



Sheehan wins IoD Lunn's Award of Excellence

Ciaran Sheehan, Managing Director of the Care Circle Group, has been awarded Northern Ireland's most prestigious business award, the IoD Lunn's Award of Excellence. The award, which is presented by the Institute of Directors and Lunn's the Jewellers, recognises an individual business leader for their contribution to the success of their business, their employees and the wider Northern Ireland community.



Ciaran is probably best known for his Clarendon Executive business but this award recognises his leadership of the successful Care Circle Group, which he founded in 2001. The Group operates very high quality care establishments and a thriving domiciliary care service across Northern Ireland employing over 350 staff and plans to expand into the Republic of Ireland and mainland UK.

The judging panel consisting of the economist John Simpson, Richard Buckley of Business Eye magazine, IoD NI Chairman Joanne Stuart and Kevin MacAllister of PwC were impressed by the growth and profit figures for the winner's company and its plans to expand rapidly into new markets in the next few years. The company increased its profit figures by 26% in 2008 and by 24% in 2009, and is on target to double in size in the next two years.

In 2009 the company was recognised in the Irish News Business Awards as a Best Place to Work, reflecting staff turnover levels that year of less than 4% compared to the industry average of 24% and sickness and absence levels of just 1.9 days per employee per annum.

Presenting the Award, John Lunn of Lunn's the Jewellers, highlighted Ciaran's commitment to the wider Northern Ireland economy. He said: "As well as running a successful and growing business, Ciaran and his colleagues have undertaken a wide range of activities in economic regeneration, community development, youth mentoring, business mentoring and the establishment of social enterprises.

"These include supporting a number of social economy enterprises to create new jobs. For example, Colin Care and EnviroCare have between them have created 35 jobs and a Community Interest Company - Colin Bridge – has been set up as an enterprise incubator. Ciaran sets a great example for more companies to follow in helping communities to develop successful social enterprises."

Internationally, Care Circle sponsors the development of young people in Kerala in India through nursing college, while Arapenna Hospital in India receives financial support for care provision and in particular the delivery of ophthalmic services and cataract operations. And in Moldova, Care Circle provides support to feed, clothe and educate a group of 60 homeless street children.

In 2010 Ciaran was awarded the IoD's national Large Company Director of the Year award.



The IoD Lunn's Award of Excellence has been presented since 2000 and previous recipients have included John McCann of UTV, Michael Ryan from Bombardier, Dr Peter Fitzgerald of Randox and David Dobbin from United Dairy Farmers. The winner of the award this year received a perpetual sterling silver trophy and a Rolex Oyster stainless steel Date-Just watch.