

Inclusion Hub Proposals for 26/27

This report brings together the Inclusion Hub proposals submitted for the 2026–2027 financial year, representing the collective efforts of education leaders and practitioners across the county. The proposals reflect a significant investment of time, expertise, and commitment from colleagues who have worked diligently to develop, evidence, and articulate their plans for improving inclusion and outcomes for children.

Gratitude is extended to the panel for dedicating time over the weekend to review these documents, and for their willingness to engage with the proposals in school time, listening to presentations and considering each submission in detail. The process has highlighted the privilege of working alongside our inclusion hub leads who are such dedicated professionals, whose collaborative spirit and mutual support are driving improvements in inclusive practice county-wide.

The proposals demonstrate a shared determination to support vulnerable pupils, reduce exclusions, and build capacity within schools. The commitment to early intervention, professional development, and partnership working is evident throughout, and it is clear that the county benefits greatly from the expertise and passion of those involved. The work undertaken by these teams is making a tangible difference to children's lives, and this report aims to capture and celebrate that ongoing impact.

District 1

The Inclusion Hub will use its £198,000 surplus to support inclusive practices across 52 primary schools in District 01. This surplus, accumulated due to changes in funding models and unclaimed allocations, will be reconciled by 31 October and directed towards early intervention, outreach, and staff development to prevent exclusions and ensure accurate financial tracking.

For 2026–2027, the Inclusion Hub is requesting £105,508 (the minimum previous allocation) but proposes a comprehensive programme valued at £207,740, with schools expected to part-fund support where needed. The plan prioritises early intervention and outreach, including £19,500 for Early Years and Year 1 specialist teacher input and training, £80,250 for the continuation of Stepping Stones Outreach services, and £87,490 for Morecambe Road Specialist School to deliver targeted placements and transition support. Additionally, £42,500 will be invested in commissioned educational psychology services to strengthen the graduated response and build staff capacity, while £6,000 is allocated for staff time and administration. These investments are designed to reduce exclusions, improve staff confidence, and promote inclusive practices, with measurable KPIs such as a 25% reduction in permanent exclusions and increased early intervention referrals. The proactive, graduated approach offers a sustainable model for inclusive education and long-term savings to the High Needs Block, ensuring vulnerable pupils receive timely, effective support in mainstream settings.

District 2

District 2 Inclusion Hub will use its £29,717.95 surplus primarily to support Y6/Y7 transition activities, including the Headsup programme, a Spring 2026 transition conference, and individual specialist teacher support for vulnerable pupils. This targeted spend aims to better prepare children for secondary school, reduce suspensions, and prevent escalation to costly alternative provision or specialist placements.

For 2026/27, the Inclusion Hub proposes a £94,000 programme focused on early intervention and targeted support to promote inclusion and reduce exclusions. The plan includes the Stepping Stones Universal Offer, providing advice, behaviour network meetings, and 10 Bronze support packages to upskill staff and address needs early. The annual Inclusion Hub Conference will foster collaboration and share best practice across schools, while a comprehensive training offer will deliver trauma-informed, de-escalation, and ASD strategies at district, cluster, and school levels. Targeted support features 12 Silver Packages from Stepping Stones, specialist teacher input, and short-term TA support for mid-year arrivals with SEMH needs. These interventions are designed to reduce suspensions and permanent exclusions, delay or avoid EHCPs and specialist placements, and deliver significant savings to the High Needs Block, while improving staff confidence, pupil outcomes, and the overall culture of inclusion in mainstream settings.

District 4

District 4 Inclusion Hub will use its £22,350 general surplus to train four additional Thrive Practitioners and continue the successful Happy Talk speech and language therapy programme, alongside maintaining a small emergency fund for urgent school needs. The Y6/7 transition surplus (£8,346) will fund the Forest Schools transition project, supporting vulnerable pupils as they move to high school and helping prevent exclusions.

For 2026/27, District 4 is requesting £62,895 from the High Needs Block to deliver a graduated, cost-effective programme of early intervention and targeted support across 24 schools. The plan includes universal access to inclusion mentors, network meetings, an annual conference and training workshop, and in-year admission support for high-need pupils. Schools can also access funding for Educational Psychologist reports, Pear Tree outreach, Thrive Practitioner support, and a range of Stepping Stones packages (core, enhanced, sensory, consultancy, and short-term placements). Match funding is required for higher-cost interventions, ensuring schools exhaust early support options first. These measures are designed to reduce exclusions and suspensions, build sustainable capacity for inclusion, and deliver significant savings to the local authority by preventing costly placements in alternative or independent provision. The proposal is underpinned by strong district relationships, evidence of impact, and a commitment to maintaining low exclusion rates and supporting vulnerable pupils in mainstream settings.

District 6

District 6 Inclusion Hub will use its £40,919.61 surplus to fund targeted interventions including Team Teach and Thrive training for staff, the Bridge Project for Year 6 transition, and BEHAVE training and crisis support for EYFS children from LCC. These investments directly address social, emotional, and behavioural needs identified through local data, aiming to reduce suspensions and permanent exclusions by equipping schools with sustainable skills and accredited strategies.

For 2026/27, District 6 is bidding for £176,356 to deliver a comprehensive programme of early intervention, behaviour support, and crisis management across Preston's schools. The plan includes the REACH Behaviour package (£75,810), providing specialist outreach, weekly drop-in

sessions, staff training, and crisis support to manage challenging behaviours before they escalate. Additional funding will support GHIST/PRU referral placements (£51,978), crisis support for urgent cases (£40,000), the McMullen Project for family-focused therapeutic support (£2,568), and the Bridge Project for Year 6 transition (£6,108). The proposal also covers further Thrive and Team Teach training, a district-wide Inclusion Hub Conference (£6,000), and ongoing staff wellbeing and collaborative support. These interventions are designed to reduce suspensions and exclusions, improve pupil outcomes, and deliver significant cost savings to the local authority by preventing costly placements in alternative or specialist provision. The approach is evidence-led, with measurable reductions in permanent exclusions already achieved, and is underpinned by strong professional networks and a commitment to inclusive practice.

District 7

District 7 Inclusion Hub will use its £18,059.42 surplus to support Year 6 transition projects, additional training for staff, supply cover claims, outreach support, and Early Years transition sessions. These funds will be directed towards preparing vulnerable pupils for secondary school, expanding staff training, and providing targeted support to reduce suspensions and exclusions.

For 2026/27, District 7 is proposing an £86,570 programme to develop inclusive practices across South Ribble's primary schools. The plan includes half-termly behaviour consultation and TA support cluster meetings, bespoke behaviour support from Reach and GHIST consultants, and a comprehensive training and CPD offer for teaching assistants and early career teachers. The annual Inclusion Hub conference will facilitate peer-to-peer support and share best practice, while a robust secondary transition model will provide targeted interventions for Year 6 pupils at risk of exclusion. These interventions are designed to reduce fixed-term suspensions and permanent exclusions, build staff resilience, and ensure pupils maintain their places in mainstream education. The approach is evidence-based, with high engagement from schools and measurable impact on pupil outcomes, delivering significant savings to the High Needs Block by preventing costly placements in alternative or specialist provision.

District 8

District 8 Inclusion Hub will use its £56,402.41 surplus to fund staff wages and deliver a programme of Tier 1 and Tier 2 inclusion support visits, SEND clinics, and staff training—including a district-wide conference. These interventions are designed to provide early identification, targeted advice, and practical strategies to help schools address barriers to learning and behaviour, reducing the need for more intensive interventions and supporting pupils at risk of exclusion.

For 2026/27, District 8 proposes a £90,550 programme aiming to support schools in a timely and bespoke way so that pupils at risk of exclusion can remain and thrive in mainstream education. The plan includes Tier 1 support visits (up to 180 pupils per year), SEND clinics, and a comprehensive training offer for staff, all fully funded for hub schools. Tier 2 and Tier 3 packages provide follow-up and intensive support, with costs partially subsidised by the hub.

The Elm Tree Holistic Outreach Service delivers observations, reports, and modelling of inclusive practice, while the annual conference and ongoing training build staff confidence and capacity. The proposal is designed to reduce permanent and fixed-term exclusions, improve attendance, and increase engagement with the hub (targeting a 20% rise in participating schools). By keeping pupils in mainstream settings and upskilling staff, the hub delivers significant savings to the High Needs Block—potentially saving £3.6 million annually if escalation to alternative provision is avoided.

District 9

District 9 Inclusion Hub (Chorley) will use its £46,400 surplus to fund a staff training conference, additional staffing for casework, IT equipment for reporting, venue hire for ECT training, and ELKLAN speech and language training. This spend is aimed at building staff capacity, supporting up to 52 vulnerable cases, and delivering targeted interventions to prevent exclusions and improve inclusive practice.

For 2026/27, District 9 proposes a £119,420 programme to expand the Chorley Inclusion Support Service (CISS), which is grounded in psychological theory and evidence-based practice. The plan includes intensive casework (£91,110 for staffing and £4,250 for resources), in-school training, solution circles, parent workshops, and psychological supervision for Assistant Educational Psychologists. The annual conference will train up to 100 staff on factors leading to exclusion, while the Year 6–7 Transition Project (£8,260) will support 20 vulnerable pupils through their move to secondary school, aiming to prevent costly exclusions. CISS offers accredited training (ELKLAN, ELSA), collaborative problem-solving, and tailored interventions, with a proven track record of reducing permanent exclusions from seven in 2018/19 to just one in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. The approach is highly individualised, focusing on both child and environmental risk factors, and is supported by ongoing research, feedback, and rigorous assessment. The proposal is designed to build sustainable capacity within schools, reduce reliance on alternative provision, and deliver significant savings to the High Needs Block by keeping vulnerable pupils in mainstream education.

District 11

District 11 Inclusion Hub will use its £195,106 surplus to fund targeted professional development, staff training, resilience-building conferences, autism and SEND training, and direct pupil intervention support. These funds are earmarked for schools based on referral documentation and will cover outreach support packages, ensuring continuity of inclusive practice and early intervention up to April 2026.

For 2026/27, District 11 is proposing a £204,593 programme, aiming to improve inclusion and reduce exclusions across the district. The plan includes a universal offer of Aspire CPD and training, resilience-focused conferences, and behaviour culture development, alongside early intervention support such as autism training, SENCO briefings, and specialist teacher input. The largest investment is in pupil intervention support, with £180,000 allocated for referrals and outreach (including GHIST and Aspire support), plus £30,000 per half term for crisis support. These interventions are designed to equip staff with evidence-based strategies, foster collaboration, and provide bespoke support for children at risk of exclusion. The approach is

data-driven, with measurable KPIs including reductions in fixed-term and permanent exclusions, increased staff capacity, and high engagement from schools (currently 79%, with more joining). By preventing exclusions and supporting vulnerable pupils to remain in mainstream settings, the hub delivers significant savings to the High Needs Block and builds a resilient, inclusive school community.

District 12

District 12 Inclusion Hub will use its current funding (no anticipated underspend from the £180,000 granted in January 2025) to deliver individual pupil support, specialist teacher assessments, HLTA-led interventions, EYFS transition packages, ELKLAN staff training, and a district-wide conference. These interventions have already helped 48 pupils at risk of exclusion remain in school, prevented escalation to costly alternative provision, and upskilled staff to embed inclusive practice.

For 2026/27, District 12 proposes a holistic, evidence-based programme with a total cost of £103,320 plus £6,900 for administration, delivered in partnership with Acorn. The offer includes initial meetings with headteachers and SENCos to identify school-specific needs and create tailored action plans, specialist teacher and HLTA support sessions, termly reviews, SENCo cluster meetings, and access to an online training hub and resources. The model emphasises early engagement, coaching, and systemic change, with immediate support available for children in crisis. The hub will provide 114 specialist teacher sessions, 380 HLTA sessions, and a range of training and mentoring opportunities, aiming to reduce suspensions and permanent exclusions, improve staff confidence, and ensure every child in Burnley is included and supported to thrive. The annual conference and ongoing evaluation will share best practice and measure impact, with the goal of saving the High Needs Block significant costs by keeping vulnerable pupils in mainstream education and preventing escalation to alternative provision.

District 13

District 13 Inclusion Hub will use its £156,500 surplus to fund transition support for nursery children entering school, tailored training for all 24 schools, a pilot internal specialist group provision, IT equipment, and short-term targeted TA support. These interventions are designed to promote inclusion, build staff confidence, and provide direct, timely assistance for pupils at risk of exclusion, with significant savings to the High Needs Block by keeping children in mainstream settings.

For 2026/27, District 13 proposes a £142,379 programme focused on keeping every child included, engaged, and thriving. The plan offers multi-professional, intensive support through training packages (including de-escalation, positive handling, ADHD/ASC support, emotion coaching, and more), direct hub staff intervention, educational psychologist consultations, specialist teacher advice, and speech and language therapy. The approach is proactive and preventative, aiming to reduce suspensions, exclusions, and costly alternative placements by providing structured interventions, mentoring, and therapeutic programmes. With no PRU provision in District 13, the hub's work is vital for supporting vulnerable pupils locally. The fund funds four members of specialist staff to support schools. Key performance indicators include

increased school engagement, reduced exclusions, positive user outcomes, and fewer EHCP requests and special school placements. The hub's evidence-based, collaborative model delivers substantial savings and improved outcomes for children, families, and schools in Pendle.

District 14

District 14 Inclusion Hub will use its £61,253 funding to provide individual pupil support through specialist teacher assessments and HLTA-led interventions, whole class and whole school staff training, and progress reviews. These interventions have helped 27 pupils at risk of permanent exclusion remain in mainstream education, reduced the need for EHCPs and specialist placements, and increased staff confidence and skills across the district.

For 2026/27, District 14 proposes a holistic programme costing £98,760, delivered in partnership with Acorn. The offer includes initial meetings with headteachers and SENCos to identify school-specific needs and create tailored action plans, specialist teacher and HLTA support sessions, termly reviews, SENCo cluster meetings, and access to an online training hub and resources. The model emphasises early engagement, coaching, and systemic change, with immediate support available for children in crisis. The hub will provide 102 specialist teacher sessions, 380 HLTA sessions, and a range of training and mentoring opportunities, aiming to reduce suspensions and permanent exclusions, improve staff confidence, and ensure every child in Rossendale is included and supported to thrive. The annual conference and ongoing evaluation will share best practice and measure impact, with the goal of saving the High Needs Block significant costs by keeping vulnerable pupils in mainstream education and preventing escalation to alternative provision.

Panel Considerations for Hub Leads

As part of our ongoing commitment to best practice and value for money, we recommend that Inclusion Hub leads ensure procurement processes are robust by obtaining three quotes for any commissioned work, where this is not already in place. This will help demonstrate transparency and secure the best possible outcomes for the funding available. We also encourage hubs to consider asking schools to part-fund elements of the support provided, as this can foster greater buy-in and ownership of interventions. Hub leads should make full use of free training opportunities offered by Lancashire County Council, such as virtual school training, to maximise resources and avoid unnecessary expenditure. Where hubs have similar offers, pooling resources or collaborating on procurement may enable access to better deals and lower costs. Finally, if schools are not engaging with the hub, we advise leads to contact LCC for support in encouraging participation, as evidence shows that engagement with the Inclusion Hub leads to improved outcomes for children. We would also recommend that all inclusion hubs reach out to their special schools and PRUs in their districts if not already involved to see how they might be able to support the hub with their ambitions.

For next year, hubs should be given longer to prepare for these proposals and panel longer to consider the proposals. We would also recommend hubs offer some form of rapid response to schools in crisis if not already part of their offer and to consider how the hubs can support managed moves, FAP and off site directions to reduce exclusions in the primary sector.

Panel Funding Options and Recommendations

The panel has considered four options for funding the Inclusion Hub proposals for 2026/27, with the total requested amount across all districts being £1,390,643.

- Option A: Fund only some proposals or districts. The panel does not recommend this approach, given the proven impact of the Inclusion Hubs in previous years and the tailored, district-specific strategies that address local needs.
- Option B: Fund all Inclusion Hubs at the same level as last year, regardless of the proposals submitted.
- Option C: Fund all Inclusion Hubs as before, but with a 5% uplift to account for increased staff costs and the inclusion of the academies. This would be the recommendation of the panel.
- Option D: Fund all Inclusion Hub proposals in full, as requested for 2026/27, totalling £1,390,643.

The panel recognises the importance of sustaining and developing the Inclusion Hub model, and recommends careful consideration of these options in light of the evidence of impact, local priorities, and the need to ensure best value for the High Needs Block.

The panel would also recommend that the calculation for each hub is re calculated based on the current pupil numbers/levels of deprivation to ensure fairness.

Appendix A: Panel Recommendation on Administrative Funding

The panel recognises the significant administrative burden involved in running the Inclusion Hubs and recommends that any surplus remaining at the end of April 2026 be ringfenced to create a dedicated administrative fund for districts. It is proposed that districts with larger surpluses (over £100,000) contribute £20,000 each to this fund, while others contribute their remaining surplus. This approach is expected to generate a pot of approximately £80,000, which should be sufficient to provide two years' worth of administrative support for all the hubs. Districts would be able to claim reasonable admin costs from this fund, helping to ensure the sustainability and effective management of the Inclusion Hub model going forward.