



Press Release – IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **OUTSTANDING DURHAM SERVICE HONOURED AT SHINE A LIGHT AWARDS FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING CHILDREN’S COMMUNICATION**

County Durham Youth Offending Service’s (CDYOS) initiative, ClearCut Communication, has been jointly awarded the SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Need) Innovation Award at an awards ceremony in London. The **2017 Shine a Light Awards**, run by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 and were hosted by singer and theatre star Gareth Gates.

The 2017 Shine a Light Awards is a national awards scheme that celebrates innovative work and excellent practice in supporting children and young people’s communication development.

CDYOS has been praised for taking forward their vision of becoming a speech, language and communication need (SLCN) friendly service, which included having a seconded speech and language therapist. As part of CDYOS SLCN Strategy, ‘Thinking About Victims’ a communication-friendly resource that is uniquely used with both the victim of crime and the young person who has offended, was developed.

‘Thinking About Victims’ has been a huge success. The programme has seen a significant increase in face-to-face contact between young people who have offended and their victims. In 2016 CDYOS was awarded the Restorative Justice Council’s Restorative Service Quality Mark. This work has also received interest from partners and the Office of the Police, Crime and the Victims’ Commissioner (OPCV) in County Durham who has requested SLCN training across criminal justice partners.

Susan Stewart (Speech and Language Therapist, seconded to CDYOS from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust) said: 'It's fantastic to gain national recognition that communication friendly resources are crucial to meeting the needs of the 60-90% of young people who offend who have Speech Language and Communication Needs. It is a privilege to support young people's understanding within such an amazing Youth Offending Service'.

Sarah Caden (Practice Improvement Officer, CDYOS and SLCN lead) said: Our 'Thinking About Victims' programme (ClearCut Communication) enables young people who offend to fully understand their offence and the victim's views. It also allows the victim to understand the young person's communication needs. This is essential for the young person to learn from what happened and then prepare for restorative approaches.'

Gill Eshelby, Strategic Manager CDYOS, said: “We are delighted with the award, which recognises the importance of ClearCut Communication resources, our SLCN strategy and our partnership work.”

Lisa Piggott, Operational Lead for Speech and Language Therapy, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust said: “Winning the award is hugely positive in raising national awareness

of the need for communication friendly resources for teams working with young people who offend. It also represents an amazing achievement for both Susan Stewart (SLT) and CDYOS. It's great to see services working together to achieve positive outcomes for young people."

Gareth Gates, host of the 2017 Shine a Light Awards, said: "The dedication of County Durham Young Offending Service is outstanding. Being able to communicate with confidence is often taken for granted but for many it is an everyday struggle.

"It is heart-warming to know that other children and young people across England are getting the support they need to develop. CDYOS and ClearCut Communication should be extremely proud of their award."

ClearCut Communication uses communication-friendly language, images and color coding to take both parties through the process of considering how the offence has impacted on their lives. This information is then shared, with permission, beginning the process of shuttle mediation to help the young person fully understand the impacts of their actions.

After reflecting on the experience of their actual victim, the young people are asked to consider meeting their victim with the intention of a potential restorative conference. The resource supports participants through the process with visual support cards that suggest 'people' ideas (who might have been affected), 'body state' ideas (were they drunk, tired?) and feeling ideas, (were they angry, ashamed?).

Chris Hall, Director of Clinical Assessment at Pearson, said: "Congratulations to County Durham Youth Offending Service for their SLCN Innovation Award achievement. Its innovative and holistic approach within an area where SCLN support is not only important but in high need, is proving very successful. To achieve the recognition it has from partners and The Office of the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner is amazing.

"This is the fifth year we have run the Awards and we remain blown away by the standard of applications. They give an amazing insight into the unsung work that is taking place across the country to improve the speech, language and communication skills of children and young people."

Octavia Holland, Director of The Communication Trust, said: "Congratulations to County Durham Youth Offending Service and everyone who triumphed at the Shine a Light Awards. They have shown what can be achieved when expertise, enthusiasm and dedication is given to children and young people who struggle to communicate. These Awards highlight the very best practice that is taking place in settings across the country. We would like to say a huge thank you to Pearson for their long-standing support."

ClearCut Communication has been jointly awarded the SLCN Innovation Award. They shared this with Mable Therapy, an evidence-based practice with the principles of digital gamification, to create a flexible and impactful approach to supporting children with speech, language and communication needs.

For further information about the Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter #awards\_SAL

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#### **For further Information**

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Lisa Church and Laura Smith at Consilium

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## Notes to editors

The full list of winners and highly commended finalists is as follows:

	<b>Winner/s</b>	<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Highly Commended</b>
<b>Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award</b>	Caspian Jamie	N/A	N/A
<b>Early Years Setting of the Year Award</b>	Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D. Academy, Newark-on-Trent	Willows Centre for Children, Portsmouth	Bright Beginnings Childcare Centre, Leeds
<b>Primary School of the Year Award</b>	Parkdale Primary School, Nottingham	Broom Barns Community Primary School, Stevenage	Hawthorn Primary School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
<b>Secondary School/ College of the Year Award</b>	Tor Bridge High, Plymouth	Hanley Castle High School, Worcester	William Ellis School, London
<b>SEN School of the Year Award</b>	Ashmount School, Leicester	New Regent's College PRU, Hackney, London	Elm Tree Community Primary School, Lancashire  Moor House School and College, Oxon
<b>Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Award</b>	Ingfield Manor School, Billingham	Pace, Aylesbury	1Voice – Communicating Together, Coventry
<b>SLCN Innovation Award</b>	Mable Therapy, Leeds  Clearcut Communication (part of County Durham Youth Offending Service), Durham	Closing the Gap' - a project within Warwickshire County Council and South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust's 'time to talk' <sup>™</sup> project, working in partnership with Bedworth Heath Nursery School, Warwickshire	
<b>Communication Champion Award</b>	Ann Shellard, Early Language Consultant, Blackpool	Caspian Jamie, Manchester	Jane Young, Nottingham
<b>Young Person of the Year</b>	Gregor Gilmour, Bury	Charlotte Seth, Yorkshire	Connor O'Neil, Nottingham
<b>Communication Commitment School of the Year Award</b>	Easton CE Academy, Bristol	Knowle DGE Learning Centre, Croydon	Woodmansterne Primary School, Bristol

## About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, a coalition of more than 50 organisations dedicated to supporting children and young people's speech, language and communication.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings that 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.
- The judges involved in the 2017 Shine a Light Awards were:

- Octavia Holland, Director at The Communication Trust
- Nicola Holmes, Lead Professional Advisor at The Communication Trust
- Rosie Alouat, Project Support Officer at The Communication Trust
- Emma Hickley, Head of Operations at The Communication Trust
- Christopher Hall, Director of Clinical Assessment at Pearson
- Lesley Munro, Education & Speech and Language Therapy Manager at Pearson
- Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine
- Hilary Berry, Chair of Cheshire West and Chester Primary Heads' Association
- Anna Reeves, Manager of ACE Centre
- Malcolm Reeve, Executive Director for SEND & Inclusion at Academies Enterprise Trust
- Joy Rutter, Local Champion
- Bob Reitemeier, CEO of I CAN
- Janet Cooper, Early Language and Communication Strategy Lead at Stoke-on-Trent City Council and past Shine a Light Award winner
- Helen Fiddler, Interim Strategic Lead and Programme Manager at ESCAL
- Zoë Peden, Co-founder of Insane Logic
- Julie Steele, Speech and Language HLTA and Local Champion
- Norbert Lieckfeldt, Chief Executive of British Stammering Association
- Clare O'Rourke, Specialist Speech, Language and Communication Teacher at Peacehaven Community School and past Shine a Light Award winner
- John Parrott, Chair of Communication Consortium at NAPLIC
- Jonathan Douglas, Director of National Literacy Trust
- Wendy Lee, Speech & Language Solutions
- Shane Dangar, Communication Champion 2013/14
- Jane Comeau, Chair at PACEY
- Jill Duffy, SVP at Pearson UK Schools
- Bev Crisp, Family Outreach Worker at Whitby and the Moors and Communication Champion 2015
- Kamini Gadhok MBE, CEO of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
- Jonathan Middleditch, Young Person of the Year 2015
- Francesca Martinez, international comedian, writer and speaker.

#### **About Pearson**

- Pearson is the world's learning company, with expertise in educational courseware and assessment, and a range of teaching and learning services powered by technology. Our mission is to help people make progress through access to better learning. We believe that learning opens up opportunities, creating fulfilling careers and better lives. For more, visit [www.pearson.com](http://www.pearson.com).
- Pearson 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](http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk) or follow @PsychCorpUK #awards\_SAL.

#### **About The Communication Trust**

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of more than 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- The Trust's mission is to ensure that every child and young person is supported to communicate to the very best of their ability.
- The Trust works towards its mission by working in partnerships to build, skills, knowledge and confidence in the children's workforce, based on a foundation of good practice, robust evidence and effective policy and legislation.
- For more information about the Trust visit [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk) or follow @Comm\_nTrust #awards\_SAL.