



Press Release – For Immediate Release

UTTOXETER SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST HONOURED AT SHINE A LIGHT AWARDS FOR HER COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION

Libby Hill from Uttoxeter has won the **Katie Rough Memorial Award** at an awards ceremony in London for her sheer dedication and determination in improving the communication skills of children and young people in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. This new award recognises the work of those helping children with selective mutism (SM), in memory of Katie Rough, who had SM and sadly died in 2017.

The **2018 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. Run by learning company Pearson in partnership with The Communication Trust, the awards took place on 22nd March 2018 and were hosted by stand-up comedian, actor and TV writer, Adam Hess. 17 individuals and teams across 10 award categories were recognised, as well as children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Libby Hill, an independent speech and language therapist (SLT) with over 30 years' experience, is passionate about helping children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Offering her experience pro bono on a monthly basis, Libby has set up free SM training sessions in her local area of Derbyshire and Staffordshire – an initiative supported by counsellors and psychologists. She has also established training sessions in Manchester in partnership with local community worker Sabrina Branwood, who has SM. Libby regularly dedicates her spare time, free of charge, to support those with speech, language and communication difficulties who cannot afford to pay.

Libby takes a holistic approach to SLT support, and has completed training in animal-assisted therapy, neuro-linguistic programming (NLP), and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to the great benefit of the children using her services. In addition to this she voluntarily runs her local branch of Afasic, which strives to improve speech and language provision for all children and young people.

Libby said: "I was extremely delighted to win the award particularly because it raises the topic of selective mutism. One in 150 children have selective mutism so few have heard about it let alone what to do."

Stand-up comedian and actor, Adam Hess, host of the 2018 Shine a Light Awards, said: “Libby’s dedication is outstanding. As a child, I struggled greatly with dyslexia and an immense fear of public speaking, if it wasn’t for the support I received when I was younger I wouldn’t be in the position I am today.

“It is fantastic to know that people like Libby are supporting children and young people, enabling them to thrive and achieve their goals. Libby should be very proud of her award.”

Sharon Hague, Senior Vice President, Schools, Pearson, said: “Our warmest congratulations to Libby. Through our innovative clinical assessments, Pearson is committed to supporting those working to help people overcome challenges in speech and language. For six years we have run these awards as we believe it is so important to recognise and celebrate the incredible, but often unsung, work being done across the country to change the lives of children and young people by helping them to develop their communications skills.”

Octavia Holland, Director of The Communication Trust, said: “Congratulations to Libby and everyone who triumphed at the 2018 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.”

The **Shine a Light Awards** have grown in popularity since their launch during the National Year of Communication in 2011 (known as the *Hello* campaign). To date, the awards have celebrated the work of over 120 teams and a wide range of individuals, including young people with severe and complex speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

For further information about the Shine a Light winners and highly-commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk and follow us on Twitter #awards_SAL

-Ends-

For further Information

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact Lisa Church and Laura Smith at Consilium Communications by contacting lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / 07467 945661 or lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / 07467 945848.

Notes to editors

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

| Award | Winner | Highly Commended | Commended |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| The Katie Rough Memorial Award | Libby Hill, Utttoxeter | Rachel Peck, Cambridgeshire | |
| Child/Young Person of the Year Award | Jonathan Bryan, Wiltshire | Siena Castellon, London | |
| Communication Champion of the Year Award | Pip St John, Lancashire | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Youth Justice of the Year Award | Manchester Youth Justice, Manchester | | |
| Early Years Setting of the Year Award | Children's House Nursery School, London | Juice Nursery Ltd, Altrincham | |
| Primary School of the Year Award | Pendle Primary Academy, Lancashire | Longmoor Community Primary, Merseyside | Bridgewater Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne |
| Secondary School/College of the Year Award | Isaac Newton Academy, London | London South East Colleges, London | |
| SEN School/Group of the Year Award | Pontville School, Lancashire | The William Henry Smith School, West Yorkshire | |
| SLCN Innovation of the Year Award | Stoke Speaks Out | | |
| Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award | Stoke Speaks Out | | |

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 over 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 and healthcare calendar.
- The judges involved in the 2018 Shine a Light Awards were:
 - Bob Reitemeier, CEO of I CAN
 - Diz Minnitt, Speech and Language Lead, Association of YOT Managers (AYM)
 - Hilary Berry, Chair of Cheshire West and Chester Primary Heads' Association
 - Janet Cooper, Early Language and Communication Strategy Lead at Stoke-on-Trent City Council and past Shine a Light Award winner
 - John Parrott, Chair of Communication Consortium at NAPLIC
 - Jonathan Douglas, Director of National Literacy Trust
 - Julie Steele, Speech and Language HLTA and Local Champion
 - Jonathan Middleditch, Young Person of the Year 2015
 - Kamina Gadhok, MBE, CEO of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
 - Lesley Munroe, Education & Speech and Language Therapy Manager at Pearson
 - Liz Tyler, Director of Learning Services, UK Schools at Pearson
 - Malcolm Reeve, Managing Director of Firmament Education Ltd
 - Octavia Holland, Director at The Communication Trust
 - Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine
 - Shane Dangar, Communication Champion 2013/14
 - Theresa Redmond, Lead Professional Advisor, The Communication Trust
 - Vicky Roe, Deputy Chair of SMIRA
 - Wendy Lee, Director of Lingo Speech and Language Therapy and Consultancy
 - Zoe Peden, Co-founder of Insane Logic

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.
- 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 or follow @PsychCorpUK #awards_SAL

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of over 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 partnership 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 or follow @Comm_nTrust