



Spotlight on Clarice

Clarice won the Pearson Award for Inspiring Others at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards. Clarice was diagnosed with a Specific Language Impairment (SLI) at the age of 6. She was chosen after judges heard her story about her on-going support and contribution to Afasic Cymru - a UK charity that represents children and young people with speech and language impairment (SLI), speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and their families.

Clarice has always found it hard to communicate with people. When she was diagnosed there was no specialist outreach provision in Denbighshire to support children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Clarice's parents worked hard to ensure that her communication needs were supported throughout school by Speech and Language Therapists, Learning Support Assistants and specialist teachers. The support and strategies put in place through Clarice's school continued when she left school last year and she attained BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care and Level 2 in Communication.

Clarice first became involved in Afasic Cymru as a young person, when she attended the Afasic Youth Project for young people ages 11-17 with SLCN on activity days and events. As she has reached the upper age-limit, Clarice has gone on to volunteer at the Youth Project, mentoring and supporting new members.

Clarice was awarded the *Pearson Award for Inspiring Others* for the incredible amount of time and support she has given helping others with SLCN and for her awareness raising work.

She played an instrumental part in submitting and collating the evidence of need to support young people with SLCN in North Wales through the unique youth project. Clarice attends the Youth Club weekly, accompanies Youth Project members on trips, has represented the views of other young people with SLCN, presented at Afasic Cymru events and led projects for younger children.

Clarice is an asset to Afasic Cymru offering mentoring and support to younger members, as well as her incredible enthusiasm raising awareness of SLCN and the difficulties she has faced and overcome. She is an inspiration and her work has impacted many children and young people with SLCN in North Wales.

Clarice is currently undertaking a childcare course at college and working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. She is a happy, confident young lady and her family, friends, team at Afasic Cymru, teachers and Speech and Language Therapist are very proud of what she has achieved.

