

Karen's Woman of Year award

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Kildare woman Karen Leigh has been awarded the *Irish Tatler Social Entrepreneur of the Year* award at its annual Women of the Year gala night.

Leigh is the founder and CEO of Kildare town-based charity Sensational Kids which looks after children with special needs. Bridging the gap between the private

and public sector. Sensational Kids is made up of a wonderful team of people who make a tremendous difference for families throughout Ireland.

Ten years ago, Newbridge native Karen was appalled by the lack of support she could find for her children.

Upon discussing with fellow parents, she realised that many children with special needs faced lengthy waiting lists and couldn't

access affordable and accessible occupational therapy services. It is from her own experience, and her dedication to the cause, that Sensational Kids was born.

This community and voluntary organisation is now celebrating a decade in business and employs 21 staff across its centres in Kildare and Cork.

On receiving the presentation last Saturday night, Karen said: "I am very

honoured to receive this award. It's fantastic recognition for the whole team at Sensational Kids who work very hard with limited resources to deliver life changing impacts for children with additional needs."

She added that she is determined to help all children with additional needs not only the 5,000 that have attended Sensational Kids to reach their potential.

