



Therapeutic Hubs

PROSPECTUS FOR CHURCHES



The changing mental & emotional health needs of children

At TLG, we've spent over 25 years walking alongside churches to support children who are struggling. Our experience tells us that while the core needs of belonging, safety, and hope remain constant, the nature and intensity of the struggles children face have evolved dramatically.

Children today are navigating a complex web of pressures, including family breakdown, social isolation, and mental health challenges. Digital life adds another layer of complexity. While social media can offer connection, excessive use is linked to changes in brain development, particularly in areas related to emotional regulation and learning.

One in five children and young people – around 2.8 million – are experiencing a probable mental health condition.

– NHS DIGITAL

Last year, over 900,000 children and young people were referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

– CAMHS

The average wait for an initial assessment is now 392 days, with some children waiting over two years.

– YOUNG MINDS & RETHINK

TLG's 2025 research with church leaders confirms that these issues are increasingly prevalent amongst the children, young people and families in our churches and local communities.

- 97% said this is an area of increased concern within the life of the church.
- 90% said that in their church there is a need for more support for children, young people and parents. experiencing emotional and mental health difficulties
- 77% felt that amongst families in their local community, there was not sufficient awareness of where or how to access support around these difficulties.



INTRODUCING

Therapeutic Hubs

Over the past two years at TLG, we've been actively exploring how to partner more effectively with churches to appropriately meet this new level of need, and to do that well in the context of the local church community. We've been trialling some new approaches utilising both clinical therapeutic support, and accredited therapeutic coaching. We've developed a model for 'Therapeutic Hubs' which we believe represents a sustainable, effective solution, which can be provided appropriately in the context of the mission of local churches.

Key features of TLG Therapeutic Hubs:

- A physical space within a church, designed with children, young people and families in mind, to be therapeutic and trauma informed.
- A joint venture between TLG and a local church, working in partnership to appoint a Head of Service and work together in a strategic partnership overseeing the development of a Therapeutic Hub.
- Provide clinical and non-clinical therapeutic support to children, young people up to the age of 25, and parents / carers.
- Be led by an employed Head of Service (0.5 FTE) who will be an experienced clinician to oversee a combination of therapeutic trainees and volunteers, comprised of qualified counsellors volunteering their time, trainee counsellors needing to complete their clinical hours, and therapeutic coaches training with TLG's coaching Academy.
- The Head of Service will provide a small amount of direct delivery which we expect to be targeted to the most complex referrals, and where appropriate, lead small group support with families.
- To both respect clinical boundaries and enable an effective connection point with the wider support and life of the local church, TLG will train, equip and support a 'Family Champion' volunteer from the church community, who will be introduced during the referral process and be available to support families separately to the therapeutic relationship.
- To guarantee the highest quality of service delivery, the Head of Service will be employed, managed, and clinically supervised by TLG.



- Other than requiring the church to help maintain the bursary fund and make available the appropriate physical space, TLG will underwrite the financial aspects of the hub.
- Our aim is that the Therapeutic Hub will be a fully integrated ministry of the partner church. A partnership group that brings together key stakeholders within the church team will meet termly with TLG leaders and the Head of Service to review impact and finances, work together to shape the referral pattern, provide strategic advice and prayer support.
- The model of a Head of Service (0.5 FTE) overseeing a team of qualified volunteers and trainees is the starting point for a Hub. We would look to grow capacity and invest in building the employed staff team as referrals and local demand allows.

The financial model:

The income for the therapeutic hub will come from a range of different sources. The model has been designed with direct referrals from the church and local community in mind. We want to open up access to the highest quality therapeutic support, irrespective of ability to pay. This will directly address the injustice of money preventing healing and wholeness, ultimately helping to break the generational cycle of poverty.

Whilst not depending upon statutory services engaging with the hub, our research suggests this will be attractive to local statutory services who have funding but a shortage of capacity. The principles of the income model are;

- Those who can afford to pay for support, will pay on a sessional basis. The capacity available for full price self-payment will be limited to 50% of the service delivery.
- Those who cannot afford to pay, will be able to access reduced charges. This will be a 50% reduction, 85% reduction, and if necessary, 100% reduction.
- In whichever ways are appropriate to the local context, there will be an invitation to the local church and wider local community, to give towards a bursary fund which will enable the reductions in the price per session. The allocation of the bursary will be managed by the Head of Service, based on self-declaration of a household income band. A termly report on the utilisation of the bursary, will be incorporated within the management information provided by TLG to the church.
- The bursary fund needed is expected to be a maximum of £850 per month, or a total of £10,000 per year. Depending upon the exact make up of referrals year to year, there could easily be unused bursary funding to carry forward to future years.



- Different approaches to the raising of bursary funds will be appropriate for churches depending upon their size and format. We propose a launch Sunday with individuals in the church given the opportunity to make donations to enable those who can't afford support, to access the therapeutic hub service. TLG are able to administer giving from individuals to the bursary fund, either in a one-off format or on a monthly basis, reporting to the church each term the level of bursary income and the way that has been allocated.
- In addition to self-payment and bursary funding, a local hub could accept referrals from local commissioners, including local authorities, the NHS, or local schools. The benefit of this would be to enable access to support for those with significant need, whilst not depleting the bursary fund.

Towards a network of Therapeutic Hubs

This is a new initiative that builds on more than 25 years of experience of working with churches to support children, young people and families, TLG are a pioneering organisation and are looking for churches who are stirred by the need and willing to pioneer with us. Together we will build and refine this approach, enable great support in your location, and lay the foundations of a national network of church based Therapeutic Hubs.

TLG's budget is always a faith stretch that depends on God's provision. To enable this new initiative in 2026 we are raising funds now to enable us to;

- fund the recruitment of Heads of Service in multiple locations.
- add to TLG national clinical leadership.
- add a dedicated Sales & Marketing lead to support referrals.
- add line management to oversee Heads of Service and support our partnerships with churches.
- allocate TLG central team capacity to support; recruitment, staff development, finance processing.
- begin the development of the technology platform that will ultimately enable referrals, financial transactions and secure data collection.



Next steps

In 2026, TLG is able to invest in the pioneering of a maximum of three Therapeutic Hubs, each in partnership with a local church. Whilst these are intended as long-term partnerships, the initial commitment required from a church to partner with TLG is for two years.

The next step is an expression of interest to TLG to enable conversations about the detail of developing a Therapeutic Hub together.

To find out more about this opportunity, please get in touch with us at Therapeuticservices@tlg.org.uk.



FAQs

Do we need to have a suitable Therapist or Counsellor in our church in order to move forward?

No.

We would want to work with you as a church to prayerfully seek out the person God is calling to the Head of Service role. Through an open recruitment process where we would jointly interview and agree on the most suitable person, applications would be welcomed by those connected to the church and considered alongside others.

TLG has expertise in 'recruitment search' and in our planning for this new initiative have become increasingly confident we can find the appropriate qualified Heads of Service.

Will the Hub Service Manager and any trainee / volunteer coaches / counsellors be required to attend the partner church?

No.

Therapists / counsellors will have different views on whether managing / delivering a clinical service in the context of their own church is appropriate or not. TLG will establish very clear boundaries for anyone delivering clinical or non-clinical support in the context of the hub. To enable appropriate separation for those who are part of the church community, agreed boundaries will define the nature of interaction with children, young people and families in the context of church life.

The Hub is designed to be a ministry of the local church, serving children, young people and families in both the church and local community. Staff, volunteers, and trainees will be recruited using TLG's safer recruitment practices and will share our Christian faith and values. Whilst being part of a church is desirable, there won't be a requirement to attend a specific church. We recognise the potential benefits of some separation between the service provided in the hub and a team members' personal Christian faith community.

The Family Champion volunteer role will be someone who is part of the partner church community and happy to help bridge that connection from children, young people and families to the wider support of the church.



Can this be a Churches Together initiative?

Yes.

Given the scale and growth of the need, the potential for referrals from a range of church / community contacts would be welcome. Whilst there would need to be a lead church, there would be some advantages of a team of staff, trainees and volunteers drawn from a cluster of churches in the management of appropriate separation. This is something that could be agreed with other churches at the outset but could also emerge as the hub develops.

The Hub is focused on children, young people up to the age of 25, and parents / carers. What about those in our church and local community who are outside of those categories?

We want to work with you to focus on the needs of children and young people first, supporting parents and carers in order to help both them and their children. We are open to exploring beyond the first two years how the Hub could develop in your context, including the potential to develop support for the broader adult population, whilst keeping our primary focus on the needs of children and young people.

What are the hours of operation of the hub?

This will be developed to reflect local need and the type of referrals. It's likely that there will be a combination of daytime and early evening availability required.

Will the Therapeutic Hub require exclusive use of the therapeutic space?

Space needs to be private, appropriate and available exclusively for the therapeutic service when it is being delivered. It will be better if there is a permanent space that can be equipped with the appropriate resources, layout and design for therapeutic support.

We envisage that a Therapeutic Hub will likely require two separate rooms for sessions to take place in order to meet the demand..

We'd be really happy to explore all options and find practical solutions that make the most of space available and don't create unnecessary impacts on space for other ministries.