2020 Lifetime Achievement Award winners

Professor Tommy MacKay

Professor MacKay is most well-known for his remarkable 10 year West Dunbartonshire Literacy Initiative that eradicated illiteracy in one of the UK’s poorest areas. However, his practice ranges much further than the field of educational and child psychology. He has achieved significant changes in service provision, in public policy and legislation and in individual lives, with an enduring ethical focus on diversity and social justice. Professor Mackay has had a major impact in many areas including: socioeconomic disadvantage, autism and encouraging and developing others, and his long service to the society.

Professor Tommy Mackay, University of Strathclyde, said:

‘I am honoured and humbled to have received the Lifetime Achievement Award and I see it as a welcome stepping stone as I pursue new ventures in my career.’

Dr Adrian Needs

Dr Needs’ career includes 14 years in the Prison Service, some of which involved working with prisoners with a life sentence for violent and sexual convictions in high security prisons. He also worked as a hostage negotiation advisor and pioneered support for workers suffering from post-traumatic and other forms of stress. In 1997 he left the Prison Service and started his academic career and since then has played a major role in the development of academic and professional training routes for forensic psychologists.

During Dr Needs’ involvement in many society committees he has maintained, and sustained, a consistent focus on excellence in all aspects of practice in the field of forensic psychology. Through his
research, writing and practice he has continually highlighted the value of forensic psychology in the UK and internationally.

Dr Adrian Needs, University of Portsmouth said: "To receive Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the British Psychological Society's Practice Board and its Division of Forensic Psychology is a huge honour. My work has been quite an odyssey!"

For further information contact the BPS Communications Team: communications@bps.org.uk