

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LEARNING AND  
LEISURE CABINET MEMBER**

**CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY AUDIT**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Childcare Sufficiency Audit Report and inform the Cabinet Member in respect of the council's statutory duty for the provision of sufficient childcare.
- 1.2 To seek approval to put the Childcare Sufficiency Audit report on the council's website in line with the sufficiency duty.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Audit provides the local position on how North Lincolnshire Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare under the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006. Provisions in relation to sufficiency of childcare are as follows:
  - 2.2 Section 6 requires local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practical, for working parents or parents in education or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 years (or to 18 years for disabled children).
  - 2.3 Section 7 places a duty on local authorities to secure the availability, in each 12 month period, of at least 570 hours of free early education provision over at least 38 weeks for each eligible child aged two, three or four years from the date at which entitlement starts until the child reaches compulsory school age.
  - 2.4 The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance from September 2014 sets out that local authorities should report annually to elected members on how the duty to secure sufficient childcare is being met locally. The report should be made available and accessible to parents.
  - 2.4 Local authorities determine their own local formula that meets the requirements of statutory guidance in consultation with Schools Forum. Early years providers receive funding based only on actual take-up of places.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To consider the Childcare Sufficiency Audit Report (Appendix 1) and approve publication of the report.
- 3.2 Not to approve publication of the report.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Publishing the report on the council's website will demonstrate how the duty to secure sufficient childcare is being met locally and make this information accessible to parents.
- 4.2 The report provides an assessment of supply and demand within the local childcare market to demonstrate how the council is fulfilling its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare.
- 4.3 North Lincolnshire is compliant with the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006.

Key findings of the report are:

- There are sufficient childcare places overall for 0 – 5 year olds in North Lincolnshire.
- Before and after school and holiday care is sufficient overall.
- More two-year-olds in North Lincolnshire (84 per cent) access a two-year-old funded place than nationally (71 per cent), spring 2017.
- The take-up of three and four-year olds (98 per cent) is also above the national average of 95 per cent, spring 2017.
- In North Lincolnshire 100 per cent of Non-Domestic childcare providers (nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) and 98.5 per cent of childminders have achieved a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome (99% combined), nationally it is 94%, august 2017.
- There is good take-up of early education funding by children with a special education need or disability. In the summer term 2017, 23 children were recorded as having an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further 151 children were identified as receiving SEN support.
- All providers have committed to delivering 30 hours funded childcare for three and four-year-olds of working parents, from September 2017; either themselves or in partnership, ensuring sufficient places to meet projected demand.
- Funding secured during the year from the Education Skills and Funding Agency, North Lincolnshire Council and providers is improving the number of places and quality of childcare provision in the area: three providers will move to new premises in the autumn term and a new school nursery will open in January 2018.

4.4 Not publishing the report could mean the requirements of The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance (March 2017) are not fulfilled.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no resource implications to consider.

6. **OUTCOME OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 The views of parents/carers and children have been sought and included in the sufficiency audit report.

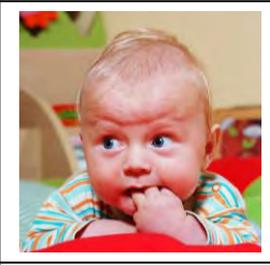
8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member considers the Childcare Sufficiency Audit report and approves its publication on the council Website.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING SKILLS AND CULTURE

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** Childcare Sufficiency Audit and Executive Summary Reports



## North Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Audit



September 2017



### Evidence Base and Narrative

A duty to secure sufficient childcare for funded two, three and four-year-olds, as well as to enable parents to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

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# 1. Sufficiency Duty Requirements

## 1.1 Childcare

Early education and childcare play a crucial role in developing our children and young people. Getting things right for children in the early years through high quality provision helps to raise children's educational achievement. It also improves their life chances, particularly for those who are living in poverty or who face other types of disadvantage.

Without sufficient, flexible, high quality childcare parents are unable to take-up or remain in work, which impacts upon the quality of the workforce and the local economy. Research demonstrates that helping families to achieve/maintain employment is the best way to tackle child poverty, as well as helping the local economy to grow.

## 1.2 Sufficiency duty defined

Section six of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for children up to 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 years in the case of children with a disability. The duty is to enable parents to work or train for work. In addition, local authorities must ensure sufficient childcare places for families to be able to access their free early education entitlement for two, three and four-year-olds. The Childcare Act in 2016 introduced a duty to secure the equivalent of 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for children who are three or four years of age and their parents meet an in work criteria.

Reports assessing the sufficiency of childcare are prepared annually and are available at [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk), or by request to [eef@northlinc.gov.uk](mailto:eef@northlinc.gov.uk).

The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities March 2017 is the current guidance for Local Authorities. The document sets out what local authorities should assess relating to the local childcare market, including:

- the demand for specific types of providers<sup>1</sup> in a particular locality<sup>2</sup> and the amount and type of supply that currently exists
- the potential demand for childcare by age ranges of children and localities
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers, and

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report, childcare is defined as education or supervised activity in Ofsted registered childcare offered by a childminder, pre-school, nursery, maintained school nursery, out of school club, breakfast club, holiday club and after school activities.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this report, North Lincolnshire is split into five localities. The localities and wards are as follows: Scunthorpe North (Crosby and Park, Frodingham and Town), Scunthorpe South (Ashby, Bottesford, Brumby, Kingsway and Lincoln Gardens), Brigg and Wolds District (Brigg, Broughton & Appleby and Ridge), Barton and District (Barton, Ferry and Burton upon Stather & Winterton) and the Isle of Axholme (North, Central and South Axholme).

- the labour market

Where a gap in provision is identified the council must take reasonable actions to remove or reduce any barriers to families accessing childcare. This includes encouraging existing providers to expand their provision and encouraging new providers to enter the childcare market.

### **1.3 Definition of childcare**

For the purposes of this report childcare is defined as in section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006. This states that childcare is 'any form of care for a child' including 'education ... and any other supervised activity'.

The following are specifically excluded from this definition:

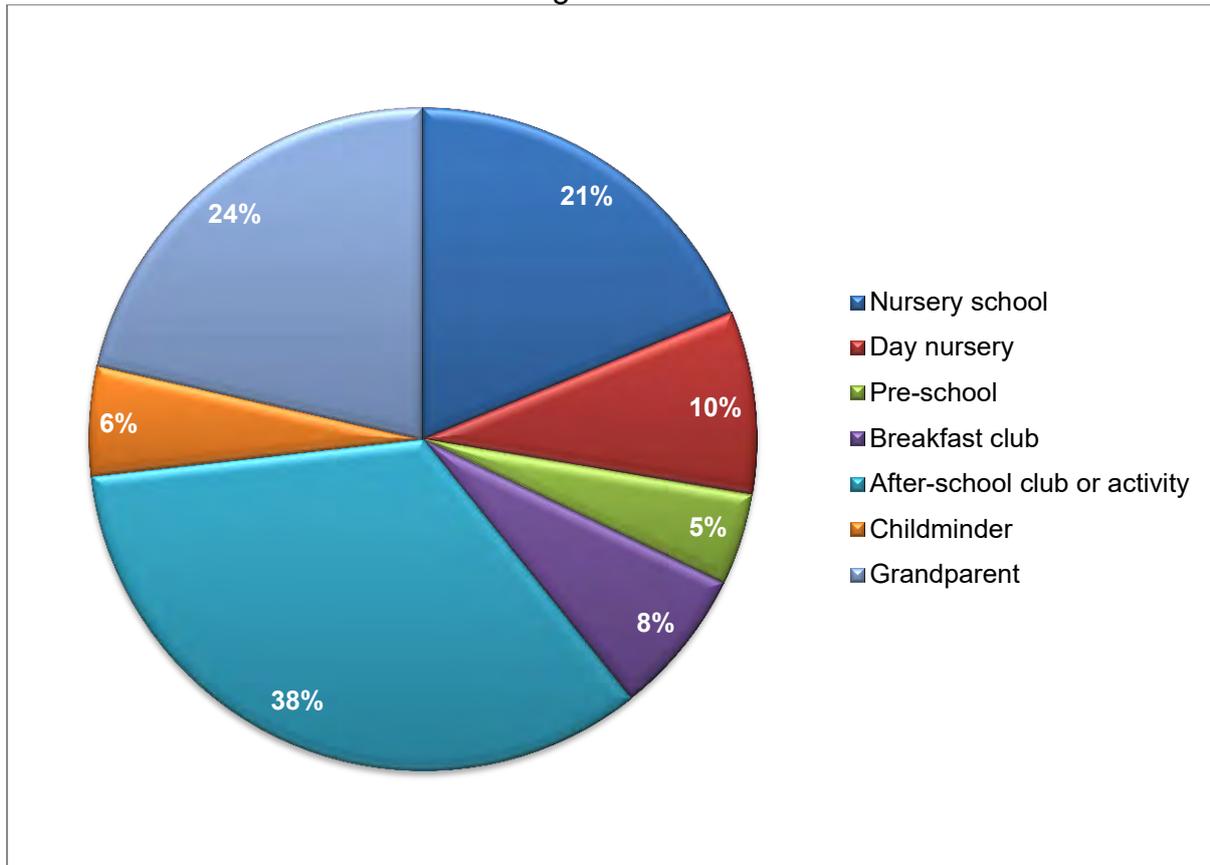
- education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started Key Stage 1 (thereby including nursery and reception classes);
- care provided for a child by a parent, step-parent or person with parental responsibility; or any relative; or foster parent (council or private); or
- care provided by a children's home, a care home, a hospital or a residential family centre, a young offenders' institution, a secure training centre, or a secure care home within any of those establishments.

In the Childcare Act 2006, 'early years provision' means childcare for all children aged from birth until the 31st August following the child's fifth birthday and 'later years provision' means childcare for all children from the 1st September following the child's fifth birthday until the child reaches 8. (see sections 20 and 96(6) of the Act). Childcare includes some 'supervised' provision for under 18 year olds. This may overlap with local authorities' duties under section 507B of the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient leisure activities for 13-19 year olds.

Local authorities should regard childcare as any provision that is regular and reliable and provides a safe place for children to be. It would not include, for example, before school or after-school activity that was unsupervised or that was provided as a one-off activity.

The Department for Education<sup>3</sup> carried out research in 2017 with families and found that 79 per cent of families with children aged nought to fourteen years used childcare. Almost two in three families (66 per cent) had used formal childcare and 36 per cent have used informal childcare provided by family and friends. Twenty three per cent used both formal and informal childcare. The breakdown of childcare nationally is demonstrated in figure one. The use of formal childcare has increased by three per cent; this is due to increased use of breakfast, after school clubs and day nurseries.

Figure one – The use of childcare for 0 – 14 year olds by families during term time in England 2017



<sup>3</sup> Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2017, Department for Education, December 2017, SFR73/2017

## 2. Supply of childcare

### 2.1 Number of childcare providers

There are 215 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire as at 31 March 2017 (including school run nursery provision). Childcare is offered by the private and voluntary sector including day nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups, childminders, crèche facilities, out of school and holiday clubs, as well as home carers. Further provision is offered in nursery units, breakfast and after school clubs at maintained schools and academies. In addition to Ofsted registered childcare care there are three unregistered providers caring for children for less than two hours.

Figure two demonstrates the breakdown of childcare in North Lincolnshire as at Ofsted registered providers including schools (excludes home carers and two crèches offered at Greeson Hall (catering mainly for the local Polish community) and The Pods, a leisure facility in Scunthorpe). A number of providers are duplicated due to the configuration of their services. For example, a number of pre-schools and nurseries offer a breakfast, after school and holiday club meaning they fall into four categories.

Figure two – Ofsted registered childcare providers by type

Locality	Pre-school	Full day care	EEF Registered childminders*	Childminders	Maintained School Nurseries	Academy Nurseries	Breakfast clubs <sup>^</sup>	Out of school clubs <sup>^</sup>	Holiday clubs
Brigg	7	8	10	13	1	0	16	14	8
Barton	7~	6	8	10	9	0	14	9	6
Isle	4	2	8	19	7	4	12	5	3
Scunthorpe North	2	5	9	12	4	2	5	3	2
Scunthorpe South	7	16	18	32	6	3	18	11	12 <sup>^</sup>
Total	27	37	53	98 <sup>°</sup>	27	9	55	42	31

\* Childminders that are registered with the council to deliver funded early education

<sup>^</sup> Includes school run provision offered using the school Ofsted registration<sup>4</sup>

~ One provider does not offer funded early education to families

<sup>^</sup> Special Educational Needs Playscheme runs Easter and Summer holidays only

<sup>°</sup> 86 Childminders reported by locality, 12 did not report their locality and are included in the total figure

The number of providers overall has remained consistent in North Lincolnshire during the last year. During the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 there were few changes in the childcare market. Ten new childminders opened and 15 closed, as such was a small reduction in childminders overall. Three less childminders offered

<sup>4</sup> Schools do not need to register separately with Ofsted for breakfast and after school clubs. They can be run using their school Ofsted registration and are part of the school inspection.

early education funding to March 2017. Childminders often register for funded early education when they have an eligible child and let their registration lapse when they no longer have eligible children as such the number is variable. Reasons cited by childminders for their closure were other employment opportunities and moving out of county.

The number of breakfast, after school and holiday childcare providers has increased this is due to an improved understanding of the full day care offer and more full day care providers diversifying to offer wrap around care to families in their community.

### **2.1.1 Quality of childcare in North Lincolnshire**

Early years education is proven to have a significant positive impact on early outcomes for children. Overall research demonstrates that having a longer early education experience has a greater benefit on literacy outcomes, regardless of the quality. However, higher quality of care makes more of an impact than a longer period of time in early education<sup>5</sup>.

The highest quality provision is therefore the key to providing the best start for children in North Lincolnshire. The council strives to work in partnership with providers and partner agencies to improve quality of provision and the qualifications of the childcare professionals. Details of the partnership work and support in North Lincolnshire are included in appendix one.

As a measure of quality all childcare providers are inspected by Ofsted. The Ofsted inspection outcome of outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate indicates to parents and professionals the quality of care offered by each provider. Nationally 94 per cent of childcare providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) have an Ofsted inspection outcome of good or outstanding<sup>6</sup>; this is a three per cent increase since 2016.

In North Lincolnshire:

- 100 per cent of childminders with Early Years children on role and inspected in the year up to 31 August 2017, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. This increased the overall percentage of good or better providers available to 98.5 per cent of all childminders. This has increased from 96 per cent in August 2016.
- 100 per cent of non-domestic providers (day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) registered on the Early Years register and inspected in the year up to 31 August 2017, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. This increased the overall percentage of good or better providers

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<sup>5</sup> Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE) Report, UCL Institute of Education. The EPPSE project is a large-scale, longitudinal study of the progress and development of children from pre-school to post compulsory education. It considers the aspects of pre-school provision which have a positive impact on children's attainment, progress and development.

<sup>6</sup> Ofsted Childcare Providers and Inspections August 2017

available to 100 per cent; an increase over the year of two per cent, from 98 per cent in August 2016.

## **2.1.2 Number of childcare places**

The number of childcare places in North Lincolnshire has been assessed for each sector and locality; the findings are presented in figures three, four and five (not all providers share their place data as such in some instances the data is estimated). The highest numbers of places overall are available in Scunthorpe South, where there is the highest incidence of childcare providers and children. However as a percentage of the population the highest numbers of places are available in the rural localities of Barton, Brigg and Isle. There are sufficient childcare places in North Lincolnshire to meet parental demand.

The demand for childcare places varies for each age group depending upon the family circumstances. Parents in employment have the highest demand for childcare for nought to two-year-olds. When free places are introduced at two-years of age the demand for places increase and the demographics of families accessing childcare alters. With the introduction of universal free childcare at three-years of age almost all families access the funded fifteen hours to support their child in preparing for school. As children start school the demand for childcare reduces for before, after school and holiday care as the demand is for parents that are in employment or studying only. The demand by three and four year olds for additional funded hours will increase from September 2017 when 30 hours funded childcare is introduced nationally.

When considering the sufficiency of childcare, an understanding of the population and the environment are required to determine its impact on demand for childcare places. Appendix two presents population data and recent trends, new housing developments and employment patterns that impact on parents demand for and ability to pay for childcare in North Lincolnshire.

### **2.1.2.1 Nought to four-year-olds**

The number of estimated available baby (0 – 23 months), two-year-old, three and four-year-old places has remained almost static in the last year.

When considering the availability of childcare places, the council must ensure sufficiency for two, three and four-year-olds specifically; where they are eligible for funded early education.

Scunthorpe North is highlighted as an area where the population exceeds the number of places available, with 88 per cent of children able to access a funded three or four-year-old place in their locality. The take-up of funded early education in Scunthorpe North is 93 per cent of the population<sup>7</sup>; in addition families of 21 per cent of children paid for additional hours in this locality. As such there does appear to be

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<sup>7</sup> Take-up summer 2017 – average for Scunthorpe North wards, lowest take-up Crosby and Park – 87 per cent take-up

a gap in provision, and families are potentially travelling to access early education funding. An existing provider is planning to expand and open new provision in this area in 2018. However they will need to work closely with the local community to demonstrate the benefits and funded early education for children to maximise take-up in the area.

Figure three –  
Number of 0 – 4 year old places by locality and percentage of places available

Locality	Population 0-23 Months~	0-2 year olds places	Population 2 year olds~	Number of places 2 year olds	Penetration rate per 100 of population 2 year olds	Population 3 - 4 year olds~	Number of 3 & 4 year olds places	Penetration rate of population 3 & 4 year olds^	Childminder (0 - 5 years)*
Barton	535	45	309	130	84%	505	427	169%	44
Brigg	426	60	252	180	143%	420	296	147%	42
Isle	316	27	183	76	83%	342	293	175%	65
Scunthorpe North	574	42	359	94	52%	635	265	88%	37
Scunthorpe South	1090	147	676	322	95%	1492	780	106%	86
<b>Total No. of places in North Lincolnshire (inc School Nurseries)</b>	<b>2941</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>3394</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>124%</b>	<b>274</b>

~ Population Data Source – North Lincolnshire Health Commissioning Group (2017)

^ includes places at childminders delivering funded early education

\*12 Childminders did not disclose the number of places available, therefore more places are available than reported (estimated 36 places)

Overall there are more nought to four-year-old places available in Brigg than elsewhere in North Lincolnshire. The lowest number of places as a percentage of the population is in Scunthorpe North. It should be noted that not all parents require childcare for children, particularly for those below three-years of age. Where parents are not in employment it is less likely they will choose to use Ofsted registered childcare, as such a lower number of childcare places in any locality does not in itself indicate a shortage of childcare.

### 2.1.2.2 Over five years

There are more breakfast club places than after school or holiday provision. Schools and academies offer breakfast provision for pupils often at a highly subsidised rate, the key objective of these clubs is to ensure that the children have received a nutritional breakfast prior to starting school rather than as childcare for working parents.

There are two schools in North Lincolnshire for which there is no breakfast club offered and no childminder offering a drop off service currently, these are West Butterwick Church of England Primary School and Willoughby Road Primary Academy in Scunthorpe. There are five schools with no after school provision. However, most of these offer free or low cost after school activities until at least 4pm for pupils. All but two are in small villages in North Lincolnshire - Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School, Eastoft Primary School, West Butterwick Church of England Primary School, and Wroot Travis Charity Primary School. In Scunthorpe Willoughby Road Primary Academy has no after school provision. In the autumn term 2017 an existing provider will expand to open before, after school and a holiday club that will serve Willoughby Road Primary Academy.

Figure four – Number of breakfast and after school childcare places in North Lincolnshire by locality

	Population 5 - 11 year olds~	Childminders (5-8 years)^	Breakfast Clubs*	Penetration rates per 100 of the population breakfast#	Out of School Clubs*	Penetration rates per 100 of the population after school#
Barton	2440	43	227	11%	207	10%
Brigg	2136	43	216	12%	216	12%
Isle	1660	71	189	16%	116	11%
Scunthorpe North	2533	39	110	6%	28	3%
Scunthorpe South	4954	103	383	9%	159	5%
<b>Total no. of places in North Lincolnshire^</b>	<b>13,723</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1125</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>7%</b>

~ Source – North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2016)

^Children over the age of eight-years are not included in registration numbers with Ofsted. As such, a greater number of places are available but there are no official records of places. Twelve childminders did not provide data on the number of 5 – 8 year old places available.

\*The number of Ofsted registered places is not available for school run provision or provision within a full day care nursery – numbers of places have been estimated at 1:8 ratio; or on actual take-up (information provided by the providers). Children over the age of eight-years are not included within ratios for childcare providers.

#Penetration rates are determined including childminder and provider places as a percentage of the population

In some areas the Family Information Service (FIS) have highlighted a small demand for after school care; however it is insufficient demand to form a viable out of school club. Whilst the number of places in localities is variable there is no shortage of before or after school care.

The analysis does not include activity clubs offered by schools and academies that take place at the end of the school day. These are typically run by schools for an hour at the end of the school day, for one term at a time when teachers are available. As such, they are not a reliable form of childcare; however, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that working parents do use after school activity clubs as a form of childcare. Potentially after school activity clubs offered by schools can

suppress demand for Ofsted registered childcare and can impact on the financial viability of Ofsted registered clubs.

The lowest number of childcare places available is for school holiday care as shown in figure five. However, the Department for Education found in a survey of parents an average of 21 per cent of families use Ofsted registered holiday care for their children during school holidays and for just one or two weeks of the year.

Figure five – Number of holiday childcare places in North Lincolnshire by locality

	Estimated population for holiday clubs 5 – 11 year olds~	Holiday Clubs*	Penetration rates per 100 of the population holiday*
Barton	79	117	148%
Brigg	69	102	148%
Isle	54	72	134%
Scunthorpe North	82	16	20%
Scunthorpe South	160	124	77%
<b>Total no. of places in North Lincolnshire^</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>114%</b>

~ Source – North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2016)

^Children over the age of eight-years are not included in registration numbers with Ofsted. As such, a greater number of places are available but there are no official records of places. Twelve childminders did not provide data on the number of 5 – 8 year old places available.

\*Penetration rates are determined including childminder and provider places as a percentage of the population

When the average take-up is considered the supply of holiday childcare appears to be more than demand in the rural areas but is reduced in Scunthorpe. This may be due to a lower demand, in Scunthorpe salaries tend to be lower and the rates of unemployment are higher negating the need for holiday childcare. As such there is sufficient supply of holiday childcare in North Lincolnshire.

In addition to Ofsted registered childcare a number of agencies offer school holiday activities generally between the hours of 9am and 3pm. The highest incidence of these is in Scunthorpe, these may suppress demand for holiday care in Scunthorpe. The activity sessions are often used as childcare by families for example – Football in the Community, Play in a week (drama activity). These places have not been counted within the numbers of places available; as they are not Ofsted registered childcare places, but would significantly increase the range of childcare available for children over eight-years where parents are able to work flexibly.

Colleagues in both Children’s Centres and at JobCentrePlus have not identified any deficiencies in childcare supply to restrict families from taking up a childcare place in the area.

### **2.1.3 Childcare vacancies**

The take-up of childcare is cyclical and is related to the academic year. The highest take-up of childcare is in the three to four-year age group where children have a statutory entitlement to funded early education. In the autumn term numbers of children accessing childcare is at its lowest as a large percentage of children have moved to reception classes in schools. As children turn three-years of age and become eligible for their funded early education place the numbers of children increase, with the highest numbers accessing a free place in the summer term.

To ensure that as a council we can support parents to identify a childcare place that meets their needs and quickly identify sufficiency gaps, the council regularly monitors the vacancies at childminders, pre-schools and at private day nurseries.

#### **2.1.3.1 Pre-schools and nurseries**

An analysis of the data from pre-schools and nurseries for the summer term indicates place availability across North Lincolnshire in all key towns and villages, for all age ranges. However, parents may not have been able to access their first choice of provider, and in some instances their preferred provider may not have been able to offer a full 15 hours of childcare.

The council is introducing a new portal for providers to update their vacancy data on a more frequent basis to improve information for parents on childcare vacancies and also to inform the sufficiency audit. This will be implemented in the spring of 2018.

#### **2.1.3.2 Childminders**

The FIS contact childminders on a monthly basis to determine the number of childminder vacancies in the nought to eight-years-age range, to enhance the brokerage service offered by team. Children over eight-years of age are not included in registered numbers for childminders; as such these figures are not reported. The number of childminders and vacancies is illustrated in figure six.

The number of childminders in the area continues to fall, in the last year overall there are four less childminders to March 2017. However, in the previous year 24 childminders ceased trading (to March 2016). In all parts of Britain childminder numbers have decreased year on year, with 26 per cent fewer providers than at 31 August 2012.

When considering the number of places available overall the number of places available has decreased by 16 places. An increasing number of childminders now employ an assistant to work alongside them in their home. There are 12 childminders employing at least one assistant, increasing the number of places that they offer<sup>8</sup>. The council encourages childminders to establish a demand for their business prior to opening and then offer support to providers to achieve a good or better Ofsted outcome to achieve the best quality childcare for families in the area.

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<sup>8</sup> Ofsted Childcare Provider Level Data as at 31 March 2016/2017 data available on Ofsted.gov.uk

In 2016/17 the average percentage of vacant places was at 16 per cent, this is the same as 2015/16 and has reduced from 19 per cent in 2014/15. One factor that may have impacted on the number of place vacancies is the number of childminders offering funded early education; since 2015 an average of three per cent of families have choose to access their funded early education via a childminder. This percentage is expected to increase with the introduction of 30 hours as anecdotal evidence suggests that parents are paying childminders currently for hours over and above their funded early education, up to 15 of these hours will become funded from September 2017.

Figure six – Number of childminders and vacancies April 2016 – March 2017

	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Av
<b>Percentage of vacant places (%)</b>	15	17	15	16	17	14	14	17	17	15	16	15	16
<b>Total number of place vacancies</b>	93	105	92	96	100	82	86	106	106	90	96	91	95
<b>Total number of places available<sup>9</sup></b>	626	632	604	604	598	604	604	610	610	610	616	610	610
<b>Number of registered childminders</b>	102	103	97	97	96	97	97	98	98	98	99	98	98

Childminder Agencies were introduced in September 2014, to reduce the administrative burden on childminders. The early education funding agreement that childminders sign up to deliver early education funding has been revised to incorporate agencies, however there are currently no childminders signed up to an agency in North Lincolnshire.

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<sup>9</sup> The actual number of places available is lower than registered places. Ofsted register childminders for the maximum number of places allowed but many prefer to work with less than the maximum number of children allowable. Where two or more childminders work from the same address the total number of children they can care for together will be lower than the sum of the numbers of children they can care for when working alone.

## Parents say

“My daughter started as nursery at less than a year old. They have been brilliant and supporting her growing and development following my routine. Making us as parents and our daughter feel comfortable. Very impressive. Will definitely use for any other children we have in the future.”

“My child enjoys nursery and always talks about his key worker and his friends.”

“I cannot praise my pre-school enough. I was nervous about my child starting but he has settled in really quickly and really enjoys going. Really positive atmosphere, really friendly and hard-working staff.”

“Fantastic childcare. Really happy with daily activities great relationship with us and our child. Helped support us through many times as first time parents wouldn't hesitate to recommend.”

“She thoroughly enjoys going, she has lots of friends and likes all the activities.”

“My daughter loves going to nursery, she always talks about what she's been doing and never wants to miss a day of nursery.”

### 3. Early Education Funding

National funding is available for a childcare place of up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year for eligible two year olds and all three and four-year-olds in England.

As a council we have a duty to secure sufficient childcare places to meet demand for parents for funded childcare places as well as to support parents in employment, training and seeking work to access childcare.

To underpin our knowledge of the local childcare market a profile of the local population and economy is included as appendix two. It considers recent trends and factors that impact on parents demand for and ability to pay for childcare in North Lincolnshire.

#### 3.1 Statutory two-year old funding

Since September 2013, local authorities have a duty to secure early education for eligible two-year-olds; to a maximum of 15 hours a week during term time. The Department for Work and Pensions indicated that, in 2014, 396 children<sup>10</sup> (20 per cent of two-year-olds) were eligible in North Lincolnshire. A further cohort of children became eligible from September 2014, when the criterion expanded to include forty per cent of two-year-olds in North Lincolnshire. For 2016-2017 it is estimated that 730 children are eligible, a decrease of approximately 70 eligible children from the previous year. Eligible children commence their funded early years the school term after their second birthday.

Two-year-old children are eligible to receive funded early education and childcare if their parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit<sup>11</sup>
- Tax credits with an annual household income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

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<sup>10</sup> The Department for Education estimates 396 children with a variance +/-80 children

<sup>11</sup> The Department for Work and Pensions' [Welfare Reform Act](#) introduced in North Lincolnshire universal credit (UC), in a phased approach from autumn 2017. Universal Credit replaces many current in-work and out-of-work benefits with a single payment. Universal credit is intended to be a simpler and fairer way of determining entitlement to benefit. It will mean that the current criteria for identifying children's entitlement for free school meals will be phased out.

A child is also eligible for funded early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they are looked after by a local council
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

### **3.2 North Lincolnshire offer for two-year-olds**

In North Lincolnshire providers in the private and voluntary sector (including childminders) offer an estimated 1,608 childcare places for two-year-olds. There are also places available at Althorpe and Keadby Primary School and at St Luke's Primary School, a school for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

### **3.3 Sufficiency of two-year-old places**

On the whole there continues to be a sufficient number of places for funded two-year olds across North Lincolnshire. Being a rural authority there are a few eligible children in villages not accessing their place, but provision would not be sustainable in these areas for the number of children it would apply to. Children's Centre officers support families to find suitable childcare and transport arrangements if needed.

A pre-school in Westcliffe which was directly commissioned by the council as a result of a sufficiency gap has thrived since it opened in April 2016, taking an average of 17 funded two-year-olds per term.

There is still a need for childcare in Killingholme. The gap is small and not sufficient for the creation of a sustainable pre-school. Additional childminder places would be of benefit to families in the area; an existing funded childminder in the area is actively looking to expand her services with plans for 2018.

From September 2017, three and four-year-olds of working parents, that meet eligibility criteria, will be eligible for an additional 15 hours of childcare per week during term time. Demand projections do not indicate that an increase in demand for three and four-year-old places will negatively impact on two-year-old places. The location of funded two-year-olds is often different to the potential demand for the extended hours for three and four-year-olds, however further analysis is on-going and working in partnership with providers we will monitor this throughout 2018 and onwards. If we find there is an impact we use of market management role to work closely with providers and investors to ensure place availability for two-year-olds.

### **3.4 Promoting funded early education**

The Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) supplies details of families that meet the eligibility criteria on a term-by-term basis (approximately 730 each term<sup>12</sup>). The council has a short timeframe in which to contact the families and advise them of the opportunity to apply for the funding. The eligibility and addresses of families on the list is changeable.

The DWP data is valuable to contact the eligible families, however a high percentage of the families receive four to five contacts prior to applying for the funding. There are a number of different marketing messages that are used when contacting parents. These include examples of parent's views, the benefits to the child of accessing their free place and photographs from the DfE.

The contacts are followed up by the local Children's Centre workers who visit the families to discuss the funding and the benefits to the child of attending, and proactively encourage an application. In 2016, officers reported that many parents didn't access their funded two year old place as they felt their child was too young. Work is planned with children's centre officers to ensure that they are fully aware of the benefits of early education for two-year-olds and they can demonstrate these to parents as well as advising parents that they can take-up fewer hours if they prefer and build up to 15 hours in readiness for funded early education at three-years of age.

Marketing activities are on-going. The council attends community events in order to promote the funding and encourage take-up; these have included the Barton Carnival, events organised by North Lincolnshire Homes and events specific to families of children with disabilities. These have been successful in engaging with families to encourage take-up.

An online application tool is due to be available from autumn 2017. This will provide an improved parental journey when applying for the funding and parents will automatically be advised of their eligibility status.

### **3.5 Take-up of two-year-old funding**

Nationally 163,250<sup>13</sup> two-year-olds took up funded early education. This equates to 71 per cent of eligible two-year-olds.

In North Lincolnshire the take-up percentage is higher than the national average as is shown in figure seven; during the spring term 2017 84 per cent of children took up their funded place. Take up was highest in the autumn term with the lower take-up in the summer term. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest this is a trend

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<sup>12</sup> The number of children is declining from an average of 800 children in 2016/2017 to nearer 700 children currently per term.

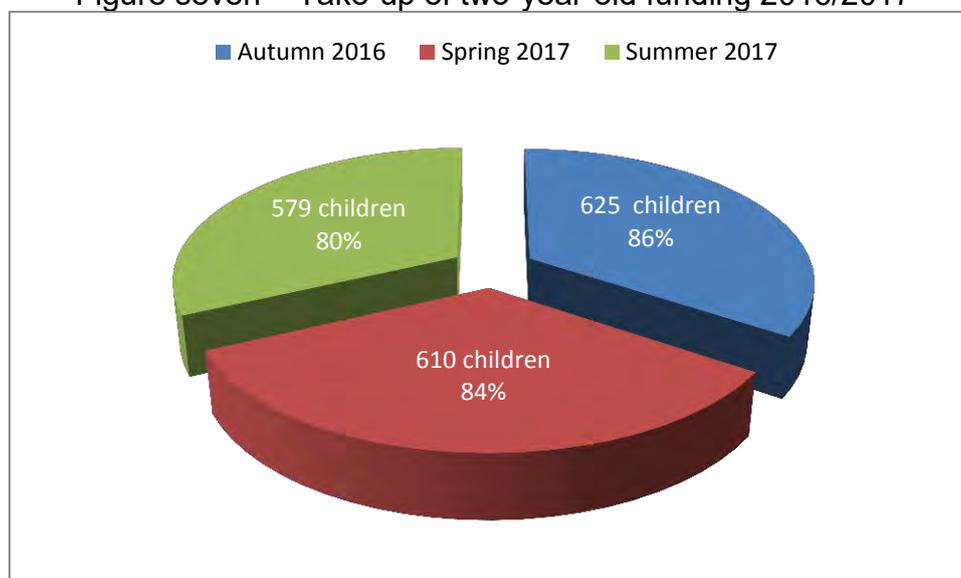
<sup>13</sup> Provision for children under five years of age in England, January 2017, Department for Education (SFR29/2016, 30 June 2017)

regionally. Additionally, there appears to be an ‘autumn term effect’ where parents who have been on the HMRC list for some time choose to take their place up in the autumn term, in line with start dates for school.

Take-up is measured against the number of names on the list supplied by the Department of Education (see 3.4).

Take-up is slightly higher than 2015/2016, where the average was 82 per cent. However, the number of children has decreased in comparison. This is due to the decline in the number of people being listed as eligible by HMRC; in 2015/2016 approximately 800 people were listed and in 2016/2017 this has reduced to approximately 730. The vast majority of families applied using the economic criteria as the qualifying basis for funding (93 per cent). The reduction in numbers of children may be due to an increase in family incomes locally, putting them over the £16,190 threshold.

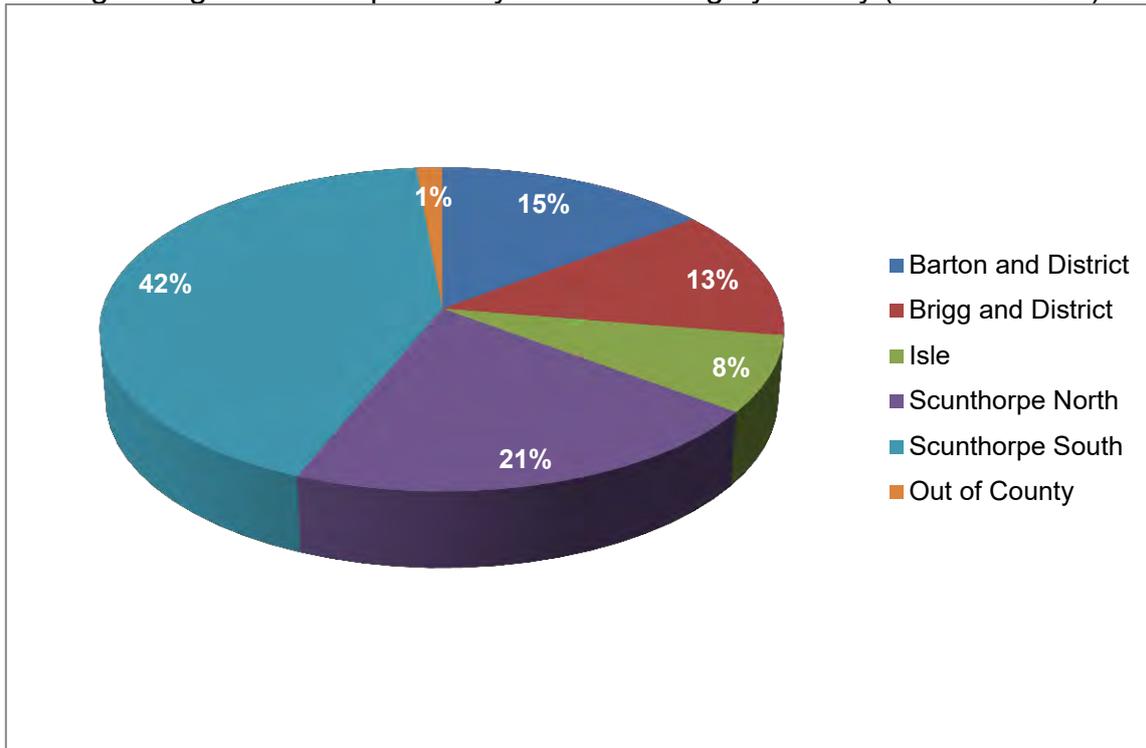
Figure seven – Take-up of two-year-old funding 2016/2017



Each term a number of families apply for the funding but then do not take-up their place. In the summer term 2017, 68 children did not then take-up their place. Fifty three of these are in Scunthorpe. These families were encouraged to take-up their place in the autumn term. A ‘golden ticket’ approach was used to target these families followed by a telephone call. The call with families determines why they have not taken up their place and offers them support in finding a place that meets their needs, parents often state that they feel their ‘child is too young’.

The take-up of two-year-old places by locality is very similar to the take-up in 2016. There continues to be a high take-up in Scunthorpe with 63 per cent of eligible children taking up their place as illustrated in figure eight. Take-up in Brigg and District has risen by two per cent.

Figure eight – Take-up of two-year-old funding by locality (summer 2017)



### 3.6 Quality of two-year-old places

Research demonstrates that high quality early education has lasting benefits for young children. The government currently requires, as far as possible, early education for two-year-olds to be delivered by childcare settings that have achieved an overall outcome of outstanding or good in their most recent Ofsted inspection report.

Nationally 97 per cent<sup>14</sup> of two-year-olds receive their funded early education in settings rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. In North Lincolnshire the percentage of children accessing their funding with a good or better provider has increased greatly from 2015/2016. The average is 99 per cent with no children being in a setting with a Requires Improvement Ofsted inspection outcome in spring or summer 2017.

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<sup>14</sup> Provision for children under five years of age in England, January 2017, Department for Education (SFR29/2017, 30 June 2017)

## Ofsted say



The childminder promotes children's early communication and language skills. For example, she talks to children as they play about the objects they use and what they are doing.

The manager gathers assessments of children's learning and monitors the progress made by groups of children. She discusses with staff how they can help their key children to continue to make good progress and to identify if early intervention is needed. Safeguarding is effective.  
Little Angels.

Children's emotional well-being is nurtured effectively. They settle well in their childminder's care. They gather good information from parents about what their child can already do. Children achieve well from their starting points and their continuity of learning and care is effectively supported.  
Childminder

Manager and staff are excellent role models. They teach children to be tolerant and support them to learn how to treat others with kindness and respect. Children develop very good manners and understand the importance of sharing with their friends. Little Owls Scunthorpe South



All children make good progress in their learning from their starting points. They are well prepared for their future learning. Children thoroughly enjoy exploring the textures of different materials, such as foam and cornflour using their hands. Happy Stars Babies

## **4. Three and Four-year-olds**

The council has a duty, under the Childcare Act 2006, to ensure that there are sufficient places for all three and four-year-olds to access their entitlement to 15 hours of early education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per annum).

### **4.1 North Lincolnshire offer**

#### **4.1.1 Universal Offer**

In North Lincolnshire, early education is delivered in school nurseries (37), day nurseries<sup>15</sup> (37), pre-schools<sup>16</sup> (25) and with registered childminders<sup>17</sup> (53). In total, there are 158 providers and 4,396 places for three and four-year-olds.

All funded settings offer 15 hours of early education. In general, families are able to access sessions flexibly to meet parental demand, more flexibility is available in the private and voluntary sector.

All four-year-olds are offered a full-time school place in the autumn term of the academic year in which they turn five-years of age, as per the School Admissions Code<sup>18</sup>. Parents can request that their place is deferred until later in the year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (five-years). A parent can request that their child take-up a part-time place in a reception class until the child is compulsory school age. Families that choose not to take-up a place in a reception class and remain at a private or voluntary childcare provider are eligible for 15 hours of funded early education until the term after their fifth birthday. A small number of families each year defer their place and remain in the private and voluntary sector. In some instances families have chosen a home school route and choose to access the funded early education until the child reaches five-years of age.

#### **4.1.2 Extended Offer (30 Hours Childcare)**

The Childcare Act 2016 is a national government commitment to increase the funded childcare hours for three and four-year-olds to 30 hours per week (15 universal and 15 extended hours), where the parent(s) are in employment. The aim of the act is to benefit working parents and increase employment, by reducing the cost of childcare and making returning to work more attractive.

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<sup>15</sup> For classification purposes a day nursery is open from 8am to 6pm daily

<sup>16</sup> For classification purposes a pre-school is open 9am to 3pm term time only

<sup>17</sup> Registered childminders have applied to deliver funded early education under agreement with the council

<sup>18</sup> School Admissions Code effective from 1 February 2012 and which applies to admissions from September 2013 in all maintained schools in England. Admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.

Under the act, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to secure enough places to meet demand; this duty needs to be balanced against the existing duty to secure sufficient places for two-year-olds and the universal funded early education for three and four-year-olds.

To be eligible both parents (or single parent, if applicable) must be:

- in work - or getting parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week - this is £125.28 for over 25's.

This earnings limit doesn't apply for the self-employed that started their business less than 12 months ago.

Parents are not eligible if:

- their child doesn't usually live with them
- the child is in their foster child
- where either parent (or single parent) has a taxable income over £100,000
- they are parents from outside the EEA, where their UK residence card says they cannot access public funds

The council has been working closely with childcare providers and families to ensure that there are sufficient places available for the introduction in September 2017.

Marketing materials have been prepared and shared widely in the community to inform parents of the increased funding opportunity.

A series of meetings with providers have been held throughout the year to share information from pilot authorities and support them in preparing for the extended hours, these included cluster meetings to encourage providers to work in partnership to deliver hours. The 'Provider Portal'<sup>19</sup> has been upgraded to support providers in claiming funding for children and training has been delivered to all providers to ensure they are able to claim for 30-hour children from September and receive payment promptly. A revised early education funding agreement has also been developed to include the extended hours funding.

All providers have committed to deliver 30 hours either themselves or in partnership with other providers. Providers have been supported to develop models of delivery for the extended hours to meet the needs of families in the area and ensure their financial viability. Some providers have introduced charges from September for meals and other services they provide; this will be off-set against the savings made in an additional 15 hours of funded childcare.

A number of capital build projects have been funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, North Lincolnshire Council and providers to increase capacity in the autumn term in readiness for additional demand for the extended entitlement. Projects include:

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<sup>19</sup> The Provider Portal is an on-line application that providers use to submit their claims for early education funding to the council to ensure payment for funded places.

- a new purpose built pre-school for Barrow Pre-school Playgroup in Barrow upon Humber on John Harrison Church of England School site, improving transitions to school and partnership working between the two provisions
- a newly refurbished pre-school building for Little Rascals pre-school, ensuring sufficient childcare places, as their existing premises are to be demolished
- redesign of Manor Farm Children’s Centre to re-home Priory Lane pre-school and increase the number of childcare places available
- a new nursery at Oakfield Primary School to meet demand for places and improve transitions to the school

All providers that received capital funding monies are working with parents and the local community to determine if there is demand for extended opening hours and holiday childcare requirements.

## 4.2 Take-up

Take-up of funded early education places is monitored termly. Figure nine, illustrates the take-up of three and four-year-olds by term. The statistics demonstrate in the academic year 2016/17 an average take-up of 96 per cent of the population.

A number of children take-up their free entitlement in other neighboring authority areas. The data is not shared between councils’, as such the take-up figure is higher than reported. The number of children taking up their funded early education in North Lincolnshire living in other council areas varies termly. In the summer term 2017, 81 children lived in a neighboring local authority area. The children travel in from North East Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire authority areas most commonly.

Figure 9 – Take-up of funded early education in North Lincolnshire

	Number of Funded Children	Population <sup>^</sup>	Take-up as a percentage of population (3 & 4 year-olds)
Autumn 2015*	1940	1944	99%
Spring 2016	3835	3854	99%
Summer 2016	3868	3959	95%
Autumn 2016*	1847	1925	96%
Spring 2017	2531	2477	98%
Summer 2017	3909	3724	95%

\*numbers of children in the autumn term are lower as all four-year-olds are eligible for a school reception class

<sup>^</sup>Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2015,2016 and 2017 – updated annually as at 27 February)

The take-up of early education funding is at its highest in the autumn term. Families associate this with the start of the academic year and are most likely to commence their funding in this term. Take-up declines in the summer term as families are more likely to wait until the next academic year prior to taking up a place for their child in nursery, often they are waiting for a school nursery place.

In the summer term 2017, 63 per cent of children accessed their funded early education in private and voluntary provision; the remainder accessed their place in school nurseries and reception classes.

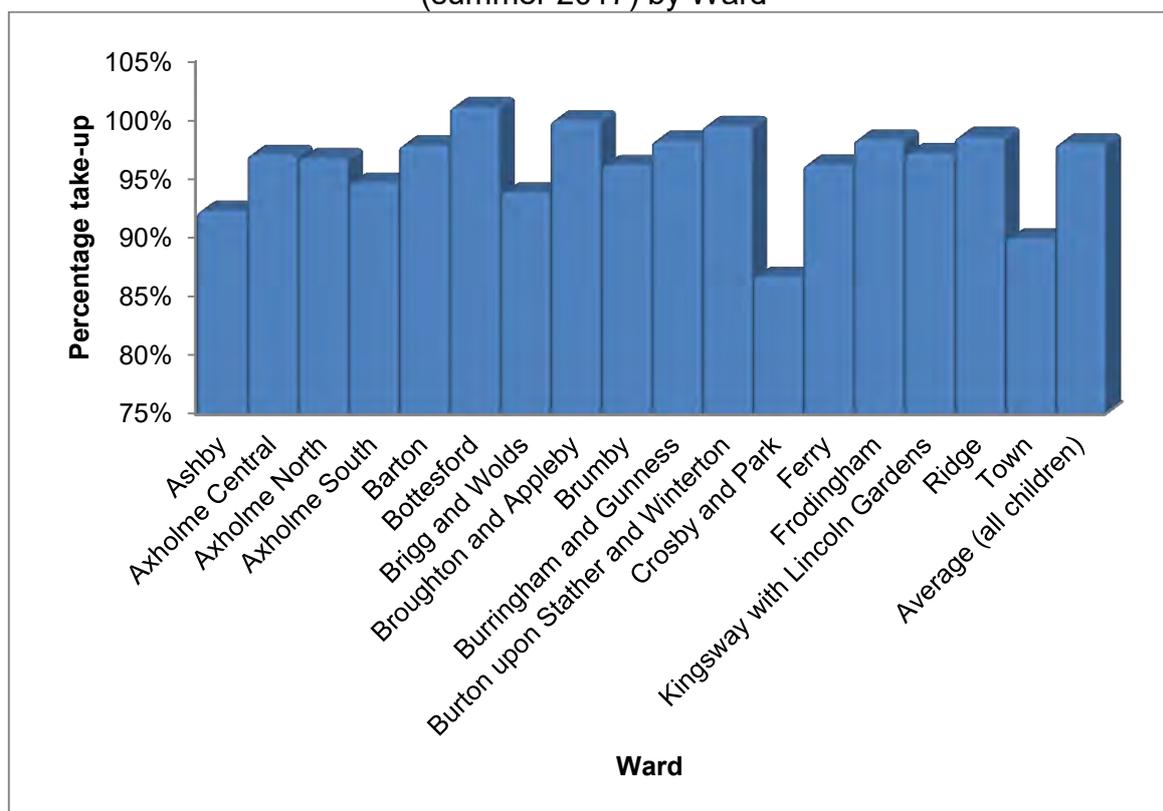
The take-up of three and four-year-old funding nationally is very high, with an average of 95 per cent of eligible children taking up a place. This equates to 93 per cent of three-year-olds and 96 per cent of four-year-olds. The percentage take-up has increased by almost eight per cent since 2011; the take-up of two-year-old funding by children in areas of deprivation is likely to have impacted on the improved take-up of funding. In North Lincolnshire, 98 per cent of three and four-year-olds took up their funded early education in the spring term, this is higher than the national average.

An analysis of take-up by ward has been undertaken and is illustrated in figure 10. The wards with the highest take-up were Bottesford, Broughton and Appleby and Burton upon Stather and Winterton. The take-up in Axholme South is assumed higher as families access their funding in neighboring council areas of Doncaster and Nottinghamshire. The lowest take-up is in the Crosby and Park and Town wards with less than 90 per cent of all children taking up a place. Take-up is at its lowest in the summer term with families often waiting for places in a school nursery in the autumn term (Autumn 2017 – Crosby and Park 96 per cent and Town 92 per cent take-up). Communications encourage families to take-up in the summer term; however the take-up has been consistent at 95 per cent for the last three years.

Where the percentage take-up is higher than 100 per cent (Bottesford ward) this is due to more children than the recorded population accessing a place. The population data is correct as at February 2017, as such population movements after this date are not reflected in the data.

When considering the percentage of children that access their full early education entitlement the highest proportion access the full 15 hours of early education, at 87 per cent (this is a three per cent increase since 2015), with 92 per cent accessing 13 hours or more. This is in line with the national average for three year olds of 86.6 per cent of children accessing 13 or more hours per week.

Figure 10 - Take-up of three and four-year-old funded early education (summer 2017) by Ward

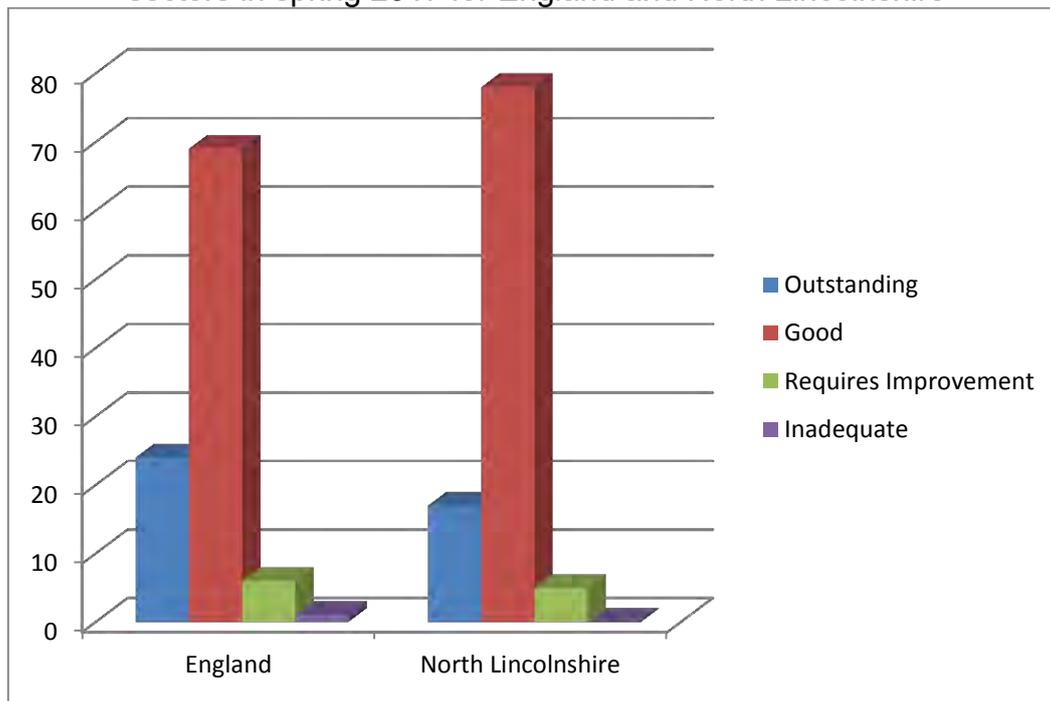


### 4.3 Quality of the early education offer

In January 2017, excluding those providers where there was no match to an Ofsted inspection rating, the number of three and four-year-olds benefitting from some funded early education at a setting with an Ofsted rating of good or outstanding was 95 per cent nationally<sup>20</sup>, this has increased by nine per cent in the last year. The percentage for North Lincolnshire is also 95 per cent (spring 2017). Figure 11 demonstrates the percentage of children benefitting from funded early education in all sectors in the spring term 2017 for England and North Lincolnshire. In North Lincolnshire (78 per cent) a higher percentage of children are attending a good provider than nationally (69 per cent), but the percentage of children attending an outstanding provider is lower than nationally (17 per cent, 24 per cent). Seven per cent of children in the spring term were attending provision that has not yet been graded by Ofsted (2 per cent lower than the national average). This is due to new providers not being given an inspection grading for up to 30 months from when they first open.

<sup>20</sup> Statistical first release: Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2017, Department for Education, June 2017

Figure 11 – Percentage of children benefitting from funded early education in all sectors in spring 2017 for England and North Lincolnshire



In January 2017, 42 per cent of three and four-year-olds benefitted from funded early education at providers in the private and voluntary sectors with staff qualified in QTS/EYPS/EYTS<sup>21</sup> that work directly with the three and four-year olds. There is no national comparator. When schools and academies are included this increases to 66 per cent; this is important as research demonstrates that graduate leaders positively impact on the quality of the funded early education that is delivered to the children.

Ofsted state that the Early Years Foundation Stage has been successful in focusing professionals in the sector on the importance of learning. Children have benefitted from this and there has been an increase in the proportion of children reaching a good level of development by the end of their Reception year. At a national level, 70.7 per cent of children achieved a good level of development, an increase of 1.4% on 2016. The same trend was seen in the percentage achieving at least the expected level across all early learning goals which has increased by 1.7 per cent from 67.3 in 2016 to 69 per cent in 2017. In North Lincolnshire, 72.1 per cent of children achieved a good level of development in 2017. This is a decrease of 1.9 per cent from 2016, however remains higher than the national, regional and statistical neighbour averages. In North Lincolnshire, 70.4 per cent of children attained the early learning goal in all 17 areas. This is a slight decrease of 0.3 per cent on 2016 but remains higher than the national, regional and statistical neighbour averages.

<sup>21</sup> QTS – qualified teacher status, EYPS – Early Years Professional Status, EYPT – Early Years Teacher Status

## **4.4 Three and four-year-old projections**

### **4.4.1 Demand in 2017/2018**

The council projects the number of three and four-year-olds eligible to access early education funding. Projections are based on estimated demand for each school term for the universal 15 and extended 15 hours (30 hours childcare).

The predictions use both the number of places and hours available by ward as this provides a clear indication of supply and projected demand. The projected take-up by children for the universal 15 hours is based on take-up in previous terms for each individual ward. Childcare providers are often flexible in the use of hours as such one place may be used by two or more children in any one day depending on the sessions that a provider offers.

Demand for the extended 15 hours has been calculated using the Clinical Commissioning Group population statistics (doctor registrations in North Lincolnshire, February 2017), information related to households incomes, Census data on household compositions, in-house data the on take-up of the universal offer, as well as parental surveys. The data used is the most recent available but incorporates data from the Census 2011 and HMRC from 2013, as well as 2016. As such the model assumes that family circumstances have not changed greatly in the period, this includes the number of in work families and households where both parents/single parent are in employment.

Supply has been measured using Ofsted registration data, provider data regarding places available for each age group and take-up of the universal offer.

The findings of the analysis are presented in figure 12. Areas where there is a potential shortage of supply are highlighted in red, amber denotes areas where there are 50 (term time), 25 (school holidays) or less 15 hour places available term time and green indicates where there is sufficient supply to meet estimated demand for childcare places. It should be noted, that the projections do not take account of any paid for hours by parents of three and four year olds where they are working more than 30 hours per week. During the summer term three per cent of children were attending for more than 30 hours per week (96 children).

The wards of Broughton and Appleby and Gunness and Burringham both suggest a shortage of supply. However, in both the villages of Broughton and Burringham, families are offered term-time only pre-school provision. There are two childminders registered for funded early education in Broughton that offer longer days and holidays. Families that require full days have a choice of nurseries in nearby Brigg and Scunthorpe where there is an over-supply of childcare places. The Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document identifies Gunness and Burringham ward area for large scale investment and development, (Lincolnshire Lakes) as such this area will be monitored and revisited in future audits.

Figure 12 – A analysis of demand and supply of childcare hours by ward in North Lincolnshire.

Ward	Difference in Demand and Supply (Childcare Hours)								
	Autumn			Spring			Summer		
	Number of Children	Term time	Holidays	Number of Children	Term time	Holidays	Number of Children	Term time	Holidays
Ashby	307	2540	2177	392	1388	1831	484	147	1447
Axholme Central	90	2356	573	126	1872	419	140	1678	356
Axholme North	120	2158	1103	164	1562	943	202	1046	790
Axholme South	87	2191	1798	115	1825	1674	127	1656	1618
Barton	176	4247	3962	236	3443	3712	280	2848	3528
Bottesford	131	3280	2751	180	2612	2549	211	2192	2417
Brigg	186	3574	2205	238	2873	1991	271	2437	1851
Broughton and Appleby	78	128	81	109	-300	-40	131	-591	-121
Brumby	269	3416	1758	355	2240	1463	408	1512	1268
Burton upon Stather and Winterton	146	2781	2176	198	2078	1962	247	1419	1766
Crosby and Park	260	4795	1485	356	3481	1118	413	2698	908
Ferry	194	2083	1470	270	1031	1233	308	518	1081
Frodingham	156	3594	2317	222	2699	2066	265	2105	1900
Gunness and Burringham	38	-93	-157	55	-328	-226	64	-452	-261
Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens	168	6523	6042	220	5826	5830	280	5008	5594
Ridge	149	4328	4946	205	3567	4706	251	2956	4509
Town	156	654	1169	200	57	1017	229	-348	923

In the Town ward the projections indicate potential for limited supply and a shortage in the summer term. A new provider has expressed an interest and is progressing plans to open a new pre-school in the area during 2018.

The projections for the Ashby ward indicate a potential shortage of supply in the summer 2018. A new school nursery at Oakfield Primary School is planned to open in January 2018 increasing childcare supply in the area.

The Ferry ward indicates a low supply of childcare places. As Ferry is a rural ward a more in-depth analysis at Lower Super Output Area has been undertaken. This indicates a higher population in the Barrow on Humber area of the ward. A capital funding bid to increase the number of places available has led to the opening of a purpose built nursery on the school site. This is due to open September 2017.

#### 4.4.2 Parental Demand for 30 hours

Nationally consultation has been ongoing with parents<sup>22</sup> and employers in shaping the offer. Their findings indicate that 80 per cent of families are currently using more than 15 hour per week and would take-up additional childcare hours if they were funded. Parents have also indicated that they would need these hours to be flexible and stretched over a year to fit with working patterns.

To test the projections in North Lincolnshire a questionnaire<sup>23</sup> in the summer 2016 asked parents their views of their early education funding and if 30 hours of funded childcare was available whether they would take-up additional funded hours. In total 395 of the respondents completing the questionnaire broadly met the eligibility criteria for the additional 15 hours of funded early education and childcare. Seventy one per cent of the families are paying for childcare hours currently (280 families), of these 58 per cent are paying for more than 11 hours per week (162 families). This suggests a high demand for the full 15 additional funded hours.

When asked whether parents would change their existing childcare arrangements if 30 hours childcare was available in North Lincolnshire 43 per cent of families said that they would alter their childcare hours to just Ofsted registered childcare. In addition a further 48 per cent said they would use a mix of Ofsted registered childcare as well as friends and family. Of these 78 families were using more than 16 hours of paid for childcare in addition to their funded hours. These families are likely to increase their funded hours and still use family or friends as their childcare need is for more than 30 hours per week. In addition, a further 41 families used their family and friends to care for their children; this is for between 11 and 15 hours per week. With additional funding available these families may also reduce their use of families and friends and use more Ofsted registered childcare.

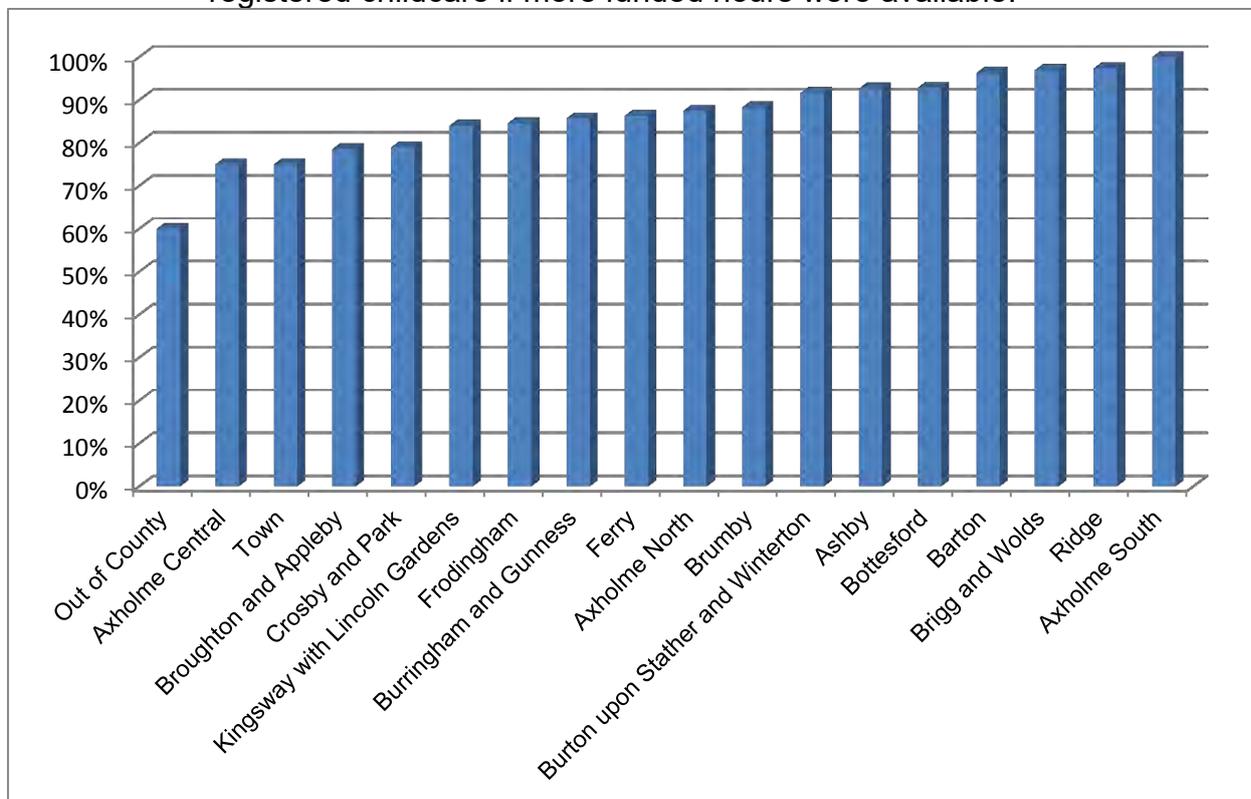
The ward in which the families lived was considered to determine if there was a higher demand for additional hours in any area of North Lincolnshire. Figure 13 demonstrates the percentage of families that indicated they would use more Ofsted registered childcare if 30 hours were available. A high percentage of families in all wards indicated that they would take-up additional funded hours if they were available, including those that live out of county but access their childcare in North Lincolnshire.

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<sup>22</sup> An online survey has been completed by 17,000 parents and carers, with their views of the offer.

<sup>23</sup> Parents Views of Childcare Report 2016, North Lincolnshire Council, Summer 2016

Figure 13 – Percentage of respondents by ward that would take-up more Ofsted registered childcare if more funded hours were available.



In relation to the take-up patterns, families were asked how they access their existing funded hours, whether term-time only or all year round. Sixty six per cent (189 respondents) of the families are using childcare all year round to fit in with working patterns.

#### 4.4.3 Recorded take-up of additional hours

An analysis of the take-up of additional hours by parents accessing their funded early education entitlement demonstrates that 30 per cent of all funded children paying for additional hours with their child carer. Figure 14 illustrates the number of families that were paying for childcare hours in the summer term. Not all parents paying for additional hours are in employment and accessing additional hours to enable them to work; a proportion of families top-up their hours to enable their child to access three full pre-school days (18 hours). The take-up of additional hours broadly correlates with take-up in of the universal offer and demographics of the area.

It should also be noted that this figure demonstrates potential demand from existing parents that are known to the council. These children are already accessing hours as such there is no requirement to create additional places for these children.

Figure 14 - Children accessing more than 15 hours of childcare in the summer term 2017 by ward

Ward	Count of children accessing more than 15 hours by ward Summer 2017	
	Actual number of children	% of all children accessing funded hours by ward
Ashby	87	30
Axholme Central	31	29
Axholme North	59	42
Axholme South	16	19
Barton	68	32
Bottesford	64	44
Brigg and Wolds	54	34
Broughton and Appleby	56	67
Brumby	42	14
Burringham and Gunness	13	31
Burton upon Stather and Winterton	91	55
Crosby and Park	62	23
Ferry	36	21
Frodingham	22	12
Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens	75	34
Ridge	57	36
Town	24	15
Total	857	30

Additional places may be required for parents:

- That are paying for additional hours with child carers and is not recorded by the council as a private fee paying arrangement. For example, families paying childminders or out of school clubs for care before or after the school or pre-school day.
- For those families that choose relatives as a primary carer or in addition to formal Ofsted registered childcare.
- For those families that decide to seek employment or increase their hours as childcare becomes more affordable.

The number of families with these circumstances is unknown; however research during the summer term 2016 provided an indication of demand for funded hours (4.5.1 refers).

## Parents say

“Excellent childcare my child has come on so much. Longer days would be great if possible.”

“Juggling childcare with a toddler aged three years and twins aged 11 months. Going back to work but childcare is almost as much as I earn. Thirty hours free childcare will be a huge help.”

“My daughter starts full time school in September so the 30 free hours is little help, but would enable me to go into full time work quicker with my second child.”

“As my husband works shifts it was very difficult to get a flexible childminder therefore had to go to the family for help.”

“My childminder is outstanding. I work shifts and she is willing to help anytime.”

“I can only fault my childcare on the 9am starts because you queue to get in and it’s a mad rush and packed waiting in the car park. Also, I don’t get why it can’t be open at weekends and late at night, etc.”

“The nursery meets our requirements. The flexibility offered by the shift place is invaluable as we have no support from family. I would say the government should assist parents from a younger age.”

## **5. School Holiday Care**

Care in the school holiday is focused around two groups. Children under five-years of age and children of school age requiring holiday care.

### **5.1 Children under five years**

A number of childcare providers are open during the school holidays to offer childcare to families. Thirty are full-day care providers and offer care all year to families (often with the exception of one week between Christmas and New Year). Children continue to attend these providers if contracted to do so during school holidays.

Children that are attending one of the 33 pre-school providers that are open term time only have limited opportunity with their provider for care during school holidays. A small number do open for limited sessions in the holidays if there is demand from parents. None of the school nurseries are open during the school holidays.

Research with families in North Lincolnshire during the summer of 2016 found that 69 per cent of families felt that their childcare arrangement fully met their needs. Where parents felt that their childcare did not fully meet their needs none cited holiday childcare as a barrier.

### **5.2 School aged children**

Not all providers that offer before and after school childcare offer holiday care which does mean that families may have to travel greater distances in the school holidays.

One of the greatest challenges for before and after school childcare providers is to deliver quality holiday care at an affordable price. A number of components contribute to this including the availability of trained staff and flexible staff, a sufficient range of resources and spaces. Demand for places is subject to short-term fluctuations because of parents making plans at the last minute, working part-time and having plans for their children outside of the holiday club for some weeks and not for others. The Family and Childcare Trust found that parents often book just one or two weeks of holiday childcare, with parents relying upon their own annual leave, grandparents, friends or other unregistered care (including sports and drama clubs). This means that holiday childcare providers face particular challenges to business sustainability and it is not always easy for them to predict if they can fill their places. In response many holiday clubs open for a few weeks or certain days in the holidays based on demand expressed by parents prior to the start of the holidays.

During summer 2016, there were 30 providers offering holiday childcare to children of school age (four plus years). Half of the providers before and after school clubs

that offer holiday care the remainder are nurseries that offer care for older children. Thirteen of the providers offering holiday care were in Scunthorpe, six in Barton locality, eight in Brigg locality and three in the Isle locality. The numbers of children attending providers varies from just one or two children a day (at full day care nurseries) to 25 at one provider. The majority of providers have between eight to ten children per day. In addition to holiday clubs, childminders also offered holiday care. The majority of providers have additional capacity available should there be a greater demand from parents. The Family Information Service did not report any unmet demand for holiday care.

In addition to childcare offered by Ofsted registered providers a number of other organisations offer activities for children and young people in the summer holidays. These are run by the private and voluntary sector, but are not required to adhere to Ofsted inspection requirements (see appendix three for a larger sample of holiday activities offered). The types of activities offered included:

- Scunthorpe United Football in the Community – football sessions daily from 10am to 3pm for £10 per day (six to 13 year olds) and 10am to 12noon for £5 per day (five to seven year olds).
- Summer sports camps at Grange Park Messingham, three weeks of sports from 9am to 1pm or 9am to 3pm for £40 to £48 for three days.
- Young Music Makers Summer School offered 9am to 3.30pm daily for one week for ages seven to twelve years at a cost of £120 per week, £24 per day.

Whilst these are not intended as a form of childcare, these too are used as care for children by working parents in the area. Prices range from £10 to £25 per day, often offering care between 10am and 3pm. The timings are not always suitable for working parents. However many families are able to work flexibly or have the support of family members to take and collect children from activities.

A national survey by the Family and Day Care Trust<sup>24</sup> found that in the school holidays 41 per cent of working families with children under 15, use informal childcare over the school holidays, most usually provided by grandparents.

The report finds that parents use a mix of informal and formal childcare over the school holidays. Their caring arrangements usually comprise of a 'package' of care, this includes parent's annual leave and holidays, 'shift parenting' where they split their own annual leave and take it in turns to look after their children. About a quarter of families also use formal childcare, most frequently childminders or holiday clubs. For older children, open access play schemes, sports camps and holiday activities run by museums, orchestras, theatre projects and other cultural organisations often function as childcare also.

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<sup>24</sup> Holiday Childcare Survey 2014, Jill Rutter and Duncan Lugton on behalf of the Family and Childcare Trust, 2014 On-line survey of parents in May 2014, in partnership with Netmums; received 1,587 responses which was broadly representative of the overall population

## Ofsted say



Staff get to know children well when they first start and find out about their interests. They gather information from parents about children's hobbies and achievements at home and complement this in the club. Field View Out of School Club

Staff encourage children to take an active part in establishing the rules and boundaries of the club. This helps children to know what is expected of them. Children say that they have to 'be nice and try to help people'. Field View Out of School Club

The childminder creates a welcoming and fun environment for children. She encourages children to share and take turns and play cooperatively with their friends.

Staff are vigilant when it comes to children's safety. The premises is secure and staff deploy themselves well to ensure that children are always supervised. Children enjoy the time they spend at the club. They have fun taking part in a wide range of activities on offer. Children enjoy playing with their friends and staff. Wise Owls Kids Den, Bottesford Infant School



Staff involve children with the planning of the session which ensures they have choice and gives them a sense of ownership of their club. Wise Owls Kids Den, Bottesford Infant School

## **6. Care for Young People (11 plus years)**

### **6.1 Before and after school**

There is limited Ofsted registered childcare available for secondary age children and young people. A number of after school clubs and childminders offer to care for children aged 11 to 12 years, particularly as they first settle into their new environment and become confident to go home alone after school. This is quite popular with children and their parents.

Secondary schools usually offer a programme of free sports and cultural activities for an hour after school for children to attend including hockey, drama and homework clubs. A number of the secondary schools also offer a breakfast club.

In the spring of 2014 research with parents that did not use childcare in North Lincolnshire did not indicate a demand for childcare for children and young people over eleven years of age. Thirteen per cent of the respondents had children over 12 years of age (50 families) one indicated that she encouraged her son to attend after school activities so that he was not left at home for very long (11 year old), another family indicated there was limited childcare for over eights and that her children would prefer sports based sessions.

There are also opportunities for children and young people of this age group to participate in activities which run close to school finishing in all areas of North Lincolnshire.

These include:

- Secondary schools offer a broad spectrum of after school activities for young people to attend, including football, hockey, drama, cookery. For example, St Lawrence Academy offers a sports session from 1.30 to 3.30pm on a Friday afternoon for children and on a Wednesday afternoon Art, Music and Drama from 2.45 to 4.45pm.
- The main leisure centres (Ancholme Leisure Centre, Baysgarth Leisure Centre, Epworth Leisure Centre and The Pods) offer a regular junior gym session timed to coincide with schools closing, at £3.80 per hour for 11 to 15 year olds.
- For young people with a disability there is an activity club for six to 24 year olds – on Thursday's from 5.30 to 7.30pm alternating between the age groups at Glanford Park in Scunthorpe
- Street Sport and On Target, there are 44 sessions delivered at varying times (early evening) through North Lincolnshire. A diverse range of multi-sports activities for 8 to 19 year olds and young people with a disability up to 25 years of age. All sessions are free of charge.

There are also more youth activities now available in the evenings in North Lincolnshire than ever before. Young people can find out what is happening in their

community on the council website - <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/people-health-and-care/children-and-young-people/services-for-young-people/positive-activities/>

## **6.2 School holidays**

A national Holiday Childcare Survey (2014) by the Family and Childcare Trust found that parents often found it the hardest to cater for 12 to 14 year olds, who still require supervision, but for whom holiday clubs may not be appropriate.

During all school holidays there are opportunities for children and young people which, ensure they are occupied in a safe environment whilst parents are at work, but would not be recognised as childcare by the young people. It is unclear as to whether parents and young people are aware of the activities. All activities for young people are promoted on the council website and the Family Focus newsletter.

In order to attend activities young people need someone available to transport them or good public transport opportunities.

A sample of activity based sessions that young people can attend during school holidays:

- Youth Centres offered drop-in sessions for young people to meet with the friends/peers, where they could undertake a range of activities of their choice.
- Activity sessions for eight to 14-year-olds at the Leisure Centre's including racket sports, ball games and archery.
- Summer holiday soccer courses for seven to 13 year olds are offered by Scunthorpe United, at just £10 for the day from 9am to 3pm.
- Young Music Makers Summer School offered 9am to 3.30pm daily for one week for ages seven to twelve years.
- Street Sport Summer Tournament from 11am to 6pm, free of charge (two days including transport from a range of locations in North Lincolnshire).

## Parents say

“I am very happy with the Pre-school. They are very approachable and care for the children they provide a high level of learning and interaction with the children. My eldest daughter also attended this nursery and the standard has always been high. They are also excellent at communication and are approachable.”

“I would prefer better/longer hours and availability during school holidays.”

“Additional free child care would be helpful but I also work half terms which poses a problem in the six weeks holiday where my child care fee will be almost £200 a week for one child.”

“I would like childcare providers to do am clubs prior to school and collections after pm clubs.”

“I work between 40-45 hours a week. My little boy enjoys both the childminder and pre-school, however I still require family to help as school finishes at 3:45 and I don't finish until 6pm.”

“We chose a mix of nursery and playgroup and relatives to care for my daughter whilst we are at work. We think this is a good mix and has helped her development and to learn in different environments.”

“The school only open 9 - 3.30pm during school term. Would like more organised care, more flexible hours and during holidays. If not enough children sign up to school club does not run.”

## **7. Childcare for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

All Ofsted registered childcare providers within North Lincolnshire are inclusive of all children and welcome children with special educational needs and disabilities to attend. Additional support is provided to childcare settings and schools to meet the needs of all children and to assist providers with any additional costs incurred.

Parents of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are encouraged to access childcare. In the early years, take-up of early education funding is good and parents generally promote positive experiences. Childcare providers work closely with parents and other supporting agencies to ensure that the needs of all children are met from transition into the provider and then continue to be met throughout their time within the provision. There is particularly close partnership working on transition to school at three/four or five-years of age to provide both continuity and an increased level of learning challenge.

All childcare providers must meet the requirements of the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice. The code of practice for children between eight to 25 years aims to give disabled children and children with special educational needs greater support, choice and opportunities.

What this means for families is that childcare providers will:

- Involve families and children properly in decision making, and make sure the correct information and support is in place
- Respond quickly to children's emerging needs
- Plan ahead and work towards positive outcomes for children
- Focus on inclusive practice – the majority of children who have additional need are successfully included in mainstream settings
- Co-ordinate effectively between services, with new joined up outcomes which may lead to a request for an Education, Health and Care needs assessment for children who need support from several agencies.

To support families to find childcare to meet their needs there is a requirement for councils to publish information so that parents can find out what support is available. The SEND Local Offer web site ([www.northlincslocaloffer.com](http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com)) aims to provide parents and carers with the information they may need, or want to know, about resources, support, activities and events for North Lincolnshire's children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

There is a specific area for early years where childcare providers are listed along with specific details concerning how they meet the needs of children with additional needs. This provides parents with a greater insight into how the childcare provider will meet the needs of their child.

As outlined in the SEND Code of Practice (revised Jan 2015) providers must have arrangements in place to support children with SEN or disabilities. These

arrangements should include a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEN. The benefits of early identification are widely recognized, identifying need at the earliest point, and then making effective provision, improves long-term outcomes for children.'

To support the childcare providers to have knowledgeable SENCOs/practitioners the Early Years Inclusion team offers advice support and guidance alongside providing a range of training packages.

In the last year, providers have given feedback that the "Writing Outcome Plan" training has enabled them to write SMART targets specific to individual children's needs.

It is recommended that new SENCOs attend the four part training that provides an introduction to the role of the SENCO, other staff and established SENCOs may also attend as good practice to gain, refresh or embed knowledge. To further support the practitioners within their role they are encouraged to attend the follow up training which includes:

- writing SMART targets to form outcome plans
- implementing practical activities to support outcome plans
- supporting practitioners to make a request for a Education Health and Care needs assessment.

Some training is jointly facilitated by the Early Years Inclusion team/Portage. To further support childcare providers to meet the needs of children all providers are invited and encouraged to attend a termly SENCO update, SENCO networks and or Childminder networks. These sessions provide the most up to date information and advice as well as support for providers. The focus is on encouragement through participation and networking to enable a self-sustaining workforce.

Practitioners/providers are encouraged to use the Early Years Inclusion Audit to aid in the self-evaluation process and plan their own targets to further improve inclusive practice within their setting. This will also identify where support needs to be targeted from the Early Years Inclusion team through the means of a joint support plan. The support may be in the form of specific training, discussions, modeling activities using the A-F continuum and loaning resources. This supports the SEND Code of Practice which details the support that councils, early year's childcare providers and schools in England should give to disabled children, and children with special educational needs.

In addition, all early years providers have an Early Years SEND and Inclusion Handbook to support them to assess the needs of children and know when to refer to specialist teams.

There is now consistent terminology across the sector 'beginning, developing and secure' for assessment, including the two-year-old education development progress check (an element of the Integrated Check for two-year-olds). This should encourage accurate and reliable summative assessment. In turn this should result in

a more robust monitoring of children's progress and make early identification of children with 'emerging difficulties' easier.

## 7.1 Early Years

For early year's children there are full day care nurseries and childminders offering care for children nought to two-years. From two-years of age families also have a choice of pre-schools (plus one school nursery); school nurseries are available for three and four-year-olds. All types of childcare provision are fully inclusive and aim to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Each provider uploads a summary of their service onto the Local Offer website that includes their experience and how they support children with disabilities and special educational needs. Providers work closely with health professionals to ensure that all children's needs are met and that they can be fully integrated.

Where providers may find they are unable to meet the needs of a child with identified needs they may submit an 'inclusion funding' application for additional funding to enhance their provision to meet the needs of the child. Providers of three and four-year-olds in receipt of Disability Living Allowance can claim an additional £615 in funding each year to support them in providing inclusive places.

Families are supported to take-up a childcare place by the Family Information Service and the Portage Service. Particularly where they may be struggling to find suitable care, the FIS will work with families to identify childcare providers that have experience of their child's condition, for example seizures. Of the families supported by Portage 38 of the 52 children are in childcare provision, three with childminders. In the spring term of 2017, eleven of the funded two-year-olds were identified as children with SEN support<sup>25</sup>. Of the funded three and four-year-olds 23 children had an education, health and care plan and a further 151 children were identified as receiving SEN Support. Just five of the children attended St. Luke's Primary School<sup>26</sup> in Scunthorpe.

Ofsted often highlight the ways in which professional childcare staff are meeting the needs of all children in their care in their Inspection reports. Some examples of their comments include:

'Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities well. They work very effectively in partnership with parents and other professionals to identify and use a range of strategies to promote development.' Little Imps Pre-school

'The high levels of qualified staff, together with exceptional teaching practice, has a positive impact on the learning experiences provided for children. Support for

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<sup>25</sup> SEN Support – a child is in receipt of SEN support if they are awaiting a diagnosis, have Portage or other agency intervention.

<sup>26</sup> St Luke's Primary School meet the needs of children that have moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties as well as physical and/or sensory disabilities

children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language is exceptional.’ Kingsway Children’s Centre

‘The childminder keeps parents fully informed about their children’s developmental progress. She talks to them daily when dropping off and collecting children. She provides them with regular written summaries of their children’s developments. This means they are aware of the good progress their children are making.’

### **7.1.1 Early Identification**

The benefits of early identification are widely recognized, identifying need at the earliest point and then making effective provision, improves long-term outcomes for children.

Childcare providers are proactive at monitoring children’s progress through observations and assessments; a key part of the early years foundation stage curriculum. Where providers have concerns about a child’s developmental progress they will call and lead an Early Help meeting with the objective of involving other agencies to support the child in their learning and development. Often a short intervention by speech and language or other agency supports the child’s development.

Where a two-year-old is attending a childcare provider they will participate in an Integrated Health Check. This has the objective of integrating services around the child and ensuring their early needs are met.

Each child in North Lincolnshire is seen by a health visitor who undertakes a two-year-old check, the ‘Ages and Stages’ Questionnaire which considers the physical development of the child. Where a child is in a childcare setting a two-year old progress check is also undertaken with the parents to determine the level of development for the child in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage. North Lincolnshire has committed to integrating the two checks to maximise the benefit to the child and family, an Integrated Health Check.

Childcare practitioners and health visitors welcome the integrated approach with staff now more aware of specific identified roles and use their professional knowledge to co-ordinate a professional and clear service for families and children.

## **7.2 Five years and over after school care**

For children and young people in infant and junior schools there are after school clubs and childminders offering care for children. These types of childcare provision are also fully inclusive and aim to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Each provider uploads a summary of their service that includes their experience and how they support children with disabilities and special educational needs onto the Local Offer website.

In North Lincolnshire there are two schools, St Luke's Primary School and St Hugh's School, which meet the needs of children that have moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties as well as physical and/or sensory disabilities. These schools offer a breakfast club for children attending the school but do not offer a daily after school club. St Luke's has recently registered an after school club that runs one evening a week from 3.30pm to 5pm. A high proportion of children attending the school are reliant upon school transport services to take them to and from school, this makes planning and organising after school care for these children more difficult.

### **7.3 Five years and over holiday childcare**

For children and young people in infant and junior schools there are holiday clubs and childminders offering care for children. These types of childcare provision are also fully inclusive and aim to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The Council Short Breaks Team regularly fund respite care in the school holidays at childcare providers for children. Each provider uploads a summary of their service that includes their experience and how they support children with disabilities and special educational needs onto the Local Offer website.

Disabled children and young people with complex needs, physical and/or learning disabilities are invited to attend a holiday playscheme in the Easter (four days over two weeks) and summer holidays (three days over four weeks) at St Luke's Primary School.

In the summer term 2017 in total 26 children attended. The children travelled from all over North Lincolnshire and were from five years of age upwards<sup>27</sup>. Between 18 and 22 children attended daily. In total there were 231 attendances. The children had a wide range of medical needs and disabilities. All required some support with their hygiene needs and all had communication needs. The lead play workers contacted all parents prior to the play scheme to compile or update care plans and discuss the needs of the children. All parents were offered a home visit. Home visits informed games and resources for the play scheme based on the children's interest. Links were maintained with parents throughout the holidays with a form that was sent home every day, the form allowed parents to send comments back to the scheme.

A variety of play opportunities were provided each day that offered children a range of different experiences. Sensory stimulation was provided through activities such as balls with lights and sounds, messy play and the equipment in the sensory/quiet room. Physical play was provided through the balls, outdoor play area and ball pool. Activities such as the Lego and ball tube supported the development of children's motor skills.

The play scheme used a separate room for sensory activities with children and young people enjoying putting their hands into shaving foam, shredded paper, playdough and a range of other messy play resources including porridge, jelly and

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<sup>27</sup> North Lincolnshire Play Scheme for Children with Complex Needs Summer 2017, Children's Links

cooked pasta. Children were also offered the opportunity to create pictures using fluorescent paint on black paper. It was found that taking part in the sensory activities led to the children interacting more with their peers and with staff. All children were encouraged to participate in all activities but it was their choice how much.

Feedback was gathered from the parents picking up children and from a questionnaire shared with parents. There were no complaints from parents.

Their comments were positive:

‘What do you feel your child has enjoyed about the play scheme?’

- Parents felt their child had enjoyed interacting with other children.

‘What do you feel would make the holiday club better for your child?’

- Increasing the number of days that the scheme is provided was the main answer.

‘What activity would you like to see in future sessions?’

- More music and singing was the only suggestion.

‘Did your child let you know that they enjoyed the holiday club? If so how?’

- Answers to this were around the children being happy to come to the scheme and being happy at the end of the day.

Children’s experiences were recorded for families during the holidays. Some of the children’s time is shared below:

*The shared love of football enabled J to build an excellent relationship with his worker and he was more vocal this playscheme. He likes football and took notice of the day his worker wore her Leeds football top to work. He also seemed to enjoy it when she talked to him about Liverpool winning a match the night before. The worker brought in some football anthems for J to listen to and also showed his favourite team playing football on the TV. He watched with three of his friends.*

*Staff observed that M felt more comfortable at the play scheme this time and more confident about trying new things. He communicated more with staff, using facial expressions and hand gestures. He also appeared to build on an existing friendship with another child.*

*K got involved in everything she could, from getting her hands and feet massaged to playing in the sensory garden. She enjoyed making other people jump while playing hide and seek. She loved it when an entertainer came and joined in where she could. She also joined in with nursery rhymes and any other singing.*

*T was his usual cheeky self, running around, jumping and bouncing. This scheme he was encouraged to use the jungle gym outside. Workers also encouraged him to engage in a wider range of activities and he did some hand paintings. He also loved watching the bubbles in the bubble tube.*

## Ofsted say



Children and families are very well supported by staff and managers. Staff work effectively with other professionals to support children's specialist care and learning needs. Little Owls Scunthorpe South

Staff work in partnership with other professionals to meet children's individual needs. They provide effective, focused activities to support children who have special educational needs and disabilities. This helps to close any gaps in learning. Field View Day Nursery

Outcomes are good. The proportion of children achieving a good level of development has risen sharply over time and now exceeds the national average. This is true for all groups of children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and disadvantaged children. Oasis Academy Parkwood

The childminder is exceptionally proactive in forging strong professional links with schools, nurseries and other early year's professionals. This helps ensure consistency between settings and children are highly supported. Outstanding childminder

The well-qualified staff team meets children's individual needs well. They work in partnership with other professionals to successfully support children who have special educational needs or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. Wise Owl Private Day Nursery Messingham

Disabled children and those with special educational needs are given expert sensitive support and this helps them enjoy school, get on with other children and enjoy their learning. Brigg Primary School



## 8. Consultation

### 8.1 Parents views of childcare

In completing the sufficiency assessment, the Council must determine parents' views of childcare. To gain details of parents' usage and views of childcare a random sample of the population was used. Parents and carers who currently use childcare received a questionnaire via their childcare providers. Questionnaires were sent to all day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and school nurseries to distribute to parents with one copy per family. The consultation featured in the local media and the questionnaire was available on the North Lincolnshire Council website.

The questionnaire gathered information about the childcare providers they use, the reasons for using childcare, the cost and the number of hours they attend both funded and paid for. The questionnaire also determined parent's views of flexibility, quality and affordability of childcare. From September 2017, most working parents are eligible for an additional 15 hours of free childcare for three and four-year-olds, a number of questions were introduced to determine views of and likely take-up of the additional 15 hours. The complete analysis of parent's views is contained in a supplementary report 'Parents Views of Childcare 2016'; however key findings are presented in this report.

In total 789 responses were received from families in North Lincolnshire. Of these 86 per cent provided the name of their setting, 605 (84 per cent) accessed their childcare in the private and voluntary sector and a further 111 used a maintained school or academy to access their funded early education. Six per cent of families were using two or more providers to meet their childcare needs.

The respondent families have more than 822 children under the age of five years. The highest numbers of children were three and four-years of age which is reflective of the universal funded places. This is closely followed by two-year-olds - again 40 per cent of two-year-olds are eligible for a funded childcare place, in addition to children whose parents are working and paying for childcare, this has previously been estimated at 500 children.

Thirteen of the families children that access childcare have a disability or long term limiting illness, the children are between two and five-years of age. All parents of children with a disability are satisfied with their childcare and feel it provides high quality childcare and none of the parents made any suggestions as to how their childcare could be improved.

Parents said:

*"My child cannot talk but her confidence has improved tenfold."*

*"My son loves his nursery and all the staff; he misses the teachers on the days he is not allocated."*

*“Our pre-school is meeting our childcare needs and in our opinion they are doing it very well, pleased so far with this pre-school.”*

*“My child is very happy with her childcare.”*

Families were asked what influenced their choice of childcare. The highest percentage of parents felt the location of their childcare was the most important factor (67 per cent); this was closely followed by a recommendation (48 per cent). The lowest percentage was staff qualifications (23 per cent).

Other influencing factors were:

- Size of class
- Environment
- Older siblings attended
- Caring and friendliness of staff
- Flexibility of hours
- Ability to nurture and meet child’s needs in an holistic manner

Parents said:

*“I personally feel it is important for early year’s children to be in a safe, secure and loved environment where the adults are confident in understanding and managing the needs of individual children. Children are not numbers and statistics ... they all learn in different yet wonderful ways and adults need to be there to nurture, support and enable them to become the best they can be within an environment that fully supports this process. When visiting a childcare setting you have to feel that this is happening as a parent, you have to experience that this happens. Whilst reports and data are necessary they are not the be all and end all of how your child will develop in a particular setting or how you as a parent will feel about leaving them. We know as parents that when we leave our daughter she is loved and cared for and thus is happy to be curious and explore her environment to enrich her learning.”*

The majority of families were satisfied with their childcare (89 per cent) and thought that it was well located (83 per cent). Eighty one per cent thought the quality of their childcare was high. A small percentage, 1.9 per cent of respondents felt that travel or transport to their childcare was a problem.

Parents said:

*“The nursery is like a family. They share the same ethos and values and me and both my sons felt valued and cared for.”*

*“My child care provider has retained her Ofsted outstanding status. It is well deserved not only does she tick all the boxes she also goes above and beyond. Help, advice and guidance is always available.”*

When asked if their childcare arrangements met their needs, 69 per cent said that their childcare arrangements fully met their needs, whilst 29 per cent said that it only partly met their needs. A very small percentage (2.7 per cent) thought that the childcare arrangements did not meet their needs, but did not explain why it did not meet their needs.

Parents said:

*“The nursery meets our requirements. The flexibility offered by the shift place is invaluable as we have no support from family. I would say the government should assist parents from a younger age.”*

*“Excellent childcare my child has come on so much. Longer days would be great if possible.”*

*“I do not like how inflexible all other childcare providers were and how if my shifts change I would have to pay for childcare even if my child was not attending.”*

To gain the views of parents on the quality of their childcare they were asked if any improvements were needed, 69 per cent said that no improvements were needed. Twenty one per cent thought that it should be available at all times, 17 per cent wanted more flexible sessions, five per cent wanted better quality provision and one per cent wanted childcare that was better at meeting their child’s additional needs or disabilities (13 families declared their child has a disability – none of these families indicated their provider did not meet their child’s needs).

Parents said:

*“Father works shifts on a fortnightly rota so it would be helpful to do slightly different days every other week.”*

*“More settings that opened at 7:30am would be useful.”*

Families were also asked for their child’s views of their childcare. The feedback was positive and comments included:

*“My child loves going to nursery.”*

*“My child is always happy going to pre-school and always comes out smiling at the end of their session.”*

*“Can’t wait to go in the morning and doesn’t want to leave at home time.”*

*“He loves it and is sad when he doesn’t go at weekends.”*

*“She thoroughly enjoys going, she has lots of friends and likes all the activities.”*

*“My child enjoys nursery and always talks about his key worker and his friends.”*

*“My son asks when it is a nursery day and gets excited to share news with staff.”*

*“My child loves going to nursery. In the holidays she always counts down the sleeps until she goes back.”*

*“My son is fully satisfied. He learns English my sons first language is polish. Staff are very patient and very qualified.”*

*“He loves socialising and always comes home chatty and excited about what he's been doing.”*

## **8.2 Consultation with children in North Lincolnshire holiday clubs**

In the summer holidays of 2015 the council consulted with children attending holiday clubs in North Lincolnshire. The objective of the research was to gain the views of the children on the quality of care they receive, their views on the activities they participate in and how if at all they felt their holiday club care could be improved.

We consulted with a total of 49 children, 22 males and 27 females covering an age range from three to 12 years of age. The ethnicity of all the children was white British.

One holiday club in each locality of North Lincolnshire was visited with the aim of gaining views of children throughout the area. Small groups of children were asked a number of open ended questions to gain their thoughts and encourage discussion about various aspects of the holiday club. All children present on the day participated and were encouraged to provide their views during the discussions. The clubs were chosen to represent the diversity of their holiday club market including providers that offer specific holiday clubs, to private day nurseries offering holiday care and a pre-school that offers wrap around care and a holiday club.

The children spoken with during the visits were very enthusiastic and motivated with their responses. The children spoke freely, with no prompts from the adults. The researchers were very impressed with their enthusiasm, it was obvious how much they enjoyed being at their holiday club. Their responses were animated; their excitement when discussing the activities they enjoyed was infectious. The children were well behaved and courteous. The visits were enjoyable and informative.

The activities offered to the children are wide ranging and the planning and organisation by staff for special events and activities was appreciated and enjoyed by the children; making their experiences at the club more varied and enriching.

The children were of mixed ages representing the youngest and older age ranges of children that attend holiday clubs. The children live throughout North Lincolnshire and in three cases lived out of county. The distances travelled to the holiday clubs was variable with some children walking to the club (32 per cent) and others attending from other villages travelling via car. The children were accessing out of school club whilst their parents were at work, however a number of children did state that they were attending due to special activities that had been organised and for fun.

## Parents say:

“I am very happy with the childcare provided by Rainbow, the staff are all excellent and I know my child is looked after very well. The prices are very reasonable, but it is still difficult to afford. I wish some help could be offered to help people who want to work with children under three to do so.”

“I do not like how inflexible all other childcare providers were and how if my shifts change I would have to pay for childcare even if my child was not attending.”

“At present with one in childcare we can just about cope. I have gone part time to reduce to three days childcare (Ofsted) and one day family; now with a second child we will definitely require help with costs.”

“I would like my daughter to have more hours at pre-school as her development and learning has improved so much since starting but struggle with costs for only two days and we both work.”

“More help should be available as discounts for more than one child some months the child care cost can be as high as £1300 this is more than one of our wages.”

“I have had to give up work since having my child as having no family locally I have to rely on childcare which was not an option due to cost, as I would have had to pay for my younger 2 children if more hours were available I may have been able to stay at work.”

“Whilst I agree that Ofsted registered childcare is great, it is only available for three year olds, I have to work but pay out a large chunk of my salary out to childcare. I would like more help from a younger age.”

## **9. Affordability of Childcare**

### **9.1 Cost of childcare**

The cost of childcare is an important factor for parents in work and when choosing employment. Often childcare is perceived to be expensive and a barrier for parents to entering or remaining in work. A Department for Education and HMRC 'Affordability Pilot' carried out in London found that there was a low awareness amongst parents not currently working about the support available to them. Although those who were not working felt that some support with childcare costs would be available, they did not typically know the details.

The Council FIS and website provides a wealth of information related to support with the cost of childcare to support families in making a decision about returning to work or entering employment.

In North Lincolnshire the cost of childcare varies dependent upon the type of childcare and the age of the child being cared for. A cost survey is undertaken, twice per year, by the FIS to determine the cost of childcare locally. It is a voluntary survey for which the majority of providers give details of their childcare fees. An analysis of costs has been undertaken for each type of childcare and is presented within the report.

Childminders offer families the most flexibility and a more homely environment. Their prices are competitive with nurseries but often are more than a pre-school. Generally a pre-school or school place in North Lincolnshire is most affordable; however the hours and age ranges cared for can be restrictive and do not suit the majority of working parents. Most parents are accessing a funded early education place in a pre-school or a school for the majority if not all of their hours. The cost of before school care is similar for a private or voluntary breakfast club and a childminder; however school run breakfast clubs are much more affordable for parents as they are often subsidised by school budgets. Childcare for school holidays is variable from just £10 for a short day to up to almost £50 for a full 10-hour day.

#### **9.1.1 Childminders**

Childminders tend to offer families an hourly rate for their childcare with a sibling discount. The average hourly rate for a childminder in North Lincolnshire is £3.73; this not changed since 2016. The lowest hourly rate is just £3 per hour and the highest £5.50 per hour. Almost all childminders promote a daily rate; the average figure in North Lincolnshire is £35.14 per day.

The average hourly rate for each locality is presented in figure 15. Childminders in the Barton locality, as an average, charge a lower hourly rate than elsewhere in North Lincolnshire. However, the lowest price childminders are based in Scunthorpe South, where there is more choice.

Figure 15 – The average hourly rate for childcare with a childminder by locality in North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£3.03	£3.37	£4.07	£3.68	£3.73

Nationally a figure is presented by the Family and Childcare Trust<sup>28</sup>. The average cost for a childminder for 25 hours<sup>29</sup> of care per week is £109.84 per week, an increase of £5.57 since 2016. In North Lincolnshire at an average hourly rate the cost to families is £93, this is £11 less than nationally, as such childcare with a childminder in North Lincolnshire is more affordable.

### 9.1.2 Full day care

Nurseries offer childcare for full days often from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday all year round. They offer varying pricing structures including full and half days as well as pre-school sessions (9am to 3pm). There are lots of variations depending upon local demand for hours. Pricing can appear quite confusing for parents as an eight hour rate is often published with additional hourly costs applied for longer periods; there is also an emerging trend to charge an additional fee for meals.

The average cost for a full day (of nine hours) in a nursery in North Lincolnshire is £38.44 (an increase of 79 pence over the year); the price is variable from £32 to £49.50. Figure 16 illustrates the average daily rate for a full day at nursery in each locality of North Lincolnshire. Almost half of the nurseries charge a higher rate for babies, reducing slightly at age two and three-years. The price changes reflect the adult to child ratios; more adults are required to care for babies than three-year-olds.

Figure 16 – Average cost of a nine hours childcare in a nursery in the localities of North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£40.70	£34.05	£46.30	£38.00	£38.26

The cost of childcare in the Isle of Axholme is higher than elsewhere in North Lincolnshire, this is reflective of the demographics of the area, where there are higher levels of employment and salaries earned<sup>30</sup>.

Nationally a figure is presented by the Family and Childcare Trust for nursery care (this represents both day nurseries and pre-schools). For 25 hours of care for a child under two-years the average cost is £116.25 and for two-year-olds it is £112.38, the

<sup>28</sup> Childcare Survey 2017, Claire Harding, Beth Wheaton and Adam Butler on behalf of Family and Childcare Trust

<sup>29</sup> A figure of 25 hours is considered part-time childcare by the Family and Childcare Trust. It represents the typical amount of childcare that a parent who works part-time might purchase, or a parent in full-time employment who purchases an extra 25 hours childcare on top of their free hours of early years' provision available in England.

<sup>30</sup> ONS - Appendix Two 5.5

cost difference between 2016 and 2017 is negligible. This equates to a daily rate of approximately £46.50 and £44.95. The data for three and four-year-olds includes 15 hours of funded early education; for 25 hours of care (10 paid for hours) the cost per week is reported at £45.67. However, the Family and Daycare Trust note that the figure may not be representative of the sector due to the small sample that completed this data. In addition the price may not be reflective of school holidays, as not all providers allow families to stretch their funded hours throughout the year, increasing fees in the holidays. A daily rate of £38.44 in North Lincolnshire is more affordable than the national rate. The cost for children often varies depending on their age due to the different staff to child ratios for younger children.

When the cost of a full week’s childcare is compared to the support available through Care to Learn and Working Tax Credits, financial support is provided for childcare costs up to £160 per week and 70 per cent of £175 per week respectively (£122.50). The cost of full day care at an average rate per week is £192.20; this means that in some instances parents accessing full day care for five days a week in North Lincolnshire will not be able to claim financial support against the total cost of their childcare place due to the weekly fee being higher than the threshold. However, it should be noted that the HMRC finalised awards data for 2015/16 illustrated that the average help with childcare costs per week was £57 in North Lincolnshire.

### 9.1.3 Pre-schools

Pre-schools predominantly offer childcare between the hours of 9am and 3pm more often during term time only. The cost comparison is based on a three hour pre-school session for which the average cost in North Lincolnshire is £12.00, with the lowest price being £8.40 and the highest being £16.50. Figure 17 illustrates the average price in the five localities of North Lincolnshire.

Pre-schools however are very flexible within their opening hours and parents can purchase blocks of three (morning), four (morning including lunch) or six (all day) hours. Prices vary dependent upon the block of time a parent is purchasing.

Figure 17 – the average price of a six hour pre-school session in North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£21.68	£26.19	£26.96	£29.00	£26.67

The cost of childcare in Scunthorpe North, one of the least affluent areas has the highest cost for a six hour pre-school session. It should be noted that for pre-schools in North Lincolnshire approximately 90 per cent of their income is from funded early education places. Parents are often offered an hourly rate to purchase additional hours over and above the funded early education. The average hourly rate for additional hours in a pre-school is £4.09 per hour with the lowest price being £2.80 and the highest price being £5.50 per hour.

The Family and Day Care Trust do not collate an average rate for pre-schools; as such a national comparison is not available.

### 9.1.4 Before/after school and holiday care

Parents in employment often need childcare before and after school hours as well as school holidays.

#### Before and After School

- **Breakfast**  
The cost of childcare before school is variable. A number of schools offer a breakfast club with the objective of providing a nutritious breakfast for their pupils prior to the start of the school day. They are often highly subsidised and at a much lower rate than a club that serves the needs of working parents. The average cost of a school run breakfast club is just £1.68, with prices ranging from free to £4. When compared to Ofsted registered childcare for which the average cost is £4.95 a session, with the lowest cost of £2.55 and the highest at £9.95. A number of providers drive children to their school and the cost can include transport.
- **After School**  
The cost of after school care is provided by the private and voluntary sector, with just five schools running their own after school club. The average cost for an after school place in North Lincolnshire is £9.18 from school finish to 6pm, the lowest priced childcare is £6.38 and the highest priced is £19.50. A number of providers drive children to their provision and the cost can include transport.

Figure 18 illustrates the average cost of before and after school care in each of the localities of North Lincolnshire. After School childcare for school age children in Brigg, Barton and Scunthorpe North are very similar and are most affordable. In Barton and Brigg there is a choice of providers for families which may be lowering the cost of care in these areas.

Figure 18 – The average cost of before and after school care in each of the localities of North Lincolnshire.

	Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
Before School	£3.27	£4.28	£3.63	£1.29	£3.23
After School	£8.88	£8.27	£11.85	£8.88	£9.47

Most childminders offer a school run service and holiday care. Based on the average hourly cost of £3.73, a two and a half hour after school session would cost £9.33 which is comparable to an after school club.

Many schools offer activity based sessions after school; these are often free or just £1 - 2 per session. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that these are used by working parents for childcare. The sessions are usually only for an hour and are not as reliable as formal Ofsted registered childcare often running for just one term or a

number of weeks. However, if parents are able to work flexibly they are suitable as childcare in some instances.

The Family and Childcare Trust present a national average for after school club fees of £52.58 (for 15 hours childcare – a week’s care); this is an increase of £3.61. The average for North Lincolnshire is £45.90 which is below the national average, however in some areas of North Lincolnshire the cost of after school care is higher than the national average, most notably the Isle of Axholme. For after school care by childminders the average cost nationally is £67.11, an increase of 3.58 per week from 2016. This compares to £46.65 per week in North Lincolnshire.

## Holiday Care

A number of out of school clubs and day nurseries offer holiday childcare for working parents (31 providers). Typically families use holiday childcare schemes for one or two weeks of the year<sup>24</sup> to meet their working patterns. Most holiday childcare providers in North Lincolnshire offer care from 8am to 6pm, with half days also available. The average cost of a holiday childcare place in North Lincolnshire as a whole for a ten-hour day is £32.88, with the lowest price being £18 and the highest price being £49.50. Six of the day nurseries that offer holiday childcare only offer care for children up to the age of eight years. As children grow older they are not so willing to spend their time with nursery age children, 21 of the childcare providers are day nurseries caring for children from 0 – 8 or 11 years.

There is a considerable price variance in holiday childcare as illustrated in figure 19.

Figure 19 – The average cost of holiday childcare by locality

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£23.57	£33.86	£33.33	£27.00	£33.28

Nationally the Family and Childcare Trust found in its Childcare Costs Survey 2017<sup>31</sup> the average cost of holiday childcare is £124.23 per week, an increase of £3.11 per week. In North Lincolnshire the average cost is higher than the national average at £164.40 per week (£40.17 a week higher than the national average).

Childminders also offer care for older children during the school holidays, their daily rates vary from £25 to £50 per day for five to eight year olds. Children over eight years are not included in childcare ratios and childminders have not provided a cost per day for these children, it is however assumed to be the same daily rate. The average cost per day for a childminder is £35.14 in North Lincolnshire. This is higher than the average cost for a holiday club but a childminder may be more convenient for parents.

There are other opportunities for children in the holidays with sports camps and drama clubs for children over seven/eight years (see appendix three for more

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<sup>31</sup> Holiday Childcare Survey 2017, Gordon Cameron and Gertrud Dora Kiss on behalf of the Family and Childcare Trust

examples of unregistered holiday childcare). These are affordable but would require an element of travel and flexibility in working hours so are not suitable for all working parents.

A sample of the activities on offer:

- Energize, North Lincolnshire Council 8.30am to 4pm Multi sports sessions various days throughout the holidays at North Lincolnshire Council leisure venues £20
- Football in the community offer a 9am to 3pm football coaching session throughout the holidays for £10
- Grange Park at Messingham offer mixed sports days from 9am to 4pm
- Kimberley Performing Arts Centre offer a Musical Theatre week daily 10am to 3pm for £25 for the week

## Ofsted say



Staff take time to establish strong relationships with children and parents. Information is regularly shared between home and nursery, and staff fully involve parents in their child's learning. Children are safe, happy, settled and making good progress as a result. Little Cygnets

Staff make assessments that accurately identify any gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. Well-planned activities ensure gaps are rapidly closed and children make excellent progress. I Learn Education Brigg

The well qualified childminder recognizes the learning potential in all activities. She uses her deep understanding of how children learn to provide rich, varied and imaginative learning experiences. As a result of exemplary interactions with the childminder and highly qualified assistants, children are self-motivated to learn. Outstanding childminder

The childminder actively seeks ways to continue her professional development. She attends relevant training and networks well, to identify ways to develop her existing practice further. Childminder

Many parents say that they appreciate the 'wonderful start to school life' provided by the early years and say that starting school is 'like joining an extended family'. Wootton St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

The childminder is an effective role model who supports children's play, concentration and learning very well. She understands how to develop their mathematical skills and effectively promotes their speech. Childminder

Teachers visit children in the nursery from the school they will be moving on to. This helps children to be confident and ready for their future education. Little Owls (Scunthorpe) Ltd



## 10. Information for Parents

The council is keen to meet with parents and employers to discuss the benefits of childcare, support towards the cost of childcare and offer advice to support families in identifying quality childcare. To meet this objective the council has attended community and business focused events to maximise awareness of childcare in particular two, three and four-year-old funding.

The Children's Centres in North Lincolnshire also play a pivotal role in both promoting childcare to families and in supporting two-year-olds to access a place. Health visitors meet with families of two-year-olds at their 'Ages and Stages' Development Check/Integrated Health Check and can promote free childcare places. All health visitors have a pack of information to support them in fully promoting the free childcare.

The council web site has a wide range of information for families about childcare. A new on-line application service being launched in the autumn term means that parents can apply for two-year-old funding and receive an instant decision in relation to their eligibility for a free childcare place. This is then followed via email with a link to details of childcare providers available in their home locality. This speeds up the process and provides an around the clock service to families.

The Family Information Service (FIS) continues to support families to find high quality childcare that meets their family's needs. They are the primary source of information on childcare in the area, support families with information on-line, via the telephone, email, SMS text service and monthly newsletters. The team can support with all types of queries including:

- Finding childcare in a local area
- How to choose childcare
- Advice on the varied Government schemes available to help parents and carers meet the cost of childcare
- Applying for two-year-old funding
- Providing brokerage support where a family needs more assistance to find childcare that meets their needs
- Information and advice for families of children with a special educational need or disability to find childcare, activities or other sources of support
- Signposting families to sources of local and national family support including Children's Centres, benefits and debt advice, parenting, health and well-being support.

The FIS gained the Family First Award in December 2015, demonstrating their commitment to meeting the needs of all families. This has been developed by the National Association of Family Information Services and is a quality assurance scheme to enable Local Authorities to develop and provide information services that exceed the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006. This relates to roles and

responsibilities of Local Authorities regarding the provision of information, advice and guidance to parents, prospective parents and carers.

The FIS Steering Group continues to bring together key council and external partners on a quarterly basis to support them in identifying and meeting the needs of families.

The FIS received 318 enquiries directly related to families looking for childcare during the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 which equated to a 6.7 per cent drop from the previous year. This is in part due to the FIS making childcare information available on-line. Analysis of web page use shows that there were 12709 visitors seeking information about childcare in the same period; this is a 28 per cent increase on 2015/16.

In addition, 326 enquires were received about funded early education for two, three and four year olds and a further 349 enquiries on a variety of other subjects. Parents calls related to when their child would be eligible for funded early education, the criteria for two-year-old funding and where they could access a place for their child's funded early education. There were also a number of enquiries related to when 30 hours free childcare would be available. In addition to telephone enquiries the number of visits to the council funded early education web pages was in excess of 2000 visits (funded education 2013 visits, two-year-old funding 1724 and three and four-year-old funding 612 visits).

In 96 per cent of the enquiries the detailed and up-to-date information, gathered and maintained by the FIS, and provided to the family in the form of a personalised list, was sufficient to enable them to find appropriate childcare without further assistance.

For 18 enquiries FIS staff used their knowledge of the childcare market and their skills in working with families with complex childcare needs to try and broker a relationship between the family and a suitable childcare provider. They were successful for six of the families in finding childcare suitable childcare to meet their needs.

Generally, difficulties remain for some families with finding school pick-ups in the Scunthorpe area with a small number of schools having no childcare available or just one or two childminders covering them. However, it is a small demand and would not make a specific out of school club viable in any of the locations. All childminders are encouraged to offer wrap around care as one of their services to maximise income potential and meet community need.

The SEND Local Offer web site, a resource for families of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, provides details of childcarers throughout North Lincolnshire and how they support children with additional needs. The site helps families to find childcare to meet the individual needs of their child, in the last year (April 2016 – March 2017) there has been 2929 visitors viewing the childcare pages of the site.

## 10.1 Family Focus

Family Focus is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the FIS to provide the families of North Lincolnshire with information related to childcare as well as local activities for children aged from nought to 20 (or 25 if they have a special educational need or disability). Families subscribe to the e-newsletter with more than 2700 families receiving the newsletter monthly. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the e-newsletter is shared with family, friends and professionals as such the number of families it reaches is higher than subscribed users.

## 10.2 Support for families with the cost of childcare

There are a number of forms of assistance available to help families with the cost of childcare. The government launched Childcare Choices in the spring 2017 ([www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)), the website provides families with information about support towards the cost of childcare and provides a calculator to help families to determine which is the most suitable for their family. Support with the cost of childcare enables parents to enter education, training and employment which are vital to improving their child's life chances and to reducing poverty.

Materials are also available locally for parents that outline the support that is available to them to assist them in meeting the costs and that demonstrate the educational benefits of early education.

Research was carried out with families in North Lincolnshire that used childcare in 2016<sup>32</sup>. This shows that, of the 718 families that returned the survey, 35 per cent (250 families) paid childcare fees (for babies, toddlers and/or for additional hours to the funded early education). Of these 43 per cent (107 families) received some support with the cost including childcare vouchers (52 families), the childcare element of Working Tax Credits (52 families) or student childcare support (3 families). Funded early education was not considered by families as support with the cost of childcare as none of them cited this, however more than 60 per cent of the families were in receipt of early education. In addition when asked what factors determined their choice of childcare 23 per cent of families said the cost of childcare was a factor.

### 10.2.1 Free childcare

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours a week funded early education (during term time) commencing the term after their third birthday until compulsory school age. This equates to 570 hours per annum. From September 2017, families in employment (both parents, and single parent) can apply for an additional 15 hours per week (during term time) via Childcare Choices. Working families can stretch the entitlement allowing them to access funded childcare for fewer hours per week but throughout the year.

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<sup>32</sup> Families Views of Childcare in North Lincolnshire 2016, North Lincolnshire Council research.

Nationally, 40 per cent of all two-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours free early education, commencing the term after their second birthday. Families must meet criteria as set by the government to access a place.

Work is on-going to promote two, three and four-year-old funding. Children's Centres and the FIS are playing a pivotal role in supporting eligible families with applications and to assist them in finding quality childcare to meet their individual family circumstances.

### **10.2.2 Tax Credits and Universal Credit**

Working families on lower incomes receive support through tax credits of up to 70 per cent of childcare costs in Ofsted registered childcare; up to a maximum of £9,100 a year for one child (£175 per week) or £15,600 a year for two or more children (£300 per week). A parent with one child can receive a maximum of £122.50 per week (70 per cent of £175).

To be eligible both parents must be in employment, currently working more than 16 hours a week, or a single parent working 16 or more hours a week. Each award is based on household income from the previous tax year, the amount of support starts to taper off once the household income reaches £6,420. Nationally, HMRC finalised awards data for 2015/16<sup>33</sup> illustrates that the average help with childcare costs per week was £57.00.

Tax Credits are being phased out on a rolling programme and being replaced with Universal Credit. All new claimants in North Lincolnshire now receive Universal Credit. Universal Credit is a single system of means tested support for working-age people who are in or out of work, regardless of the number of hours worked. For those families in receipt of Universal Credit, the percentage of childcare costs supported will increase to 85 per cent of eligible childcare costs up to the same maximum levels as the childcare element of tax credits.

The higher percentage that families can claim back in childcare fees means that families can receive up to £646 a month for one child or £1,108 for two or more children.

### **10.2.3 Employer Supported Childcare**

Parents can claim relief on income tax and National Insurance Contributions on the cost of childcare, using childcare vouchers or workplace nurseries provided through their employers. Each parent can benefit from up to £243 a month (£2,916 per annum) of childcare vouchers. Ofsted registered childcare providers can accept vouchers in payment for childcare.

For basic rate taxpayers this is an annual gain of £933 each year and higher rate taxpayers a gain of £630 each year. One of the largest employers locally, North

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<sup>33</sup> HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics Finalised Awards in 2015-16.

Lincolnshire Council, offers a salary sacrifice scheme to their employees. Vouchers are popular with childcare settings as they are a guarantee of income from parents. It is however, proposed to phase out employer supported childcare due to the limited number of employers that offer the facility (only 5 per cent of employers nationally offer vouchers). Families can sign up to childcare vouchers until October 2018. Tax Free Childcare will replace Employer Supported Childcare.

#### **10.2.4 Tax Free Childcare**

Working families (including self-employed) with children under the age of 12 years (or under 17 with a special educational need or disability) can open a Tax Free Childcare account to pay for Ofsted registered childcare at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). The government will top-up the money families pay into the account. For every £8 paid in, the government will add an additional £2. Families can receive up to £2000 per child (£4000 for children with a disability) per annum towards their childcare costs.

Both parents (or single parent) must expect to earn (on average) at least £125 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage). Families on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or unable to work due to a disability or caring responsibilities could still be eligible. Where a parent earns/or expects to earn in excess of £100,000 per annum they cannot receive Tax Free Childcare. Tax Free Childcare cannot be used alongside Childcare Vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. It can be used with the 15 and 30 hour childcare schemes.

#### **10.2.5 Students**

##### **10.2.5.1 Care to Learn**

Care to Learn is for parents that are studying and are under the age of 20 years at the start of their course of study.

The funding is available for parents on courses in schools or sixth form colleges. Students receive up to £160 per child per week, towards the cost of childcare in Ofsted registered provision. The funding can also help with a retainer to keep childcare places available over the summer holidays and taking children to the childcare provider.

Childcare payments are made directly to the childcare provider. Travel payments are made to the school or college who then arrange the travel on behalf of the student.

Parents over 20 years of age in further education may be able to apply for Discretionary Learner Support to assist with the cost of childcare.

##### **10.2.5.2 The Childcare Grant**

Full-time higher education students with children, who are eligible for student finance, can apply for a childcare care grant of up to 85 per cent of childcare costs. The amount depends on household income, the cost of childcare and the number of

dependent children. The grant helps with childcare costs for children less than 15 years of age, or under 17 years if they have a disability. Any grant funding is paid on top of student finance and does not have to be repaid. The grant is paid termly directly into the student bank account.

### **10.3 Flexible working practices**

All employees have the legal right to request flexible working, this is known as 'making a statutory application'. Employers are obliged to consider all requests in a reasonable manner. Flexible working is a way of working that suits an employee's needs for example, having flexible start and finish times or working from home.

### **10.4 Shared parental leave**

The government has introduced shared parental leave to support families with the introduction of new family members. Families are now able to access Shared Parental Leave (SPL) and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (ShPP). Families may be entitled to 52 weeks of maternity or adoption leave and 39 weeks of maternity pay, allowance or adoption pay. Where parents are eligible for shared parental leave they can use it to take leave in blocks separated by periods of work, instead of taking it all in one go. The SPL and ShPP must be taken between the baby's birth and first birthday or within one year of adoption.

## Parents say:

“I am very happy with the childcare provided by Rainbow, the staff are all excellent and I know my child is looked after very well. The prices are very reasonable, but it is still difficult to afford. I wish some help could be offered to help people who want to work with children under three to do so.”

“I do not like how inflexible all other childcare providers were and how if my shifts change I would have to pay for childcare even if my child was not attending.”

“At present with one in childcare we can just about cope. I have gone part time to reduce to three days childcare (Ofsted) and one day family; now with a second child we will definitely require help with costs.”

“I would like my daughter to have more hours at pre-school as her development and learning has improved so much since starting but struggle with costs for only two days and we both work.”

“More help should be available as discounts for more than one child some months the child care cost can be as high as £1300 this is more than one of our wages.”

“I have had to give up work since having my child as having no family locally I have to rely on childcare which was not an option due to cost, as I would have had to pay for my younger 2 children if more hours were available I may have been able to stay at work.”

“Whilst I agree that Ofsted registered childcare is great, it is only available for three year olds, I have to work but pay out a large chunk of my salary out to childcare. I would like more help from a younger age.”

## **11. Government Policy and its Impact on Childcare**

There are significant changes in national policy including an increase in the number of funded hours for three and four-year-olds to 30 hours for some children, the introduction of the living wage, pensions and the introduction of Universal Credit.

### **11.1 'Right to Request'**

Making use of school buildings that may be unused during school holidays has the potential to increase the supply and decrease the cost of holiday and after school childcare. To facilitate this, the Government announced plans to provide parents and childcare providers with a 'right to request' that schools provide childcare before and after school and during school holidays. The guidance provides three models of childcare that schools may consider if they decide to deliver on requests. Services may be managed in-house by the schools themselves, externally by independent providers or with a blend of external and in-house management. The right will apply to parents of children from reception class age up to year nine, and childcare providers, including childminders, will also be given the right to request the use of school facilities for out of school and holiday childcare. The guidance advises that schemes should be broadly cost-neutral with any profits generated to be reinvested back into the service or the school. Schools should also be encouraged to be transparent in how they set their rates and include parents and governors in the decision process. The right to request may offer a new way to provide holiday childcare in particular, and become available from the autumn term 2016.

### **11.2 Increasing employment costs**

All businesses are required to pay the National Living Wage (NLW) to all employees over the age of 25 years. The NLW commenced from 1 April 2016 and has risen to £7.50 in 2017. The government has committed to raising this to £9 per hour from 2020. A lower national minimum wage (NMW) is set for employees under 21 years of age, starting at £3.50 for an apprentice increasing in stages to £7.05 for 21-24 year olds.

The law on workplace pensions has also changed. Every employer with at least one member of staff now has new duties, including enrolling those who are eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contributing towards it.

This is called 'automatic enrolment' because it is automatic for staff – they don't have to do anything to be enrolled into a pension scheme, but it is not automatic for employers. All workers between the ages of 22 years and state pension age that earn more than £10,000 per annum must be enrolled. The employer contribution is at least one per cent of qualifying earnings, with this rising to three per cent by 2018.

Both the National Living Wage and auto enrolment increase business costs considerably, a snapshot survey by the National Day Nurseries Association of its members indicated that payrolls would be pushed up by ten per cent from April 2016.

With staff costs making up 70 to 75 per cent of business costs there is concern that fees will be increased to cover the cost, making childcare less affordable for parents or providers will recruit younger staff and employ fewer supernumerary staff.

These measures could reduce the quality of childcare providers can offer. The government has consulted providers extensively on the cost of delivering early education funding, a new national early years funding formula was introduced from April 2017.

### **11.3 Childcare qualifications**

The Early Years Educator, a level three qualification, was introduced for the early years workforce in September 2014. The government originally stated that all Early Years Educators will be required to have at least a level C (grade 4) in GCSE in Maths and English prior to commencing the course, this requirement has been revised to completion of the course of study. It is the government's intention that this will raise the overall quality of literacy and numeracy skills of those entering the workforce.

A consultation by the Department for Education, during 2016 reconsidered the level C (grade 4) in GCSE in maths and English. There were over 4000 responses to the consultation which found that the sector welcomed the ambition of the GCSE requirement, but found that employers and training providers were experiencing difficulties with their recruitment because of the qualifications requirements. A decision was taken to broaden the qualifications in English and maths which can be achieved by early educators (level 3), this means that level 2 functional skills are accepted alongside other suitable level 2 qualifications including GCSE's from April 2017.

### **11.4 Childminders operating away from home**

From 1 January 2016, childminders are able to operate for half of their time elsewhere, for example working with schools for out-of-hours care or during the holidays. The childminder will need to have sought and received approval from Ofsted before working from a different site. Ratios will remain the same as will the requirements of the EYFS. This will enable childminders to be more flexible in the delivery of their services and potentially work in partnership to run a larger group on non-domestic premises. The change is as a result of legislation in the Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act.

Three childminders spend a proportion of their time away from home but all have chosen to register the out of school provision separately with Ofsted.

## Appendix One - Quality of Childcare

Early years childcare shows a significant positive impact on early outcomes for children.

National research demonstrates that overall, having a longer early education experience has a greater benefit on literacy outcomes, whatever the quality, but differences in quality make more of a difference than longer time<sup>34</sup>. An early education has a positive net effect on Maths and English, not just on early outcomes, but still showing in English and Maths test scores at age 11. This is the greatest for high quality pre-school. A similar picture is evident for social and behavioral outcomes. More effective provision leads to better outcomes. Achievement in the Early Year's Foundation Stage correlates to achievement at school in Key Stage One; 94 per cent of children who achieve a good level of development at age five go on to achieve the expected levels for reading at Key Stage One and they are five times more likely to achieve the highest level. Pupils who start off in the bottom 20 per cent of attainment at age five are six times more likely to be in the bottom 20 per cent compared to their peers<sup>26</sup>.

The best quality provision is key to providing the best start for children in North Lincolnshire. The council strives to work in partnership with providers and partner agencies to improve quality of provision and the qualifications of the childcare professionals.

### 1. Ofsted Inspection Judgements

The private, voluntary and independent sector provides funded early education to 550,400 three and four-year-olds nationally<sup>35</sup>. It is estimated by Ofsted<sup>36</sup> that the sector provides 1.3 million places overall, 62 per cent of three and four-year-olds access their funded early education in the private, voluntary and independent sector.

Schools also play a major role in early education with 321,990 children accessing early education in a school nursery class or maintained nursery school (38 per cent excludes four year olds that are in an infant class). Ofsted inspects all early education regardless of the sector; there are however, different inspection frameworks for different sectors.

Nationally (2017) 94 per cent of childcare provision is rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. As a result, many more parents now have a better chance of finding a

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<sup>34</sup> Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE) Report, UCL Institute of Education. The EPPSE project is a large-scale, longitudinal study of the progress and development of children from pre-school to post compulsory education. It considers the aspects of pre-school provision which have a positive impact on children's attainment, progress and development.

<sup>35</sup> Provision for children under 5 years of age in England January 2017, Department for Education, SFR29-2017

<sup>36</sup> Childcare Providers and Inspections Main Findings August 2017, Ofsted

high quality early education place in the area. Quality is rising for nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, as well as in schools.

The early years inspection framework was revised in November 2013. It sets out shorter timescales for re-inspection of inadequate and requires improvement provision; this is to ensure that Ofsted take rapid and robust action with providers that do not provide a good quality of early education.

## **1.1 Childminder Ofsted inspections**

In North Lincolnshire of the childminders inspected in the year up to 31 August 2017, 100 per cent of childminders received a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome. This increased the overall percentage of good or better providers available to 98.5 per cent of all childminders. This has increased from 96 per cent in August 2016.

## **1.2 Non-domestic inspections**

In North Lincolnshire of the non-domestic providers (day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) that were inspected up to 31 August 2017, 100 per cent received a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome. This increased the overall percentage of good or better non-domestic providers available to 100 per cent; this was an increase over the year of two per cent, from 98 per cent in August 2016.

# **2. Raising the Quality of Childcare in North Lincolnshire**

## **2.1 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)**

The government introduced EYPP from April 2015 to improve the outcomes for disadvantaged three and four-year olds in funded early education. The objective of the funding is to support providers in raising the attainment of disadvantaged children and close the gap between them and their peers.

This additional funding enables providers to assess the needs of children eligible for the funding and assist them to better meet the needs of these children either through improved access to training, or resources, or paying for their staff teams formal qualifications. In the spring term 2017 approximately 20 per cent of children in receipt of funded early education were eligible for EYPP.

## **2.2 Qualifications and Workforce**

A workforce audit was carried out in the summer of 2017. This took into account all staff working the private and voluntary early year's sector at that time.

Data included in the audit was sourced from non-domestic and domestic Ofsted registered providers, including childminders.

There were a total of 847 employees with a range of qualifications recorded. Figure 20 provides a breakdown of qualifications in 2016 by locality.

### Qualification Levels

Unqualified staff (including apprentices) = 39 (4.5 per cent)

Level two (minimum qualification level required by regulation) = 157 (18.5 per cent)

Level three or above = 651 (77 per cent)

This means that 95.5 per cent of workforce in North Lincolnshire meets the Ofsted qualification requirement of level two or above.

Of these there are:

Graduates (Level six and above) = 134 (16 per cent of the early years workforce in North Lincolnshire)

Graduates completing teacher status = 33/134 (25 per cent) (potential for a 75 per cent increase by targeting the 101 people qualified at Level six)

Figure 20 - Locality Breakdown of qualifications (2016)

Locality	Unqualified Number (percentage)	L2 and above Number (percentage)	Graduate Number (percentage)
Barton	11 (7)	119 (78)	22 (15)
Brigg	8 (4.5)	132 (76)	34 (19.5)
Isle	5 (5)	87 (91)	4 (4)
Scunthorpe North	0 (0)	78 (76)	25 (24)
Scunthorpe South	15 (5)	258 (80)	49 (15)

A continuous professional development programme is currently under development. Staff at Level three qualified and graduates are target groups for training. This is as part of the commitment to a highly qualified workforce to improve outcomes for all children in North Lincolnshire.

The council offers a Childminder Briefing to support individuals to make an informed decision about childminding as a career. Following on from that the council also offers a course, an Introduction to Home Based Childcare to support potential childminders with their understanding of the requirements of the Ofsted Early Years and Childcare Registers. Childminders who have completed the IHBC are able to access the NCFE CACHE Level three Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare. During 2016/2017, a pilot of the award was offered and four learners were successful in completing the full award. A second group is now undertaking the Award.

## 2.3 Early Years Team

The Early Years team supports childcare providers and schools to achieve a good or better Ofsted outcome, as well as improving the skills and knowledge of providers in delivering quality early education to children. The team sits within Standards and Effectiveness and works alongside the school improvement team.

Termly quality improvement reviews monitor the progress of all providers and these inform support providers are offered. Bespoke packages are being considered for 2017-18.

Training is provided by professionals within the Early Years team and also external trainers according to the needs and requests of the early years sector. Training aims to be responsive to the requirements and needs of the sector. There is ongoing engagement from Early Years Professionals and Teachers in supporting quality improvement within the Early Years and Early Years Outcomes Duty forums are accessible to all providers on a termly basis.

In addition, there are a range of network support groups such as manager forums, childminder network meetings, SENCO termly updates and baby room forums for private and voluntary sector providers in each of the localities to share best practice.

A newly introduced sector-led approach to the moderation of assessment is in place across all age groups nought to five years with the aim of improving the accuracy of assessment and precision of teaching across all early years providers and schools. Practitioners from early years provision have been through a rigorous selection process and are now trained moderators. School moderators continue to work with the authority and school moderation is now led by the Early Years team. Additional partnership working with schools on moderation will support children's transition into school.

The council employs two practicing childminders. Each of these childminders has either a good or an outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome and has a clear focus on improving and developing practice with other childminders. These childminders carry out this role in addition to their own childminding role.

A support visit from the Early Years team is offered as a childminder progresses through the Introduction to Home Based Childcare course and prior to registration with Ofsted. Childminders are encouraged to link with the local Children's Centre to access support and promote their services, as well as attend termly childminder network meetings to share good practice.

In addition, in recognition of the benefits of quality leadership within provision and its impact on the quality of teaching and learning, the council has developed a Leadership and Management programme. Setting managers and school leaders are encouraged to access this training programme.

- **Quality Marks**

A number of quality improvement tools are offered by the Early Years team. There are available to private and voluntary providers and are now available to schools such as Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R) and Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale ECERS-R (Revised) and ECERS-E (Extended).

The team continues with the development and delivery of quality improvement processes and quality marks. The quality marks currently offered are Steps to Quality, ITERS-R, ECERS-R and ECERS-E and Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being (SSTEWS).

- **ITERS-R, ECERS-R, ECERS-E and SSTEWS**

ITERS-R (0-2½ years) and ECERS-R and ECERS-E (2½-5 years) involve an assessment of the environment in an early years setting or school. Areas of strength and areas for development are identified within the rating scales and providers then have identified areas in which to improve the environment for children. Some Early Years Professionals/Teachers (EYP/TS) have been trained in ITERS and ECERS and undertake assessments alongside council officers. Impact of these audits is to be tracked through an annual ITERS and ECERS report.

Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being (SSTEWS) is a seven module program that is focused on the emotional well-being and how the environment and practice within provision supports children's resilience and independence. SSTEWS is in the process of being delivered to six providers. Again, EYP/TS are involved in the dissemination of this development programme through workshop sessions alongside LA staff.

- **Steps to Quality**

The council offers a three step quality assurance scheme called Steps to Quality to support providers with their continuous quality improvement. The scheme is a collaborative partnership with Hull, Calderdale and York local authorities. New revisions to the scheme have been implemented successfully. Mentoring support is now incorporated as part of development officer visits from the Early Years team.

- **Childminder Engagement**

The FIS with the Early Years Team has looked at the levels of childminder engagement with the council. Lower levels of engagement are highlighted at QIR meetings based on contact with LA teams (FIS, Children's Centres and Early Years team). There is a procedure in place to categorise all providers related to their levels of engagement; those with low levels of engagement are targeted for support from the Early Years team to ensure the highest quality childcare for our children.

- **Partnership Working**

Close partnership working between agencies is integral to raising the quality of early years provision and ensure children's needs are met. The Early Years team works closely with health in the successful implementation of the statutory integrated health check (IHC) for children aged two years. Other key partners include schools, Children's Centres, LSCB, Educational Psychology and the Early Learning and Development Centre (ELDC), SEND.

## Appendix Two - Understanding North Lincolnshire

The sufficiency audit presents a profile of the local population and economy and its impact on residents of North Lincolnshire. The report uses the most recently available, published evidence. It considers recent trends and factors that impact on parents demand for and ability to pay for childcare in North Lincolnshire.

### 1. Population Data

According to the 2011 Census, there are an estimated 167,400 people living in North Lincolnshire. This represents a 9.5 per cent growth since 2001 and is significantly higher than the 2010 mid-year estimate of 161,300 published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in 2011.

#### 1.1 Children and young people population

The average number of children in each year group is 1,892. The highest numbers of children live in the Crosby and Park ward, there are also high numbers of children in the Ashby and Brumby wards. These wards have the highest numbers of two, three and four-year-olds indicating the highest demand for funded early education places. Figure 22 demonstrates the number of 0 to 14 year olds population in North Lincolnshire based on doctor registrations as in February 2016. The population of 0 to four year olds overall has declined slightly since 2015 (123 less children), whereas, there are more children from five years upwards (385 more children). The largest increase in numbers of children is in the eight to ten-year-old population (an increase of 236 children).

Figure 22 – Population 0 to 14 year olds in North Lincolnshire

	0 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 7 years	8 - 10 years	11 - 14 years
Ashby Ward	603	409	613	557	556
Axholme Central	186	145	238	222	319
Axholme North	228	174	284	263	347
Axholme South	167	113	202	205	280
Barton	344	267	412	380	443
Bottesford	239	183	288	312	383
Brigg and Wolds	304	211	379	377	459
Broughton and Appleby	170	121	188	202	273
Brumby	545	373	542	550	632

Ward	0 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 7 years	8 - 10 years	11 - 14 years
Burringham and Gunness	103	82	108	77	93
Burton upon Stather and Winterton	291	223	368	339	466
Crosby and Park	632	458	652	615	704
Ferry	244	193	335	349	403
Frodingham	339	261	339	343	399
Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens	390	266	391	390	519
Ridge	283	220	345	342	437
Town	376	243	313	343	416
Totals	5444	3942	5997	5866	7129

Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (February 2016)

By 2039, the population of North Lincolnshire is projected to increase to 179,500; this is compared to a population of 169,820 in 2015. When considering the projections for nought to 14 year olds, there is a decline in nought to nine-year-olds. Whereas for ten to 14 year olds there is a predicted increase in the numbers of children. The population projections are illustrated in figure 23.

Figure 23 - Population Projections for North Lincolnshire 0 to 14 year olds for the period 2016 to 2039

	<b>Population Projections 2014 (5 Year Age Groups)</b>					
	<b>People Aged 0-4</b>		<b>People Aged 5-9</b>		<b>People Aged 10-14</b>	
	<b>Count</b>		<b>count</b>		<b>count</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2039</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2039</b>
North Lincolnshire	9386	8900	9933	9200	9059	9500
Percentage Difference	-5%		-7%		5%	

2014 - Actual Population Data Source: North Lincolnshire Health Commissioning Group

2039 - Projected Population - ONS Population Projections 2014 (5 year age groups)

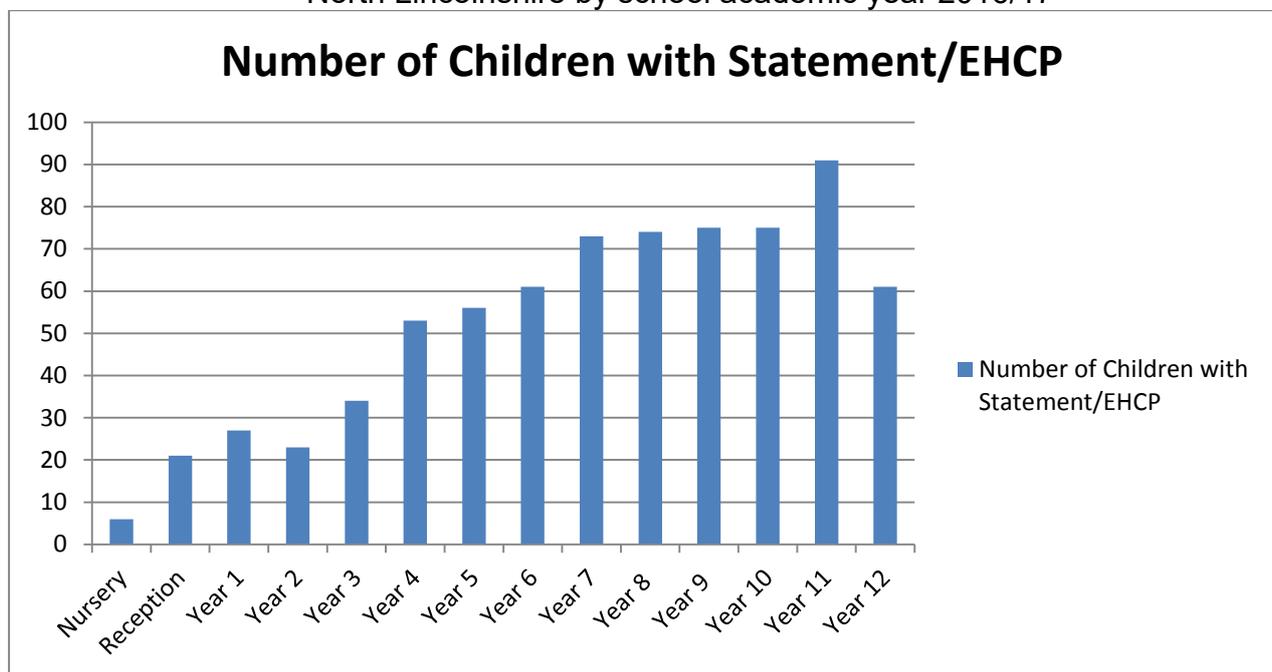
## 1.2 Children and young people with a disability

Children and young people with special education needs or disabilities have an education, health and care (EHCP) plan or a statement of special educational needs. An EHCP plan is where an assessment of education, health and social care needs has been agreed by families and a multi-agency group of professionals. It is available from birth to age 25.

It is a way of providing support that puts children, young people and families at the centre of the assessment and planning process, to make sure that their views are not only heard but also understood. This new process focuses on what is important for children and young people, i.e. what they and you want to achieve now and in the future.

In the autumn term of 2016 in North Lincolnshire there were 852 children attending schools and pre-schools with a statement or EHCP. Figure 24 illustrates the numbers of children with a statement whose family live in North Lincolnshire. The table demonstrates an almost steady increase in the numbers of children during each school year. A pattern emerges that as the curriculum becomes more complex in nature more children are statemented or have an EHCP.

Figure 24 - The numbers of children with a statement whose family live in North Lincolnshire by school academic year 2016/17



It is unusual for an early years aged child to have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Childcare providers work with families to identify any potential development delays, examples of the tools used by the providers are observations of the child at play and the two-year-old Integrated Health Check.

### 1.3 Ethnicity

The resident population by ethnic group is presented in figure 25 for the total population and for 0 – 14 year olds as in March 2011. The ethnicity of children accessing funded early education in the spring term 2017 is presented alongside the population data from the Census 2011. Children of all ethnic minorities are attending childcare settings in North Lincolnshire; data is presented only for funded three and four-year-olds. Eighty four per cent of the three and four-year-olds are white British. Two hundred and seventy nine children are white European this is an increase of 25 per cent since 2015/16, as more European children take-up their funded entitlement.

Figure 25 – Resident population by ethnic group for the total population and 0 – 14 year olds & take-up of funded early education by ethnic groups

Age	All categories: Ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	Irish	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Other White	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Mixed /multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Chinese	Other Asian	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British: Total	Other ethnic group : Total
Total Population	167,446	154,526	727	90	5,405	341	166	451	286	1,122	862	1,443	530	592	494	411
0 to 4 years	10,282	8,968	5	11	514	42	37	95	40	93	103	177	29	67	37	64
5 to 7 years	5,782	5,166	6	9	165	31	23	49	22	37	62	128	13	28	24	19
8 to 9 years	3,595	3,253	2	1	84	17	10	26	13	31	46	72	8	11	17	4
10 to 14 years	9,550	8,740	10	4	250	36	26	68	20	57	73	151	23	36	46	10

Population Source - ONS Census 2011

Ethnicity of 3 & 4 year old funded children (Spring 2016)	3400^	2765	3	15	279*	7	6	17	32	20	23	48	8	34	13	35
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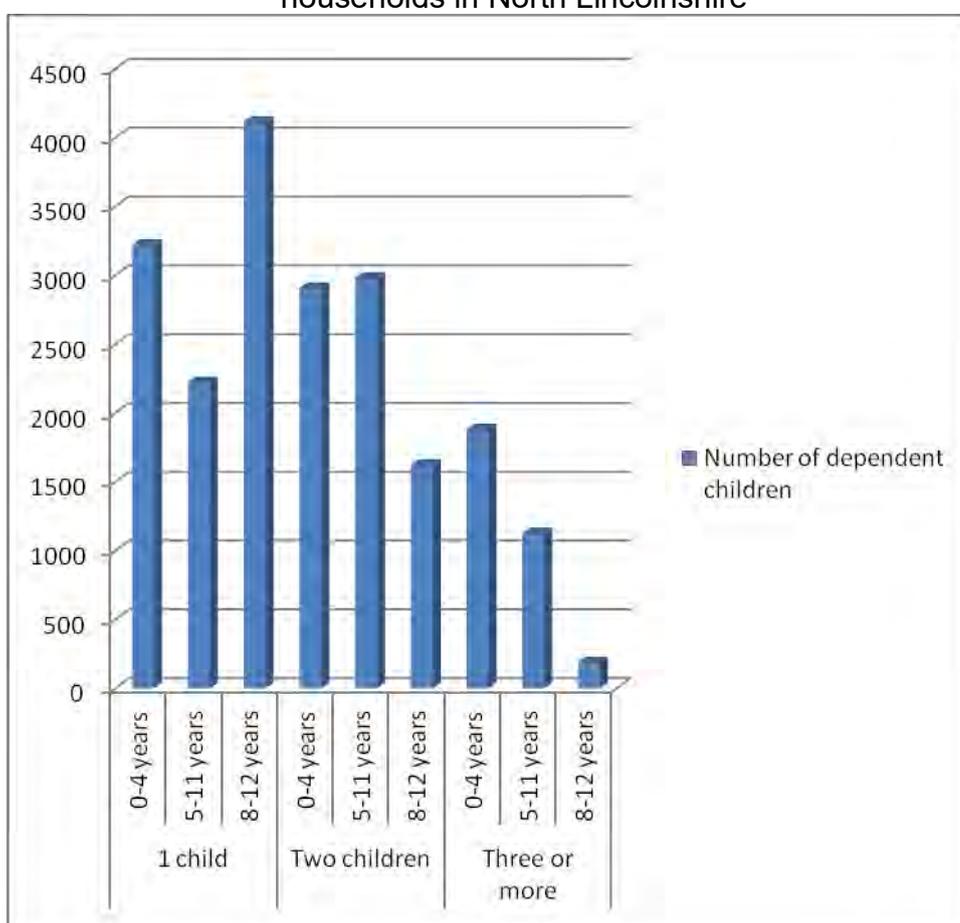
\*White European – 257, Other White – 5

^Children attending both a maintained nursery and private or voluntary provider are double counted in the 3 & 4 year old statistics (95 families did not disclose their ethnic origin)

## 2. Household Type/Family Composition

There are 70,684 households in North Lincolnshire recorded in the Census 2011. Fifty-four per cent of the households are in urban wards North Lincolnshire and 46 per cent are in rural wards. The household size is recorded in the Census 2011. There were 35,836 dependent children living in North Lincolnshire, 47 per cent of families have one dependent child, 37 per cent have two dependent children and 16 per cent of families have three or more children that are dependent. Figure 26 illustrates the numbers and age of dependent children in North Lincolnshire. The wards with the highest numbers are Ridge (Brigg) and in Scunthorpe; Crosby and Park, Brumby and Bottesford each with more than 3,000 households with dependent children.

Figure 26 – The age and number of dependent children in households in North Lincolnshire



Source: ONS Census 2011

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) provides a breakdown of dwellings by tenure. Figure 27 illustrates the ownership of dwellings in North Lincolnshire as published in 2015. This shows an increase in dwellings in the period 2014-2015, however data is based on estimates, as such cannot be considered as accurate to the nearest dwelling. However, the average number of

new properties (new builds, conversions, etc.) in North Lincolnshire increases by 350<sup>37</sup> per year, this figure is consistent with the increase in the number of dwellings reported.

Figure 27 - Ownership of dwellings in North Lincolnshire (2016)

	All Dwellings	Dwelling Stock – Council Owned	Dwelling Stock – Registered Provider <sup>1</sup>	Dwelling Stock – Other Public Sector	Dwelling Stock – Private Ownership
North Lincolnshire	75,450	10	11,350	60	64,030

<sup>1</sup> Social Landlords (for example, North Lincolnshire Homes)

Source: Gov.uk Table 100

The percentage of private ownership in North Lincolnshire (85 per cent) is higher than nationally (82 per cent). The average house price in January 2017 was £134,504 considerably lower than the national average of £234,794<sup>38</sup>, house prices rose by four per cent in the year. The affordability of accommodation may be a factor in the higher percentage of property ownership in the area.

In North Lincolnshire it is forecast that there will be an increase in the number of households to 76,856 in 2021, according to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Interim Household Projection figures. The average household size is set to change from 2.4 in 2011 to 2.05 in 2026<sup>39</sup>.

Of the 70,684 households in North Lincolnshire in the 2011 census, 56,607 (79 per cent) have access to a car or van, 36 per cent of these have access to more than one vehicle. Twenty one per cent of households in North Lincolnshire do not have access to a car or van. This is important particularly in the rural communities where childcare can be some distance away from the family home and may not have good communication links via public transport to be able to access childcare. Having no car available can exacerbate the problems experienced with finding employment. Public transport to industrial estates within North Lincolnshire in some instances is poor. The bus transport that is provided is not usually suitable for shift patterns; however Call Connect a local transport solution that responds to passenger requests/bookings may support people into work.

## 2.1 Housing land allocations

The Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Document identifies potential land for housing developments in North Lincolnshire. In order to meet demand the aim is to deliver 754 new homes per annum to 2026.

Key sites that will potentially impact upon the number of childcare places required in North Lincolnshire are outlined in the report. All sites are proposed as mixed developments and include affordable housing, thus providing the potential for new

<sup>37</sup> Net Additional Dwellings 2012-2015, Table 123, Gov.uk

<sup>38</sup> Land Registry UK House Price Index England: January 2017 [www.gov.uk/land-registry](http://www.gov.uk/land-registry)

<sup>39</sup> Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan, Assessment of Five Year Housing Land Supply 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2021, North Lincolnshire Council

family homes and a demand for childcare places in these areas. It should be noted that the population of nought to four-year-olds is not predicted to rise as such any areas of new demand may be at a cost to the sustainability of existing provision. This may have its greatest impact in small rural communities where there is limited provision for affordable housing. The plan outlines are provisionally for the period 2014 to 2021.

Key sites in Scunthorpe include:

- Lincolnshire Lakes – 6,000 houses are planned on this site using a phased approach. Phase one provisionally planned from 2016 provides 670 new dwellings.
- Phoenix Parkway – 120 dwellings
- Glebe Road Site – 100 dwellings
- Doncaster Road – 300 dwellings
- Church Square – 105 dwellings
- Ferry Road West – 120 dwellings
- Enderby Road – 120 dwellings

This may indicate a future demand for more childcare towards the north of Scunthorpe and in the new development area known as Lincolnshire Lakes.

Land is also allocated for housing developments in:

- Barton (327 dwellings)
- Brigg (535 dwellings)
- Kirton (207 dwellings)
- Winterton (122 dwellings)

### **3. Employment Status**

#### **3.1 Employment**

For North Lincolnshire, the Office of National Statistics estimated working age population in 2016, was 104,400 people (16 to 64 years), of these 52,400 were males and 52,000 are females.

When considering those that are economically active in June 2017, 84,900 residents are economically active<sup>40</sup>, 45,200 are males and 39,800 are females. In the 12 months to September 2017 there were 81,300 people in employment<sup>41</sup>. This represents 75.9 per cent of the population aged 16 to 64 years, compared to 74.5 per cent nationally. North Lincolnshire traditionally has a higher percentage of the population that are economically active than nationally.

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<sup>40</sup> Economically Active is defined as the number of people between the ages of 16 – 64 years either in employment or unemployed actively seeking work.

<sup>41</sup> Source - NOMIS Labour Market Profile – North Lincolnshire (Oct 2017 – Sept 2017)

The majority of the employed in North Lincolnshire work full-time. The figures for 2016 show a total of 49,000 people work full-time, representing 70 per cent of the 16 to 64 year old population. This compares to a regional figure of 66.5 per cent and a national figure of 67.8 per cent. Of the remaining working aged population, 22,000 people (representing 31.4 per cent) work part-time, compared to 33.5 per cent regionally and 32.2 per cent nationally.

The proportion of employees employed in professional occupations is lower than both the regional (18 per cent) and national rates (20.2 per cent) at 14.3 per cent. The other key difference in employment roles in North Lincolnshire, is for skilled trades (15.7 per cent) and process, process plant and machine operatives (12.4 per cent) the percentage of employees in these roles is higher than the national (10.3 per cent and 6.3 per cent) and regional averages (11.9 per cent and 7.6 per cent), this is reflective of key business sectors in the area.

The number of people self-employed (September 2017) was 8,400 people this represents seven per cent of the working age population. This compares to a regional figure of 9.4 per cent and a national figure of 10.6 per cent, the lower number of self-employed people in North Lincolnshire is a continuing trend. Of those that are self-employed 61 per cent are males.

There are likely to be new employment opportunities over the next five to ten years in North Lincolnshire in a number of trades and sectors, as industries in the South Humber Gateway develop and grow.

### **3.2 Hours worked per week and earnings**

In North Lincolnshire in 2016 (provisional), the median total full-time hours per week worked<sup>42</sup> was 37.5 hours per week; this is marginally lower for Great Britain at 37 hours. For a male the hours worked per week is 40 hours (37.5 hours in Great Britain) and a female this was 38.3 hours per week (37.5 for Great Britain as a whole). The mean total hours work for part-time workers is 16.7 hours for a male and 20.8 hours for a female (17.6 hours and 18.4 hours respectively in Great Britain). This is relevant as financial support is available to low income families in which both parents are working more than 16 hours per week; 70 per cent of the cost of childcare can be met in the form of the childcare element of Working Tax Credits. In addition from September 2017, a further fifteen hours of funded childcare is available for parents in employment.

The median gross hourly rate of pay for full time workers in North Lincolnshire in 2017 is £12.31, for England this is £14.00. In relation to the gross weekly pay for 2017, it is £531.30 in North Lincolnshire (£552.70 for Great Britain). When considering pay for males and females; the gross weekly salary for a male employed full time is £597.50 (£594.20 for Great Britain) and £430.20 for females working full

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<sup>42</sup> Source – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) – Paid Hours Worked, ONS. The survey provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions.

time (£494.40 for England) and £202.20 for part-time employment females (£186.50 for Great Britain). As such, males in North Lincolnshire as an average earn in excess of males in other parts of the country. With a lower costs of housing and childcare in the area families have a higher disposable income than in other parts of the country, this may also be a factor in the higher than national average levels of home ownership.

The North Lincolnshire Economic Regeneration Strategy identifies that 80 per cent of the workforce is local to North Lincolnshire. The balance travel to work from adjacent districts, primarily North East Lincolnshire, Doncaster and Hull, with smaller numbers travelling from elsewhere. Smaller proportions of North Lincolnshire residents travel out to work in these same districts; North Lincolnshire is a net importer of labour.

When considering transport 42.9 per cent of employees travel to work by driving a car or van and a further 4.2 per cent commute to work as passengers in cars or vans. The remainder walk, cycle or use public transport.<sup>43</sup>

### **3.3 Worklessness**

The working population can be broken down into the economically active and the economically inactive. The economically active are people age 16 and over (up to 64 years) who are either in employment (81,300 people) or unemployed (3,700 people). The economically inactive (21,500 people) are people without a job who have not actually sought work in the last four weeks, and are not available to start work in the next two weeks<sup>44</sup>. Many are economically inactive as a choice due to family responsibilities (5,600 people (26.2 per cent higher than national average of 24.3 per cent), or early retirement (4,100 people (19.1 per cent higher than the national average of 13.4 per cent) but many others want a job and would work if they had the right opportunity, incentive or path back into employment. These people are less likely to have a demand for childcare, but are likely to access the funded early education for their children in readiness for school. Of the economically inactive 5,600 people were identified as wanting a job. Almost seventeen per cent of households in North Lincolnshire are workless households (8,900 households), this is higher than the national average of 15 per cent.

Those at particular risk of worklessness are young people under the age of 25 years, especially those with few qualifications and older adults with no formal qualifications or skills. In addition and importantly, in terms of childcare sufficiency, lone parents with young children, people with poor mental health or disabilities and people with caring responsibilities are also at risk of worklessness. Youth unemployment is a major issue in North Lincolnshire, with the rate of claimants aged 18-24 being consistently higher than the regional and national averages. Over the 12 month

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<sup>43</sup> Source – ONS, QS701EW – Method of travel to Work Census 2011

<sup>44</sup> Source – North Lincolnshire Labour Market Profile (Oct 2016 – Sept 2017), Nomis, ONS

period April 2016-2017, the rate of 18-14 year old claimants has fallen to 4.2 per cent (a fall of 0.9 per cent)<sup>45</sup>.

People not in employment are counted as unemployed if they have been looking for work in the last four weeks and if they are able to start work within the next two weeks. It does not matter if the person is looking for a full time job or part-time job or whether the person is claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or any other benefits. In March 2017, 4,100 individuals were classed as being unemployed, a rate of five per cent of the economically active. This compares to 4.7 per cent for Great Britain. The number of unemployed people is different to the JSA claimants as not everyone who is unemployed is eligible for, or claims JSA. Many unemployed people are not eligible for JSA because they have a partner who is in work and/or because of their financial position.

In North Lincolnshire the JSA claimant count<sup>46</sup> rate is 1.4 per cent (1,500 claimants) of the population for November 2016, this is compared to a regional rate of 1.5 per cent and national rate of 1.1 per cent. This is important as research carried out on the take-up of the free early education entitlement was found to be lower in households where no parent was in employment<sup>47</sup>.

The most recent information regarding Tax Credits<sup>48</sup> shows 11,900 families in receipt of payments in 2015/16, of these 3,100 were lone parents. Of these families 6,400 children live in households where the parent/parents are out of work, a further 4,800 children live in households where their parents are working but they receive working tax and child tax credits, suggesting a lower family income. When the childcare element of working tax credits is considered at the time 900 families benefitted from a payment of on average of £45.34 per week. This represents a childcare cost of £64.77 per week. Of these families 600 were lone parent families.

There are 1,100 lone parents claiming benefits in North Lincolnshire (November 2016), this represents 2.1 per cent of benefit claimants. Figure 28 illustrates the numbers of lone parents in North Lincolnshire in March 2011. Lone parents with children over the age of five years, as part of the Lone Parent Obligations, are no longer entitled to receive Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent<sup>49</sup>. There is an expectation that parents will actively seek employment.

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<sup>45</sup> Source – North Lincolnshire Economic Assessment 2017, North Lincolnshire Council

<sup>46</sup> Source – DWP benefit claimants – working age client group (November 2016)

<sup>47</sup> Exploring the flexibility of the free entitlement to early education: research among parents Ipsos MORI June 2012.

<sup>48</sup> Source – Child and Working Tax Credit statistics finalised annual awards – geographical analysis 2015- 2016, HMRC

<sup>49</sup> Parent Obligations (LPO) changes, from November 2008 lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer entitled to receive Income Support (IS) solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. Since then, from October 2010, the age of the youngest child has been reduced to seven and over, and the coalition government announced in the June 2010 Emergency Budget that, subject to passage of the Welfare Reform Bill 2011, these obligations would be extended to lone parents with a youngest child aged five and over from 2012. Lone parents who are no longer eligible for IS have been able to move to other benefits as appropriate, including Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

Figure 28 - Lone parent households with dependent children (March 2011)

	Total	Males	Females
All Lone Parent Households*	4584	419	4165
Parent in full time employment	1114	249	865
Parent in part time employment	1747	46	1701
Parent not in employment	1723	124	1599

\*Lone Parent Aged 16 to 74

Source - ONS Census 2011 – Table  
KS107EW

## 4. The Economy

Industry and commerce are varied and successful in North Lincolnshire. The economy is diverse with a wide skills base in a number of key sectors including metals and engineering, logistics, chemicals and food and drink as well as the renewables. The area is base for a number of power stations, two major oil refineries over two dozen multinational companies and many more British companies. Manufacturing and construction roles account for approximately 30 per cent of all employment in North Lincolnshire.

Land on the South Humber Bank is the area's main strategic employment site, with almost four square miles designated for employment opportunities with potential for £3 billion investment. The site is of regional and national significance being the last undeveloped employment land fronting a deep water channel in the UK. The development on the South Humber Bank will see 4,000 plus jobs created and attract additional people to live in the area. The demand for homes is expected to increase at a never experienced before in the area. The transformation of Lincolnshire Lakes aims to capture this demand by providing a waterside setting with new homes, leisure, schools, community services, a retail opportunities and a business park work on this is anticipated to start in 2018.

In addition to the Humber Bank there continues to be land available on Normanby Enterprise Park in Scunthorpe. Sandtoft Industrial Park is identified as a potential logistics park and Humberside Airport land has identified to bolster airport operations and to maximise freight potential. In addition there are employment land allocations in Brigg and Barton to reinforce their roles as key market towns.

## 5. Locality Profiles

North Lincolnshire sits on the south side of the Humber estuary; it is divided into five localities<sup>50</sup>. The geographic boundaries of the five localities encompass the 17 electoral wards of North Lincolnshire. Appendix four and five provide maps of North Lincolnshire, highlighted super output areas that are in the upper 30 per cent income deprived households affecting children in the country.

### 5.1 Scunthorpe South

Scunthorpe South encompasses a significant area of the population centre of Scunthorpe. It is the smallest in size, but the largest in population size. Scunthorpe South encompasses the five wards of Ashby, Bottesford, Brumby, Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens and Frodingham.

The population of Scunthorpe South is 54,921 and 93.4 per cent classify themselves as being White British in origin. In terms of employment 7.2 per cent of the population is employed in managerial and senior roles compared to 9.8 per cent for North Lincolnshire as a whole. When comparing employed people working in elementary occupations (e.g. cleaning and labouring) there are 17.9 per cent employed in this sector, compared to 14.7 per cent across North Lincolnshire as a whole. In October 2016, 990 people in Scunthorpe South were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, this represents 2.9 per cent of the working age population and compares to 2.3 per cent as an average for North Lincolnshire. The number of claimants has increase by 10 per cent since August 2015. When considering education and qualifications 18.7 per cent of the population (6342 people) aged 16 plus in Scunthorpe South have no qualification (average 16.9 per cent for North Lincolnshire)<sup>51</sup>. Thirty seven per cent of the households are in the most income deprived households in North Lincolnshire, based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. None of the households in the Bottesford ward are in the upper 30 per cent of income deprived households; Brumby has the highest percentage of 64 per cent. With 8,378 houses in the upper 30 per cent of income deprived households, Scunthorpe South has the highest number of households in North Lincolnshire.

### 5.2 Scunthorpe North

Scunthorpe North includes the town centre as well as areas to the north and west of the town. It is made up of the three wards of Burringham and Gunness, Crosby and Park and Town.

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<sup>50</sup> Source – North Lincolnshire Data Observatory, Locality Profiles [www.nldo.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.nldo.northlincs.gov.uk)  
Population data based on ONS mid-year population estimates 2012. Workforce and Education data ONS, Census 2011.

<sup>51</sup> Source – 2011 Census (Table LC510EW – highest level of qualification by economic activity

The population of Scunthorpe North is 26,208. Similarly, to Scunthorpe South the population generally is younger in Scunthorpe North with a higher number of nought to four-year-olds as a percentage of the population and less than the North Lincolnshire average for people over the age of 40 years of age. The population is most diverse in Scunthorpe North with 77.4 per cent classifying themselves as being of White British origin. A further 9.5 per cent are of other White origin and the remaining residents being from other ethnic backgrounds most notably, Indian (1.8 per cent), Pakistani (2.2 per cent) and Bangladeshi (4.5 per cent). Of the population in employment the lowest percentage in North Lincolnshire, 6.7 per cent are employed in managerial and senior positions. The highest percentage, 20.3 per cent are employed in elementary occupations (e.g. cleaning, labouring), compared to an average of 14.7 per cent for North Lincolnshire. In October 2016, 585 people in Scunthorpe North were claiming Job Seekers Allowance; this represents 3.3 per cent of the working age population. This is a slight increase of 24 people since August 2015 and is higher than the North Lincolnshire average of 2.3 per cent. Sixty per cent of the claimants are between the ages of 22 and 49 years of age, economic activity is related to the take-up of childcare including the free early learning for three year olds. In relation to qualifications 21.9 per cent of the population aged 16 and over have no qualifications (3692 residents). Almost half of the households in Scunthorpe North (56 per cent) are the most income deprived households in North Lincolnshire, a total of 5,947 properties.

### **5.3 Brigg and District Locality**

The Brigg locality is geographically large, the population is however relatively small and dispersed. The locality includes the three wards of Brigg and the Wolds, Broughton and Appleby and Ridge.

The population in Brigg locality is 31,058, the highest percentage of the population are between the ages of 40 and 54 years of age. There is below the North Lincolnshire average number of nought to 39 year olds. In the locality 96.2 per cent classify themselves as being of White British origin. There is an established Gypsy/Irish Traveller community in the town of Brigg. Of the population in employment 12.1 per cent are employed in managerial and senior positions, this is higher than the average for North Lincolnshire of 9.8 per cent. A lower than the average number of working people is employed in elementary occupations, 11.3 per cent. In October 2016, 235 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance; this represents 1.2 per cent of the working age population and is lower than the average for North Lincolnshire of 2.3 per cent. Of the claimants 62 per cent are between the ages of 24 and 49 years of age. None of the households in the Brigg locality are within the upper 30 per cent of households with income deprivation affecting children.

## **5.4 Barton and District Locality**

The Barton locality covers the north area of North Lincolnshire along the banks of the Humber estuary. The locality includes the three wards of Barton, Burton upon Stather and Winterton and Ferry.

The population for the locality is recorded as 33,721, the highest percentage of the population are between the ages of 40 and 54 years of age. There is above the regional average number of residents between the ages of 60 and 69 years of age. There is a lower than the average number of nought to nine year olds in the locality. In the locality, 96.9 per cent classify themselves as being of White British origin. When considering employment 10.5 per cent are employed in managerial and senior positions. People working in elementary occupations is less than in North Lincolnshire as a whole at 11.9 per cent compared to 14.7 per cent. In October 2016, 395 people were claiming Job Seekers Allowance; this represents 1.9 per cent of the working age population, however in Barton the claimant count percentage is 2.6 percent higher than the North Lincolnshire average of 2.3 per cent. This is a reduction of 82 people since August 2015. Of the people claiming Job Seekers Allowance 50 per cent are either under 24 years of age or over 50 years of age, these individual are less likely to have childcare requirements. Fifteen per cent of the households are in the most income deprived households in North Lincolnshire, based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. The Barton Ward has the highest percentage in the locality with 32 per cent of households classified as being in the upper 30 per cent for IDACI; none of the households in the Ferry ward are in the upper 30 per cent.

## **5.5 Isle Locality**

The Isle locality like Brigg is large geographically, with a relatively small and dispersed population. The Isle locality includes three wards of Axholme North, Axholme Central and Axholme South.

The population in the Isle locality is recorded as 22,852; the population has a higher incidence of 40 to 69 year olds than the average for North Lincolnshire and has a lower percentage of nought to nine year olds. The population in the main classify themselves as being of White British origin, 97.6 per cent. More people are employed in managerial and senior positions in the Isle (13.9 per cent), when compared to elsewhere in North Lincolnshire (9.8 per cent). In October 2016, 180 people in the Isle locality were claiming Job Seekers Allowance. Of these 53 per cent are either below 21 years of age or older than 50 years of age, these individuals are less likely to have childcare requirements. This represents 1.3 per cent of the working age population and is below the average of 2.3 per cent for North Lincolnshire as a whole. None of the households in the Isle locality are within the upper 30 per cent of households with income deprivation affecting children.

## Appendix Three - Sample of School Holiday Activities – Summer 2017

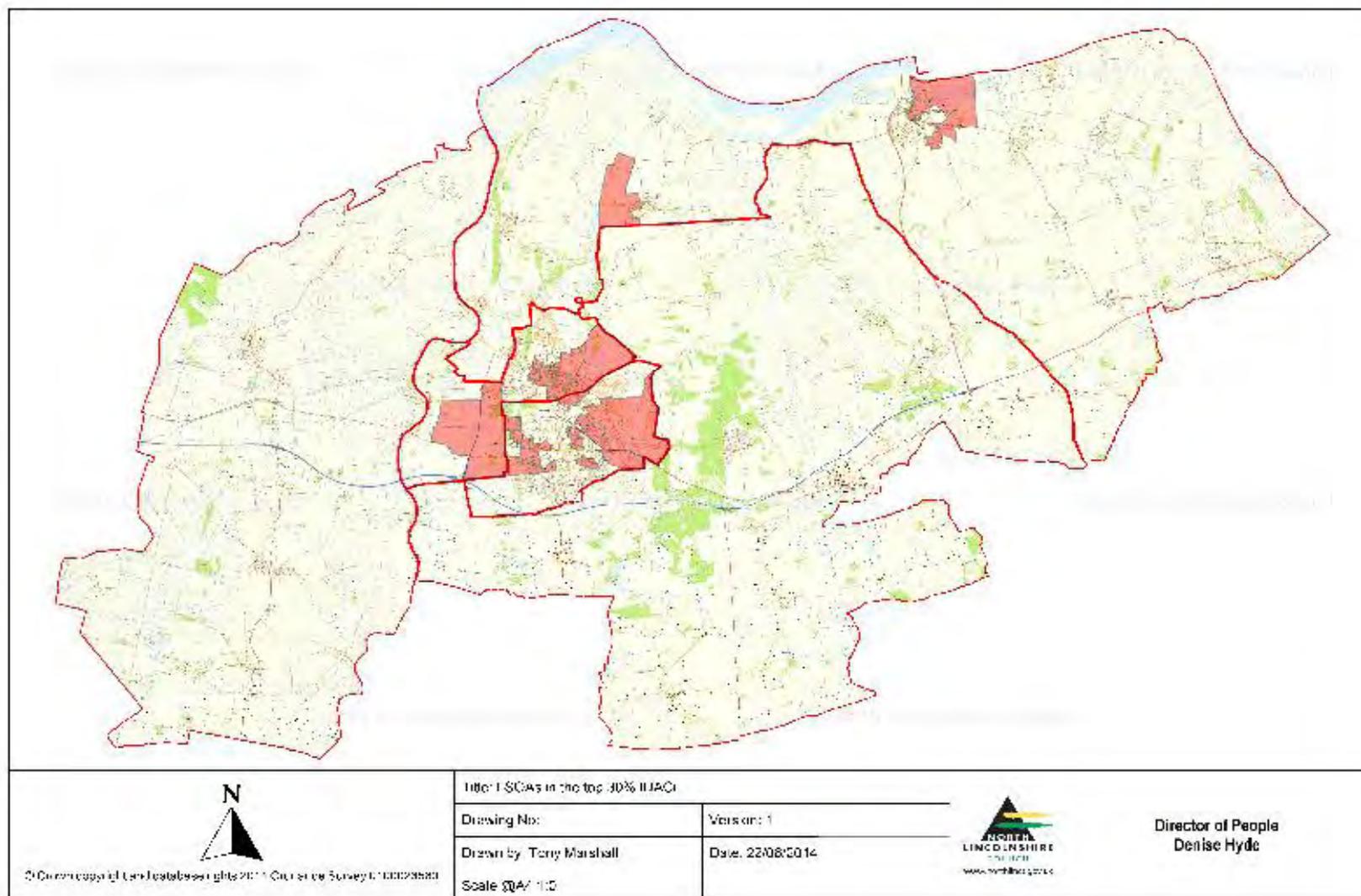
The activities are not considered as formal childcare as they are not registered with Ofsted but anecdotal evidence suggests that parents are using them as childcare.

Organisation	Activity and Age	Dates and Times	Cost	Venue
FUNdamental PE and Sport	Multisports 5 – 12 year olds	9 & 10 August 9am – 3pm	£15	Eastoft CofE Primary School
FUNdamentals PE and Sport	Football 5 – 12 year olds	2, 16, 23 & 30 August 11am – 4pm	£10 per session	Messingham Playing fields
FUNdamentals PE and Sport	Football 5 – 12 year olds	8,15,22 & 29 August 11am – 4pm	£10 per session	Crowle
Energize North Lincolnshire Council	Multi-sport and outdoor activities	4,11,18, 25 August & 1 Sept 8.30am – 4pm	£20 per day	Normanby Hall Country Park
Energize North Lincolnshire Council	Multi-sport 8 – 14 year olds	7, 14 & 21 August 8.30am – 4pm	£20 per day	Baysgarth Leisure Centre
Energize North Lincolnshire Council	Football 8 – 14 year olds	Weekly 8.30am – 4pm	£20 per day	Brigg Recreation Ground
Ropewalk	Arts Award in Week 'Explpore'	14 – 18 August 10am – 3pm	£60 per week	The Ropewalk Barton upon Humber
Scunthorpe United Community Trust	Summer Soccer Courses 6 – 13 year olds	15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 15, 29, 30, 31 August & 1 September 10am – 3pm	£10 per day	North Lindsey College – Kingsway

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Activity and Age</b>	<b>Dates and Times</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Venue</b>
FUNdamentals PE and Sport	Multi-sports 7 – 11 year olds	24 & 25 August 9am – 3pm	£15 per day	St Norbert's Catholic Primary School
Gooch Judo Kawi 2000	Holiday Activity Club – Judo and martial arts, fun and games Age 5+ years	26, 27, 28 & 31 July 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 & 30, 31 August 1 & 4 September	£10 per day	Hebden Road, Scunthorpe
Greeheart	Bushcraft Days Age 7+ years	3, 10, 17 & 31 August 9.30am – 3pm	£22 per day	Broughton Woods
Kimberley Performing Arts	Summer School Beauty and the Beast 7 + years	8 – 11 August 10am- 3pm	£15 per day or £55 for week (cheaper for members)	Enderby Road, Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire Council	Young Music Maker Summer School 5 – 12 years old	24 – 28 July 9am – 3.30pm	£100	The Baths Hall
CB Active Sports Ltd	Summer Sports Camps	Monday and Fridays all holiday 10am – 3pm	£15	West Common Sports Hall, Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire Council	Annie Fannie's Annual Panto Week	25 – 29 July & 1 – 5 August 10am - 4pm		Plowright Theatre

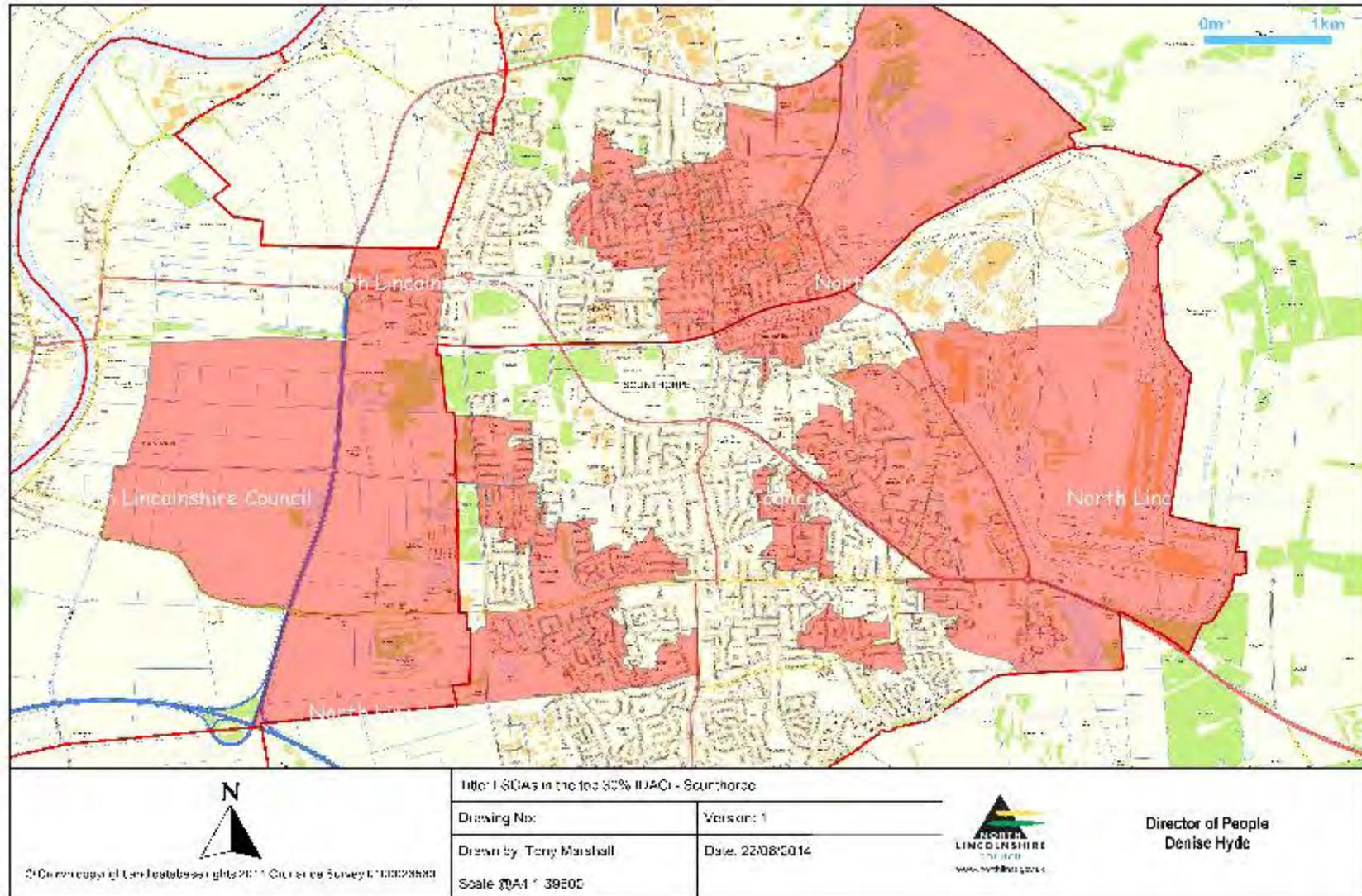
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Activity and Age</b>	<b>Dates and Times</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Jade Dancefever	Dance Workshop 8 + years	Thursdays 9am – 4pm	£12 per day	Keelby Village Hall
Jade Dancefever	Dance Workshop 8+ years	Fridays 9am – 4pm	£12 per day	St Johns Church Hall
Bottesford Town FC	Summer holiday football club 4 – 14 years	7 – 9 August 10.30am – 3pm	£12 per day £30 all three days	Bottesford Town Football Club
Sean Clixby Sports Pro	Multi – Sports Sessions KS1 & KS2	1 – 3 August 31 August & 1 September 9.00am – 15.30pm	£15 per day	Broughton Sports Hall St Peters and St Pauls School
North Lincolnshire Council	Pool Lifeguard Qualification	6 weeks 1 full day per week		Ancholme Leisure Centre

## Appendix Four – Map of North Lincolnshire



The red indicates houses in the upper 30 per cent most income deprived households affecting children in North Lincolnshire.

## Appendix Five – Map of Scunthorpe



The red indicates houses in the upper 30 per cent most income deprived households affecting children in Scunthorpe.

# North Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2017

## Executive Summary

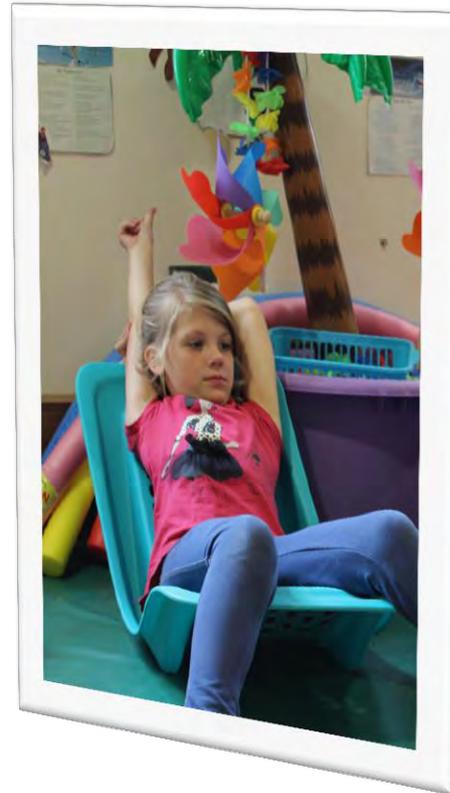


A duty to secure sufficient childcare for funded two, three and four-year-olds as well as to enable parents to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

SEPTEMBER 2017

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# 1. Childcare Sufficiency

Early education and childcare play a crucial role in developing our children and young people. Getting things right for children in the early years through high quality provision helps to raise children's educational achievement. It also improves their life chances, particularly for those who are living in poverty or who face other types of disadvantage.

Without sufficient, flexible, high quality childcare parents are unable to take up or remain in work, which impacts upon the quality of the workforce and the local economy. Research demonstrates that helping families to achieve/maintain employment is the best way to tackle child poverty, as well as helping the local economy to grow.



Section six of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for children up to 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 for children with a disability, to enable parents to work or train for work. In addition, local authorities must ensure sufficient childcare places for families to be able to access their funded early education entitlement for two, three and four-year-olds.

Reports assessing the sufficiency of childcare are prepared annually; previous versions of the report are available on the council website, [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk).

The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities sets out what local authorities should assess relating to the local childcare market, including:

- the demand for specific types of providers<sup>1</sup> in a particular locality<sup>2</sup> and the amount and type of supply that currently exists
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers, and
- the labour market

Where a gap in provision is identified the council must take reasonable actions to remove or reduce any barriers to families accessing childcare. This includes encouraging existing providers to expand their provision and encouraging new providers to enter the childcare market.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report, childcare is defined as education or supervised activity in Ofsted registered childcare offered by a childminder, pre-school, nursery, maintained school nursery, out of school club, breakfast club, holiday club and after school activities.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this report, North Lincolnshire is split into five localities. The localities are as follows: Scunthorpe North, Scunthorpe South, Brigg and Wolds District, Barton and District and the Isle of Axholme.

## 2. Sufficiency Achievements

70.4% of children attained the early learning goals in all 17 areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, compared to 69% nationally

72.1% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage in North Lincolnshire, higher than the national average of 70.7%.

Sufficient childcare across North Lincolnshire available to meet demand

Capital funding secured for capital projects. A new pre-school on the school site in Barrow upon Humber, relocation of two pre-schools in Scunthorpe South - all opening in the autumn 2017 and a new school nursery (opening January 2018)

84% of eligible two-year-olds accessed a funded early education, higher than the national average of 71%

98.5% of childminders and 100% of Non-Domestic childcare providers have achieved a good or better Ofsted Inspection outcome

789 parents responded to a consultation to determine demand for and potential take up of 30 hours funded childcare, available from September 2017

89% of families said they are satisfied with their childcare

All providers signed up to offer 30 hours funded childcare from September 2017

98% of three and four-year-olds accessed early education funding in the spring term 2017

### 3. Supply of Childcare

There are 215 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire as at 31 March 2017 (including school run nursery provision). The places are in the private and voluntary sector as well as two council run nurseries. Childcare offered by the private and voluntary sector includes day nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups, childminders, crèche facilities, out of school and holiday clubs, as well as home carers. Further provision is offered in nursery classes, breakfast and after school clubs at maintained schools and academies.

The number of places has remained consistent during the last year, with few changes.

#### Parents said:

“My son is fully satisfied. He learns English, my sons first language is Polish. Staff are very patient and very qualified.”

“**My child enjoys nursery and always talks about his key worker and his friends.**”

“Can’t wait to go in the morning and doesn’t want to leave at home time.”

“**The nursery is like a family. They share the same ethos and values as me and both my sons felt valued and cared for.**”

“They love it and can’t wait to go.”

“**Fantastic childcare. Really happy with daily activities, great relationship with us and our child. Helped support us through many times as first time parents wouldn’t hesitate to recommend it.**”

#### Type and number of providers\*

- Pre-schools – 27 providers caring for children from 2 – 5 years
- Nurseries – 37 providers caring for children from 0- 8 years
- School and Academy Nurseries – 36 providers caring for children from 3 – 5 years
- Childminders – 98 providers, 53 delivering funded early education and caring for children from 0 – 11 years
- Breakfast Clubs- 55 providers (schools, private and voluntary sectors)
- After School Clubs – 42 providers (schools, private and voluntary sectors)
- Holiday Clubs – 31 providers (private and voluntary sector)

\*A number of providers are duplicated as they offer more than one service.



The number of childcare places in North Lincolnshire has been estimated for each sector and locality by age group is presented below:

Number of 0 – 4 year old places by locality and percentage of places available

Locality	Population 0 - 23 Months~	0-2 year olds places	Population of 2 year olds~	Number of places 2 year olds	Penetration rate per 100 of population 2 year olds	Population 3 - 4 year olds~	Number of 3 & 4 year olds places	Penetration rate per 100 of population 3 & 4 year Olds^	Childminder (0-5 years)
Barton	535	45	309	130	84%	505	427	169%	44
Brigg	426	60	252	180	143%	420	296	147%	42
Isle	316	27	183	76	83%	342	293	175%	65
Scunthorpe North	574	42	359	94	52%	635	265	88%	37
Scunthorpe South	1090	147	676	322	95%	1492	780	106%	86
<b>Total no. of places in North Lincolnshire (Inc. School Nurseries)</b>	<b>2941</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>3394</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>124%</b>	<b>274</b>

~Population source – North Lincolnshire Doctor Registrations 2017

^Penetration rates are determined including childminder and provider places as a percentage of the population

Scunthorpe North is highlighted as an area where the population exceeds the number of places available, with 88 per cent of children able to access a funded three or four-year-old place in their locality. The take-up of funded early education in Scunthorpe North is 93 per cent of the population; in addition 21 per cent of children have taken up more than their funded hours in this locality. This suggests that parents are accessing childcare in other localities and there may be a demand for additional childcare in the area, particularly with the introduction of 15 extended hours childcare from September 2017. A new provider is exploring the market and is planning to open during 2018.

The demand for childcare places varies for each age group depending upon the family circumstances.

Parents in employment have the highest demand for childcare for nought to two-year-olds. There is no unmet demand for this age group in North Lincolnshire.

When funded places are introduced at two-years of age the demand for places increases and the demographics of families accessing childcare alters. Demand projections do not indicate that an increase in demand for three and four-year-old places with the introduction of 30 hours childcare will negatively impact on two-year-old places.

With the introduction of universal 15 hours childcare at three-years of age almost all families access the funded hours to support their child in preparing for school, there are sufficient places available to meet an increase in demand related to 30 hours childcare.

**Overall in North Lincolnshire there are sufficient childcare places for nought to five year olds.**

As children start school the demand for childcare reduces for before, after school and holiday care as the demand is for parents that are in employment or studying only.

There are more breakfast club places than after school or holiday provision. Schools and academies offer breakfast provision for pupils often at highly subsidised rates; with the key objective of ensuring that children have a nutritious breakfast prior to starting school rather than as childcare for working parents.

In addition to before and after school clubs childminders regularly offer families a school drop off and pick up, servicing their local school.

The analysis does not include activity clubs offered by schools and academies that take place at the end of the school day. These are typically run by schools for an hour at the end of the school day, for one term at a time when teachers are available. They are not a reliable form of childcare; however, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that working parents do use after school activity clubs as a form of childcare.

## Before and After School Care

In some areas the Family Information Service have highlighted a small demand for before and after school care; however in these instances there is insufficient demand to form a viable out of school club.

There are two schools in North Lincolnshire for which there is no breakfast club offered and no childminder offering a drop off service currently, these are West Butterwick Church of England Primary School and Willoughby Road Primary Academy.

There are five schools in North Lincolnshire which are not served by a childminder or after school club, these being Eastoft Primary School, Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School, West Butterwick Church of England Primary School, Wroot Travis Charity Primary School and Willoughby Road Primary Academy.

With the exception of Willoughby Road Primary Academy in Scunthorpe the rest all are rural communities with small populations. An existing provider plans to open before, after school and holiday care for the Willoughby Road Primary Academy from September 2017.

**The number of places is variable in localities, however there is sufficient before/after school and holiday care overall.**

## Holiday Care

The lowest number of childcare places available is for school holiday care; it is estimated that there are 431 places across North Lincolnshire. Department for Education research found that 21 per cent of families use Ofsted registered childcare for just one or two weeks of school holidays per annum. This would create a demand for 378 children

When the average take-up is considered there is sufficient holiday childcare in rural areas but limited supply in Scunthorpe. At an average cost of £32.88 per day, holiday childcare is costly. In Scunthorpe in general there are lower family incomes and higher unemployment levels. Parents may rely upon friends and family or holiday activity sessions rather than Ofsted registered care. Holidays activity sessions vary from between £10 - £20 a for a six to seven hour day.



## 4. Early education funding

### Two year olds

Eligible two-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

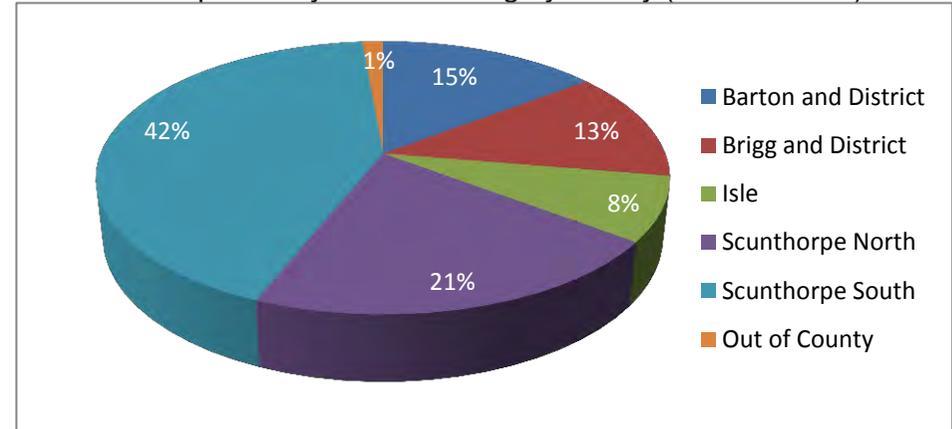
To be eligible parents must:

- be claiming a recognised benefit
- be in work with an income of less than £16,190 and claim tax credits
- have a child that is looked after by a local council, have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order
- or a child with a current statement of special education needs or an Education Health and Care Plan

Take up of two-year-old funding in North Lincolnshire is 13% higher than the national average. Spring 2017  
Nationally 71 per cent    North Lincolnshire 84 per cent

The take-up of funding has been analysed by locality. The highest percentage of children (63 per cent) are taking-up their place in Scunthorpe.

Take up of two-year-old funding by locality (summer 2017)



### Three and four year olds

All children are eligible for up to 15 funded hours of childcare a week for 38 weeks of the year.

#### Key statistics – Spring 2017:

- 98 per cent of children accessed an early education funded place (95 per cent nationally)
- 92 per cent of children access 13 – 15 hours per week in North Lincolnshire and nationally
- 95 per cent of children accessed their funded place in a provider with a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome (95 per cent nationally)
- 66 per cent of children accessed their funded early education in a provider that employ staff with Qualified Teacher, Early Years Teacher/ Professional Status
- 30 per cent of families are paying for additional hours with their current childcare provider

## 5. Thirty hours childcare

From September 2017 parents of three and four-year-olds may be eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare for 38 weeks of the year. To be eligible both parents/or a lone parent must be in employment, with an eligibility threshold for each parent to earn the equivalent of 16 hours pay at the national living wage (apprentice wage and national minimum wage also apply). The upper limit to eligibility is £100,000 per annum per person.

*“Thirty hours would be fantastic to have access to would enable me to increase working hours and encourage others to get back into work.”*

### Parents Views

During the summer of 2016 families were asked their views of childcare and whether they would change their existing childcare arrangements if 30 hours childcare was available<sup>3</sup>.

Findings:

- 71 per cent of the families paid for additional childcare hours
- 43 per cent of the families would use only Ofsted registered childcare
- 48 per cent would use a mix of Ofsted registered childcare as well as family and friends
- 66 per cent of families are accessing childcare all year round to meet their working commitments

**The council has supported providers throughout the year to share information and support them in preparing for the extended hours. All providers have committed to deliver 30 hours either themselves or in partnership with other providers.**



### Projections

Numbers of children estimated to be eligible for the extended 15 hours:

- Autumn 2017 – 976 children
- Spring 2018 – 1304 children
- Summer 2018 – 1547 children

The population and estimated demand for 2018-19 is comparable.

The projections indicate a potential shortage in childcare in the Ashby, Ferry and Town wards of Scunthorpe. A new school nursery is due to open in January 2018 in Ashby. A more in-depth analysis of the Ferry ward indicates a potential demand in Barrow upon Humber, a new pre-school opens in Barrow upon Humber (Ferry ward) in September 2017 increasing places available. An existing provider is planning to expand and open a new pre-school in the Town ward in 2018. With the planned new and expanding provision there will be sufficient supply of places; take-up will be closely monitored in 2018 and onwards.

<sup>3</sup> In total 395 of the questionnaire respondents that completed the questionnaire broadly met the eligibility criteria for the extended 15 hours.

## 6. Quality of Childcare

Research demonstrates that early year's childcare has a significant positive impact on early outcomes for children. Overall, having a longer early education experience has a greater benefit on literacy outcomes, regardless of the quality of provision. However a higher quality provision makes more of a difference to a child's early learning than a longer period of childcare<sup>4</sup>.

The best quality provision is imperative to providing the best start for children in North Lincolnshire. The council strives to work in partnership with providers and partner agencies to improve quality of provision and the qualifications of the childcare professionals.

**100 per cent of childminders (with Early Years Children on role) inspected in the year up to 31 August 2017, received a good or better Ofsted<sup>5</sup> inspection outcome. This increased the overall percentage of good or better providers available to 98.5 per cent of all childminders. This has increased from 96 per cent in August 2016.**

**100 per cent of non-domestic providers (day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) that were inspected up to 31 August 2017, received a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome. This means that all non-domestic providers have a good or better outcome; this is an increase from 98 per cent in August 2016.**

<sup>4</sup> Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE) Report, UCL Institute of Education.

<sup>5</sup> As a measure of quality all childcare providers are inspected by Ofsted.

## 7. Cost of Childcare

The cost of childcare is an important factor for parents in work and when choosing employment. Often childcare is perceived to be expensive and a barrier for parents to entering or remaining in employment.

There are various sources of funding for childcare costs based on family circumstances including:

- Two, three and four-year-old funding (15 hours)
- 30 hours for three and four-year-olds where parents work
- The childcare element of working tax credit/Universal Credit
- Care to learn for students
- Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers

The cost of childcare is competitive in North Lincolnshire in comparison to national averages. Pre-schools are most competitively priced but generally offer six hour days (£12 for a three hour session). Childminders and nurseries charge similar rates to parents (£35 - £47 per day).

The cost of a breakfast club is variable. Schools run breakfast clubs (average £1.68) are cheaper than clubs in the private and voluntary sector (£4.95 average.) After school care averages £9.18.

Childcare for school holidays is variable (average £32.88) with some providers charging prices above the national average (£24). Parents who are able to travel and work flexibly can benefit from activity sessions (over eight year olds), these are often more affordable (£10-£20 per day).

## 8. Children with SEND

All Ofsted registered childcare providers within North Lincolnshire are inclusive of all children and welcome children with special educational needs. Additional support is provided to childcare settings and schools to meet the needs of all children and to assist providers with any additional costs incurred. Childcare providers work closely with parents and other supporting agencies to ensure that the needs of all children are met on entry and continue to be met throughout their time at the nursery.



The SEND local offer website ([www.northlincslocaloffer.com](http://www.northlincslocaloffer.com)) aims to provide parents and carers with the information they may need. There is a specific area for early years and childcare in which providers are listed along with specific details of how they meet the needs of children with additional needs.

Parents of children with a special educational need and/or disabilities are encouraged to access childcare. Take-up of early education funding is good and parents generally promote a positive experience. Twenty three children had an Education Health and Care Plan and a further 151 children were identified as receiving SEN support in the summer 2017.

All parents of children who completed the consultation were satisfied with their childcare and feel they are receiving high quality childcare. None of the parents made any suggestions as to how their childcare could be improved.

**“My child cannot talk but her confidence has improved tenfold.”**

**“Our pre-school is meeting our childcare needs and in our opinion they are doing it very well, pleased so far with this pre-school.”**

Children and young people with complex needs, physical and or learning disabilities are invited to attend a holiday play scheme in the Easter and summer holidays at St Luke’s Primary School.

Parents feel that the play scheme works well in providing a safe environment that meets the children’s needs. The children enjoyed themselves and the parents appreciated the efforts of staff in keeping the children busy and active as much as possible.

## 9. Ofsted and Parental Views

“The childminder plans a range of challenging experiences for children based on assessments of their individual needs and interests. Children are enthusiastic to engage in activities and display good team working skills.”

Ofsted said – “Parents praise the high standards of care and learning that their children receive. The quality of communication between home and the setting is very good. The childminder uses the information gained very effectively, to plan for children’s next steps in learning.” Childminder

Ofsted said – “The well-qualified staff team meets children’s individual needs well. They work in partnership with other professionals to successfully support children who have special educational needs or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.” Nursery

“The school only open 9am - 3.30pm during the school term. I would like more organized care at more flexible hours and during holidays. If not enough children sign up out of school club does not run.”

Ofsted said – “They are extremely successful in learning partnerships with parents right from the start. Staff are eager to know about children’s learning at home to ensure their judgements are fully robust. This helps to inform their outstanding planning for children’s next steps.” Outstanding Nursery

“The nursery is like a family. They share the same ethos and values as me and both my sons felt valued and cared for.”

Ofsted said - “Staff are motivated and empowered by leaders to take on extra roles and responsibilities and develop their areas of expertise. This results in high levels of staff morale and a shared drive to achieve the best outcomes for children. Nursery

“Fantastic childcare. Really happy with daily activities great relationship with us and our child. Helped support us through many times as first time parents wouldn’t hesitate to recommend.”

“My daughter loves going to nursery, she always talks about what she’s been doing and never wants to miss a day of nursery.”

“My child enjoys nursery and always talks about his key worker and friends.”

## 10. Sufficiency Action Plan

Sufficiency requirement	Actions to enhance sufficiency	Timeframe
30 Hours Free Childcare	<p>To ensure sufficient childcare places are available to meet demand for the universal and extended 15 hours childcare offer, flexibly and free/low cost to meet the needs of families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and support to providers with statutory requirements.</li> <li>• Monitor places, vacancies and take-up to determine any potential sufficiency gaps.</li> <li>• Undertake research with families to determine if the 30 hour models on offer meet their needs.</li> <li>• Commission business and finance support for the private and voluntary sector to improve sustainability</li> <li>• Provide three small capital grants to providers to increase places (South Killingholme, Crowle and Bottesford)</li> </ul>	September 2018
Two, three and four year old 15 hour places	Monitor places, vacancies and take-up against the population termly to highlight any potential sufficiency gaps ensuring that the extended 15 hours does not impact on two-year-old funded places or the universal 15 hour offer.	Termly
Two year old funding	To improve the on-line application process to enable parents to have an instant decision on whether they meet the funding criteria followed by an email or letter with providers details.	October 2017
Children with special educational needs and disabilities	Promote equality and inclusion for children with disabilities and special educational needs working with parents to give each child the support to fulfil their potential.	On-going
Information for Parents	To maintain a service that provides information for parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in the area. To introduce a self-update portal to enable providers to update details immediately, with an emphasis on vacancies.	Bi-annual updates (Spring 2018 and Autumn 2018)