

24th February, 2014

In light of the recent allegations and practices that have come to light within certain charities over recent months, we felt it timely to reassure you of our own levels of governance, transparency and accountability within the ELI.

We are members of the Irish Charities Tax Reform group (ICTR) which is the representative body for Irish charities. This means our Board have signed up to the Resolution regarding the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising and are fully committed to achieving the high standards outlined in the Statement (these can be viewed on our website: www.ncirl.ie/eli).

The recession has put great pressure on our fundraised income. Currently, the ELI raises between 80-90% of its annual income; relying on the generosity of companies, individuals and grant making authorities. It costs us approximately €550,000 to maintain our services. In recent years, any shortfall in income has been absorbed by NCI.

Every penny of fundraised income is spent directly on ELI service provision and programme delivery. This is due to NCI charging no overhead costs.

We receive grants (from companies and state funding) for some of our work in these disadvantaged areas. Each grant operates under a service level agreement and we provide detailed reports to our funders on where their money is being spent (see summary funding allocation below).

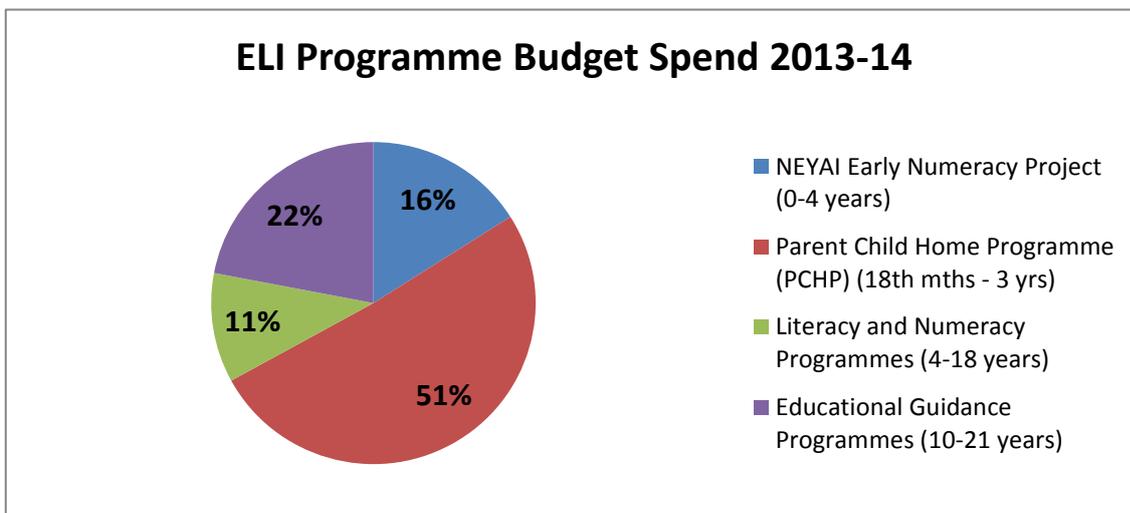


Figure 1: ELI Programme Funding Allocation, FY 2013-14

The ELI publishes a financial summary in its own annual report. In addition, ELI is a division of NCI which prepares its accounts in accordance with Company Law and is audited by PWC. ELI operates a separate bank account to clearly account for all monies received.

We would also like to point out that no top up payments are made to ELI employees; all ELI Board members, including the ELI Chairman are volunteers and donate freely of their time, skills and experience.

We welcome the decision to appoint a Charity Regulator early this year.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely,

Frank Ryan
Chairman, ELI Board
Phone: 087 2477401



Dr Phillip Matthews
President, National College of Ireland
Phone: 01 4498636

