



Families First Bedfordshire awarded **£119,773** by BBC Children in Need

Families First Bedfordshire based in Bedford Borough is delighted to announce that BBC Children in Need has awarded them a grant of £119,773 over three years. This grant will fund their play therapy service for 3-14 year olds and help make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people right here in Bedford.

Families First Bedfordshire, also known as Goldington Family Centre, has been operating as a Charity in Bedford for over 30 years. Our mission is to provide an empowering, community focussed service which enables families to thrive and have positive outcomes for today's and tomorrow's generations.

Our Play Therapy Service has already reached nearly 100 children in Bedfordshire and this grant will enable us to support a further 144 children over the next three years. We will be working with children and young people who have been affected by domestic abuse or who are experiencing challenging childhoods. The project will aim to improve children and young people's resilience, self-esteem and educational attainment by providing a 12 week intervention delivered by a qualified Play Therapist.

Michael Howe, CEO of Families First Bedfordshire said; "We are thrilled to be given the opportunity to continue and develop our play therapy service. Working with children and young people who are experiencing challenging circumstances in their lives is something we feel very passionately about at Families First. We know there is a real need in Bedford for this service and cannot wait to get started in April".

BBC Children in Need funding relies on the energy and commitment of thousands of fundraisers and supporters across the UK who donate their time and money to support the Appeal. Whether it's cake sales, wearing pyjamas to school or having a song and dance, every penny of the money raised goes towards supporting projects across the UK.

All grants go to projects working with children and young people living in the UK who may be affected by homelessness, neglect, abuse or poverty, or those who have faced challenges in their lives such as serious illness, disabilities and psychological disorders.

~ENDS~

Notes to Editors:

The BBC Children in Need Appeal is a charity registered in England and Wales (802052) and Scotland (SC039557) whose aim is to make a positive change to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

BBC Children in Need's vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential.

BBC Children in Need are currently supporting c.2,600 projects that are working with children and young people facing a range of disadvantages or challenges in their lives such as, poverty and deprivation; abuse or neglect or any kind of disability.

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