



Press Release – For Immediate Release

**SAVE THE DATE
BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!
THE 2019 SHINE A LIGHT AWARDS LAUNCH SOON**

Lost Voice Guy, Lee Ridley, backs excellence in speech, language and communications in 7th annual Shine A Light Awards

Pearson and The Communication Trust have once again joined forces to launch the seventh **Shine a Light Awards**.

Entries for this year open in September with the awards ceremony taking place on **Thursday 21st March 2019**. Britain's Got Talent winner, Lee Ridley, also known as the Lost Voice Guy will be performing at the event alongside a soon-to-be-announced celebrity host.

The awards not only celebrate the hard work and determination of children and young people with SLCN but also seek to recognise the incredible contributions of teams, schools, settings, young people and individuals across England who champion innovative work and excellence in supporting children and young people's communication development.

The award categories available for teams, settings and individuals to enter will include:

- The Katie Rough Memorial Award for innovative or excellent practice when working with children and young people affected by Selective Mutism
- Early Years Setting of the Year Award
- Primary School of the Year Award
- Secondary School or College of the Year Award
- SEN School or Group of the Year Award
- Child / Young Person of the Year Award
- Youth Justice of the Year Award
- SLCN Innovation of the Year Award
- Communication Champion of the Year Award
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication of the Year Award

- Outstanding Achievement Award

The Shine a Light Awards website will be open to receive applications soon. Bookmark the website at www.shinealightawards.co.uk or follow the hashtag #awards_SAL

-Ends-

For further Information

For more information, please contact Lisa Church at Consilium Communications on lchurch@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / 07467 945661

Notes to editors

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 communities calendar.
- Read about previous winners and highly commended finalists at <https://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/Educationnews/shine-a-light.aspx?tab=5>
- For more information, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk or follow the hashtag #awards_SAL

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