





Press Release – For Immediate Release (07.04.14)

ARTBURST PROJECT WINS COMMUNICATION AWARD FOR INNOVATION

Artburst Ltd, a social enterprise based in Hackney, is celebrating after winning the **SLCN Innovation Award** at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** for their work providing educational workshops that improve the oracy and literacy skills of children and young people in London through drama, art, music and movement.

Artburst was unveiled as the joint winners of the *SLCN Innovation Award*, alongside the Life & Deaf Association, in recognition of their creative work supporting families to learn about children's SLCN through the Artburst *Speak Out* project.

The Awards, held in London on Thursday 3rd April and hosted by Broadcaster and Health Campaigner, Anne Diamond, are run by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust to honour individuals, teams, campaigns, communication friendly settings and communities that have excelled in their support of children and young people's communication.

Speak Out is a three-year programme, run in partnership with Hackney Speech and Language Therapy Service that is tailored for young people in Hackney who have SLCN. In Hackney over 1,600 primary school children and over 900 early years children are on the Speech and Language Register.

The programme, which runs two strands Artburst Minis and Make a Play, is run in partnership with Hackney Speech and Language Therapy Service and supported by The Big Lottery Fund and Reaching Communities programme.

Over 250 participants with SLCN reported an improvement in their educational attainment, confidence and self-esteem as a result of taking part in the Make a Play holiday schools and Artburst Minis sessions. Nearly 300 parents improved their understanding of their children's learning needs and learnt ways to facilitate their child's language and communication skills by the end of the project.

Penny Embden, Co Director of Artburst Ltd, said: "We are very really pleased to win the *Innovation Award* for our three-year Speak Out project. The project was a real success from start to finish. It's brilliant to gain recognition for the work we are doing with young people and families who have SLCN. All the staff, volunteers and partners involved in the project worked so hard to make it happen. We hope the project will be refunded by the Big Lottery so we can continue to deliver workshops in the borough of Hackney."

Anne Fox, Director of The Communication Trust and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "Congratulations to Artburst for winning the *SLCN Innovation Award* introduced for the first time this year. Their creative and innovative work has helped nearly 400 families increase their understanding and awareness of speech and language problems. Their work will help to motivate and inspire others in the field."

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Artburst for their well deserved win. We have been blown away by this years nominations and seen some truly inspiring examples of work being carried out to support children and young people with SLCN. With the awards now in their third year, we are excited to have helped over 90 organisations and teams shout about their work and go on to inspire others."

Due to the success of the Artburst *Speak Out* project and the positive impact it has had on the lives of many Hackney families, other London boroughs including Newham, Tower Hamlets, Islington and Wandsworth have shown interest in delivering the project to families in their boroughs.

For the full list of Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

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For Further Information

For more information, or to arrange an interview with representatives from Artburst, please contact Laura Smith or Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications by emailing lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk or call 07766651366.

Notes to editors

About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings which work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community's calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 16 winners and 13 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by Anne Diamond.
- 17 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Janet Cooper, Founder of Stoke Speaks Out, Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine, Virginia Beardshaw, Chief Executive of I CAN, Sean Stockdale, Editor of Special Magazine, Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Diz Minnitt, Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team and Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School.
- For further information and to view the film of the ceremony and the full list of judges, visit www.shinealightawards.co.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 years 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 have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of

the Hello campaign (National Year of Communication).

For more information, visit <u>www.pearsonclinical.co.uk</u> or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2014

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.
- For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk or follow @Comm_nTrust #SAL2014