

Press Release November 2013

Championing the communication needs of young people – Shine a Light Awards return for 2013/14

New categories have been announced for the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards launched today (11th November 2013) by The Communication Trust and Pearson Assessment. Designed to recognise teams, settings and individuals across England who support children and young people's communication needs, the awards are a flagship event, celebrated in education and health care calendars.

The Shine a Light awards focus on areas where excellence and best practice in supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs has been clearly demonstrated. This year, applicants will also have a choice of how to submit their application – by video, poster or written format.

The Awards have grown in popularity since their launch during the national year of communication and have to date seen over 65 teams and individuals celebrated for their work, including Mr Tumble/Justin Fletcher.

This year two new awards categories have been introduced to widen the scope and offer other services a chance to showcase their best practice. The Working Together Award and Children's Workforce Award will sit along side popular categories, such as early year's settings, schools and colleges and innovation which have been retained. A new award has also been introduced to celebrate the launch of The Communication Trust's new initiative the 'Communication Commitment'.

Anne Fox, Director of The Communication Trust said: *"Shine a Light is a important event in the speech, language and communication sector. It gives a platform for some of the fantastic work going on across the country to support children and young people to communicate to the best of their ability. From that platform, individuals, teams and settings can be recognised for the work they do and can act as an example to others. We know from previous years that the work we recognise through shine a light awards goes on to inspire activity in lots of areas and we look forward to seeing this continue this year."*

Chris Hall, Managing Director, Pearson Assessment said: *"We are delighted to see the return of the Shine a Light Awards for 2013/2014. The applications that have been submitted over the last two years have highlighted the exceptional work that is being carried out by teams, individuals, young people and services."*

The Shine a Light Awards is an ideal time to promote the work that you do and thereby support others in doing the same. We encourage all schools, colleges, healthcare teams and young people to nominate themselves and others, and shout about their work."

The awards website is now open for applications, and further details on how to apply can be found at www.shinealightawards.co.uk

Applications close at 11:59 pm on the 10th January 2014, with an awards ceremony to take place in March 2014 in London.

For inspiration on which category to enter, read about the 2012 winners here: <http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/about-the-trust/what-do-we-do/latest-news/shine-a-light-awards-2012.aspx>

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Notes to editors

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory group, which includes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Association of Educational Psychologists and the General Teaching Council.
- The Trust ran *Hello* the national year of communication – in conjunction with Jean Gross, the Government's Communication Champion for Children to make children's communication a priority in homes and schools across the UK.

For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 year's 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 has co-run the Shine a Light Awards with The Communication Trust, since their launch in 2011 during the *Hello* campaign for the national year of communication.

For more information about Pearson Assessment visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk