

Item 7 Banding Document

Contact for further information:
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Brief Summary

This report provides information on the revised banding document.

Recommendation

The Working Group is asked to:

- a) Note the information
- b) Express any views

SEND Banding Survey

What is this document about?

Lancashire County Council wants to change how money is given to help children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We want to make the system fairer and easier to understand. We are asking for your views before we make these changes.

Background

In 2012, the Government started to change how schools get money, to make it fairer and easier to understand. These changes meant children and young people with SEND could get more help, and support could last until age 25.

Schools now use Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to decide what support is needed. The current way of giving money is based on an old system that history is sometimes confusing.

Lancashire County Council wants to update the system, so it is clear, fair, and matches what each child needs.



What is SEND banding?

SEND banding is a way of deciding how much money is given to support children and young people with SEND. The money helps schools and other places give the right support.

Why are changes needed?

More children and young people need help. Their needs are different and sometimes more complex. The current way of giving money is confusing and not always fair. We want a system that is clear, fair, and helps every child get the support they need.

What might change?

If agreed, there will be a new way to decide how much money each child or young person gets.

The new system may start in April 2026. Money will be given based on what each child needs, not just where they go to school.

The new system will use clear bands to show how much support is needed.

Existing banding system

Right now, money to support children and young people with SEND is given using “bands”.

Each band (currently called E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7L, E7U, and E8) means a different amount of support and funding.

The way bands are used can be confusing. Sometimes, children get “part bands”, which makes it hard to know how much support they should get.

The current bands are based more on a historic approach and the type of school, not necessarily what each child or young person needs. This means the system is not always fair or easy to understand.

Proposed new approach

Lancashire County Council wants to make the system clearer and fairer.

The new system could use bands called LB1 to LB8.

If agreed, money will be given based on what each child needs, not just where they go to school.

The new bands are designed to match the support each child needs and make it easier for everyone to understand.



If a child's needs change, their band can change too, after a review.

The new system could start in April 2026 and may help schools plan better and make sure every child gets the right support.

How does this affect you?

If you have a child or young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), their support may change but only if there has been an annual review.

If agreed, new EHCPs issued after April 2026 may use the new banding system. Then existing EHCPs would be checked and may change at their next annual review.

Under the new system, you will still be able to speak with your EHC officer and request a review if you have concerns about your support or funding.

What do you need to do?

Your views will help us make the system better. Please tell us what you think by filling in our survey before the end of February 2026.

[LCC SEND Banding System Survey 2026 – Collaboration](#)

Who can give their views?

- Parents and carers.
- CEOs, headteachers, teachers, SENCOs, and governors.
- Further education providers and early years settings.
- Education, health, and social care partners.

What happens next?

We will use your feedback to finalise our plans. The final version of the new system will be shared in March 2026. If agreed, the new system will start in April 2026.

The final version of the new banding document is attached as Appendix A.

