



Press Release – For Immediate Release (07.04.14)

INSPIRATIONAL DENBIGHSHIRE TEENAGER WINS PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNICATION AWARD

Clarice, aged 19 from North Wales is celebrating after winning the **Pearson Award for Inspiring Others** at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** for her inspirational work supporting and mentoring young people aged 11-17 with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) at the Afasic Youth Project in North Wales.

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.

Clarice, who has Specific Language Impairment (SLI), has volunteered for Afasic Cymru in significant ways including weekly attendance at the Youth Project, supporting 40 young people with SLCN on a residential weekend in Wales and leading a drama project for younger children.

Despite struggling with social interaction such as making small talk, Clarice represented the views of young people with SLCN at an Afasic England event helping to shape the changes in service delivery for young people within Afasic – an organisation that helps children and young people with speech and language impairments and needs, and their families.

Currently working towards a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Clarice has supported and encouraged young people with SLCN from the Youth Project to participate in the scheme recently completing an overnight expedition.

Clarice says: "Winning the Pearson Award for Inspiring Others has made me very proud. I am over the moon, and it helps me see what I can achieve and gives me the confidence to go forward"

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment, said: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Clarice for winning the *Pearson Award for Inspiring Others*. Clarice has made a difference and impacted on the lives of many young people in North Wales. She is a real source of inspiration to her peers and is deeply passionate about raising awareness and understanding of SLCN. We are delighted that through the Shine a Light Awards we can shout about Clarice's efforts and go on to inspire others."

After being diagnosed at the age of 6, Clarice's SLCN has been well supported throughout her school life enabling her to attain BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care and Level 2 in Communication. A happy and confident young lady, Clarice is currently undertaking a childcare course at college.

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 Clarice, 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 www.pearsonclinical.co.uk 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