges were to ensure the programme was reaching those who needed it the most and that families invited to take part in the home visiting element of the scheme were ready for this kind of support.

Up until April this year, the Borough of Poole had provided all the funding for the project. In April the council received £25,000 of early intervention funding from the local police and crime commissioner, which is being used to introduce Starting Out to more than 80 childminders and more pre-school and nursery settings.

The project impressed both the young and adult judges for this category. “It's a great service, with great outcomes,” concludes one of our young judges.