

Press Release April 2013

Pearson Assessment Launches New Youth Justice and Forensic, Speech and Language Therapy Site for Professionals

Research has shown that at least 60% of young people in the youth justice system have speech, language and communication needs, and that upwards of 25% of individuals in offender populations, in prison or forensic hospitals, in the UK and other countries have an acquired brain injury (ABI) or cognitive deficit (Martell 2011, Schofield et al 2006, Mottram 2007, Colantonio et al 2007).^{1,2} As a result many young people lack the basic skills required to understand legal terminology and benefit from rehabilitation programs.

In response to the growing awareness of this issue, Pearson Assessment has created a new information site, setting it in line with the key objective of The Children's Communication Coalition (CCC) for England in mind, to: 'Ensure appropriate screening, specialist assessment and intervention are available to children and young people who are already in the criminal justice pathway.'

The site launched this April, provides information on the range of assessment tools which are available from Pearson Assessment in areas including: language, communication, literacy, achievement and general ability, cognition and memory, behaviour, mental health, and life skills and wellbeing. In addition, it aims to provide further information on related research articles, details of The Communication Trust's Youth Justice Program as well as links to relevant websites, groups and newsletters.

Chris Hall, Managing Director for Pearson Clinical and Talent Assessment, comments "For the first time in 2012, the Shine a Light Awards sponsored by Pearson Assessment and The Communication Trust introduced a new Youth Justice category; a direct response to the our growing awareness that children's speech, language and communications needs in this area have to be addressed.

The entries that we received illustrated not only highlighted, the incredible difference that key organisations can make to the lives of young people, but also how much commitment is needed to ensure that young people without these key skills have access to the appropriate level of assessment and intervention that they need. We hope that the creation of our new information site will offer professionals direct links to resources and materials that will help support them and their clients."

The new information site can be found at www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/ForensicSLCN.

- Ends -

For more information please contact Simone Gilson, Marketing Communications Manager, on 0207 010 2880 or email simone.gilson@pearson.com

Notes for editors

Footnotes:

1. The Communication Trust, Youth Justice programme. Retrieved October 2012 from: <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/youth-justice.aspx>

2. Abbott, Pat, Cognitive Neurorehabilitation: Improving care pathways for cognitively impaired clients in a high secure hospitals. Retrieved 02 October 2012 from: [http://www.lidoffenders.co.uk/conferences/8thCon2009/8thConcurrent/Pat%20Abbott%20presentation.ppt#453,11,Individuals with cognitive deficits](http://www.lidoffenders.co.uk/conferences/8thCon2009/8thConcurrent/Pat%20Abbott%20presentation.ppt#453,11,Individuals%20with%20cognitive%20deficits)

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with a 90 year history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson Assessment sponsors the Shine a Light Awards alongside The Communication Trust
www.shinealightawards.co.uk
- For more information, visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk or follow @PsychCorpUK