

SEN

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

www.senmagazine.co.uk

May • June 2018

Issue 94

Can we level the playing field?

Improving participation in sport for all

Positive about autism

*Helping kids with autism to feel
good about themselves*

Top 10 tech trends

*The key technology supporting learners
with SEN in our classrooms*

SLCN • all-ability cycling • numeracy • dyslexia • learning disability • play
SEN prevalence • school leaders • fostering • online learning
education, care and health plans • recruitment • CPD and more...



Shining a light on speech, language and communication

Robert Craig reviews the awards that celebrate best practice in supporting children and young people's communication development

The 2018 Shine a Light Awards took place at a recent ceremony in London. Run by learning company Pearson, in partnership with The Communication Trust, the Awards recognised 17 individuals and teams across ten award categories, as well as children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

The Awards highlight the best practice that is taking place across the country, showcasing the outstanding work that is being done to change the lives of children and young people by developing their communication skills.

Dedicated to helping others

Pip St John from Blackburn was awarded the Communication Champion Award for showing incredible dedication to enhancing the communication skills of children by training school staff and sharing advice and information, whilst overcoming a personal battle with stage 3 breast cancer. Pip has created the Pre-Teaching Vocabulary (PTV) programme which aims to help children needing extra language support. She has made this an entirely free resource and it is accessible online to anyone who needs it.

Libby Hill from Uttoxeter walked away with the Katie Rough Memorial Award, which recognises the work of those helping children with selective mutism (SM), in memory of Katie Rough who had SM and sadly died in 2017. Dedicated to raising awareness of a condition few have heard of, Libby has set up free SM training sessions in Derbyshire and Staffordshire and has established training sessions



Stoke Speaks Out won both the Innovation and the Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Awards highlight the best practice that is taking place across the country

in Manchester. She also regularly dedicates her free time, with no charge, to those with SLCN who cannot afford to pay, and voluntarily runs her local branch of Afasic.

Sheer dedication to providing fantastic speech and language support to children in Stoke resulted in Stoke Speaks Out receiving not only the SLCN Innovation Award but the Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award too. Their innovative Early Communication Screen (ECS), to improve the school readiness of children from two to five, has positively impacted thousands of local children. Commissioned by the local authority, and written by Clinical Lead Speech/Language Therapist Janet

Cooper and her team from Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust (SSOTP), the ECS is designed to be used by early years practitioners to identify early language delay and measure children's progress over time. Almost 7,000 children have been screened so far, with more than 1,800 regional practitioners trained to use the programme to date.

Truly inspirational

The number of excellent applications received showcased the work of individuals and teams who help children and young people. In addition, applications highlighted children and young people with SLCN themselves who have achieved things beyond their wildest dreams.

12-year old Jonathan Bryan who has severe cerebral palsy, is quadriplegic, oxygen-dependent, and also non-verbal

>>

was awarded the Young Person of the Year Award. Showing sheer dedication and determination in developing his own communication skills and also raising awareness of profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), the judges felt he was a well-deserved winner.

Through the support of his family and his use of a low-tech eye gaze system, Jonathan is now in mainstream secondary school, he has personally established the Teach Us Too campaign, which urges professionals to recognise the unlocked potential of their pupils and not teach to labels, created a documentary, "Locked-in Boy", which was recently aired on CBBC, and is currently in the final stages of writing an autobiography.

Siena Castellon was highly commended in the same category. Aged 15, Siena is autistic, dyslexic and dyspraxic. After severe bullying forced her to move secondary school on two occasions, Siena drew on her experiences to become an influential young figure in children's communication development.

At just 13 years of age, spotting the lack of online assistance available for young people, Siena designed and created a website to support

and mentor children with autism and other disabilities. Since then, she has written various articles to address communication issues related to autism.

Every year, the Shine a Light judging panel is blown away by the standard of applications. It becomes harder and harder to pick the winners but it's fantastic to see the hard work and dedication of people across the country getting some well-deserved recognition. **SEN**



Young Person of the Year Jonathan Bryan with his mother.

Shine a Light 2018 Award winners

Pearson Outstanding Achievement Award and SLCN Innovation of the Year Award
Stoke Speaks Out, Stoke

The Katie Rough Memorial Award
Libby Hill, Uttoxeter

Child/Young Person of the Year Award
Jonathan Bryan, Wiltshire

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

Primary School of the Year Award
Pendle Primary Academy, Lancashire

Secondary School/College of the Year Award
Isaac Newton Academy, London

SEN School/Group of the Year Award
Pontville School, Lancashire

SEN School of the Year

Pontville School in Ormskirk, Lancashire was awarded the **SEN School/Group of the Year Award**.

Communication underpins everything at Pontville, from the first 12 weeks of a pupil's journey, when detailed assessments are made, to the pupil's very last day at the school. Bespoke approaches to SLCN include a siblings group, home communication programmes, and parent/pupil target reviews.

Pontville School is part of the Witherslack Group and benefits from sharing clinical services and speech and language therapists (SaLT) from across 15 provisions throughout England. They work collaboratively with the school's PSHE Coordinator to create a school-wide plan for communication which is incorporated across all subject areas. Alongside this, pupils attend weekly SaLT sessions and practice a range of communication skills.

New staff members undertake a six-week training course delivered by clinical services teams, and all staff receive regular top-up training from SaLT, with the SaLTs themselves supported to undertake higher-level professional qualifications.

Further information

Robert Craig is Head of Pearson Clinical, which publishes standardised assessments and interventions for professionals working with children and adults in health, education and psychology settings:

www.pearsonclinical.co.uk

For information about the Awards, visit:

www.shinealightawards.co.uk