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## Continence Nurse Wins National Charity Award

A children's continence practitioner was recognised for the excellent care she gives to children and teenagers with bowel and bladder problems.

Michelle Newton, a Specialist Nurse Practitioner at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Bladder and Bowel Service won the Childhood Continence Care Award from ERIC, The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity, sponsored by Coloplast. Michelle received the award at ERIC's Gala Dinner.

Michelle provides care for 400 children with continence problems and trains and supports many community practitioners. She was awarded for her commitment to child-centred care and collaborative working with families. The care, support and advice she provides have empowered parents to take control of how their child's continence is developed and achieved. Her excellent care has led to improvements in children's health and wellbeing and has changed parents' lives. Michelle proved that what others may consider a waste of time or impossible is in fact possible and life-changing for a child and their family.

Michelle was shown to be passionate and enthusiastic about her work, always trying to make things interesting and enjoyable for the child with the use of games and books that she has developed herself. Through seeking the views of service users and implementing improvements, she has developed the bladder and bowel service into a comprehensive, high quality, evidence based, and cost-effective service.

Michelle said: "I love doing this job and continue to see how much delay in continence development impacts on families' lives and how parents are in despair at the point when they see a specialist continence advisor. Receiving this award is very gratifying even though I get great job satisfaction. I will be sharing the award with the rest of the team as it's not just myself who deserves it, it's the health visitors, school nurses, children's community nurses and consultants - we all work together as a team. I'm over the moon that I've been given this award to acknowledge the support we've provided over the years."

The award was judged by Dr Chinnaiah Yemula, a Community Paediatrician; Debra Gordon, Head of Education and Medical Affairs at Coloplast; and Sharron Gibson, ERIC's Helpline Coordinator.



The award presentation was streamed live on ERIC's Facebook page (@ERIC.UK1) and Twitter account (@ERIC\_UK). The award was presented by Anthony Asquith, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Coloplast. Michelle received a cheque for £500 and an all-expenses paid place at ERIC's Paediatric Continence Care Conference, including an overnight stay at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

ERIC's Childhood Continence Care Award recognises a health professional who has demonstrated excellent continence care for a child or children in the UK either within the NHS, local community, or an education setting. The award is presented every two years.

#### **Notes to editors:**

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ERIC, The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity is the only charity dedicated to the bowel and bladder health of all children and teenagers in the UK. ERIC provides expert support, information and understanding to children and teenagers and enables parents, carers and professionals to help them establish good bowel and bladder health. [www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

Coloplast is an international company that develops, manufactures and markets medical devices and services related to ostomy, urology, continence and wound care. [www.coloplast.co.uk](http://www.coloplast.co.uk)

*Pictured above: Michelle Newton, who won ERIC's Childhood Continence Care Award. She is flanked by Anthony Asquith, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Coloplast, and ERIC's CEO Juliette Randall*