

# The Connolly Foundation

**IMPACT STATEMENT 2023**



# Welcome to our Impact statement for 2023.

Welcome to our 2023 Impact Statement. In this year's statement we have looked back to the donations we made in the year to 31 May 2021 and reported the changes that our giving has made. In that year we were still in the middle of Covid and much of our activity had a focus on supporting people through the pandemic. The organisations that did come through became stronger and it is encouraging to see this growth.

David Oldham  
Chief Operating Officer







**The Connolly Foundation awards grants in two specific areas:**

- **Education**
- **Support for older people**



**The Foundation works with established local partners to deliver services.**



**This enables the charity to operate efficiently as it has few direct costs.**



In 2020/21 the Foundation gave £750,000 towards equipment for Bedford College's Methods of Modern Construction Centre.

The building is now in full operation with students using the equipment to develop new skills for the modern era.



“The Connolly Centre for Modern Construction has enabled us to showcase the latest skills and techniques which are emerging in the evolving Construction Industry. The particular focus on ‘Off-Site Construction’ at this centre provides learners the ability to practice digital and hands-on skills which will prove invaluable as they embark on their career into the industry which increasingly requires a workforce with a broader range of skills.”

**David Wilkins**  
**Vice Principal**







# The Connolly Foundation: SEND Multi-disciplinary Team Weatherfield Academy & Oak Bank School Joint Project 2022/23

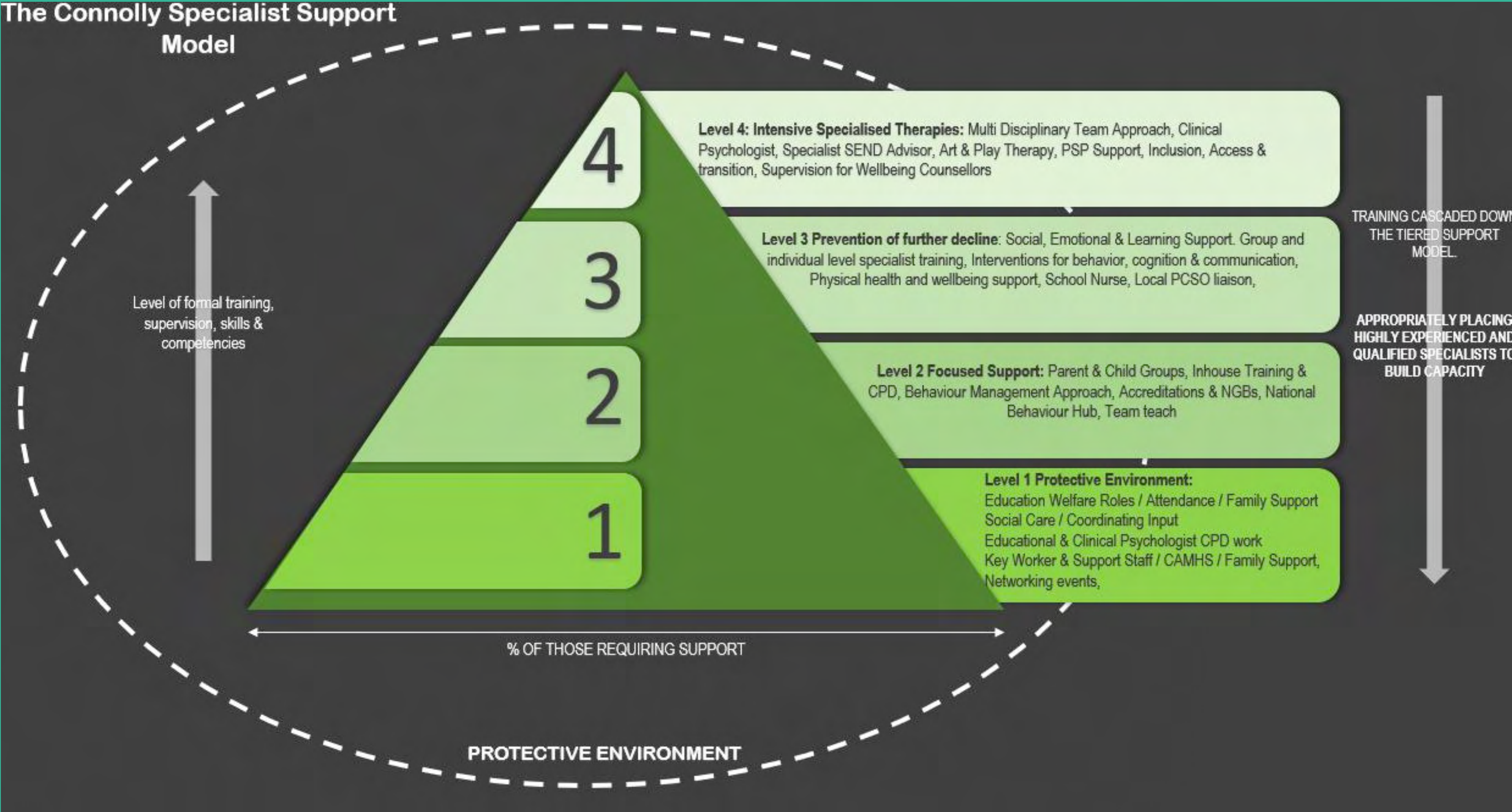


“The Connolly Foundation's generous support has facilitated a unique collaboration between two Single Academy Special Schools, focusing on the development of a Multi-disciplinary approach to Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.”

## The support of the Connolly Foundation has made possible

- **Staff Appointments:** Employment of specialist staff, including clinical psychologists and a specialist SEND advisor.
- **Professional Provision and Skills Enhancement:** Additional professional provision to enhance skills and well-being.
- **Therapy and Support Services:** Identification and addressing of specific therapy needs. Capacity and skills building for staff teams. Support and training provided to other schools in Central Bedfordshire. Outreach support to Central Bedfordshire and Luton schools.
- **Clinical Psychologist Impact:** Direct clinical work four days weekly across both sites for children and families. Indirect clinical work, including staff drop-ins and whole school training. Weekly supervision for the well-being teams.
- **SEND Advisor Impact:** Assessments and reports for pupils. Training delivered for intervention coordinator and SENCO team. Consultation surgeries with NHS Speech and Language Service.

A strategic framework places children, families, school settings, and Local Authorities at the core of the schools approach to SEND. The approach is structured around a comprehensive four-tiered model of support - see below.







# Graduate Tutors

In 2020/21 we started funding recently graduated students considering teaching as a career who are being employed by Redborne School in Ampthill for two terms to work in eight schools in Bedfordshire. They work with teachers to support students on an individual or small group basis particularly focusing on disadvantaged students and catch-up work. In 2022/23 we funded 22 graduates working in eleven different schools. The feedback we have received from schools, pupils and parents has been very positive. Graduates gain a benefit in terms of work experience, with 11 tutors to date changing their career plans and going into teacher training courses.





The student award scheme is available to students attending our eighteen partner secondary schools in the county. This is an award for academic excellence open to students who are going on to university to study a range of academic subjects mainly drawn from the core subjects looked for by the Russell Group of universities. In 2020/1 we awarded £263,070 to students to support their University studies. In 2022/3 we have awarded more than £400,000.

*"The Connolly Foundation Scholarship was such a financial support and made a real difference to me in my first year at university."*

Eight schools in Bedfordshire received donations totalling £72,500 to buy laptops which helped disadvantaged students continue to learn through the pandemic.



The Foundation provided funding to fund three posts for educational psychologist Covid support.





# Oxford Thinking

In partnership with Wadham College, Oxford University, we have set up a programme to help give talented children from disadvantaged backgrounds the confidence to apply for university courses. Six schools are currently signed up to the scheme as hubs, with all secondary schools in Bedfordshire nominating up to five year ten students per school. More than fifty students are currently taking part in the programme. Our funding supports the employment of experienced teachers to mentor the students and arrange attendance at events organised by Wadham College.

The Foundation started the partnership four years ago and the real impact will be known in the next year when the first cohort of students will be starting University, but feedback on the programme from pupils, parents and schools has been very positive.



***Students taking part in an engineering challenge, part of the Oxford Thinking project .***





The Foundation is continuing to support Youthscape, Luton in their work to improve the educational outcomes of young people.

Youthscape supports young people facing big issues that have a negative effect on their lives – affecting their education, their emotional wellbeing and their motivation for making the best of their future. Their work concentrates on where the biggest difference can be made to these outcomes – mental health, social and educational disengagement.



During the year Youthscape worked with 1,950 students of whom 475 were involved in intensive courses. The Connolly Foundation has donated £100,000 towards the running of Youthscape in Luton.

**"The support of the Connolly Foundation makes a huge impact on our work and on the lives of young people in Bedfordshire."**

Youthscape CEO, Chris Curtis



A donation of £225,000 by the Connolly Foundation has helped Keech Hospice Care improve and develop its car parking facilities.

“A free fully accessible car park is one of the benefits we can offer all staff who are based at the Luton Site. This is a great cost saving for our staff and volunteers. We are very grateful to the Connolly Foundation for the funding support they have provided which has enabled us to make the difference when it matters the most.”





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