

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURE CABINET MEMBER

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY AUDIT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Childcare Sufficiency Audit Report and inform Cabinet Member in respect of the Council's statutory duty for the provision of sufficient childcare.
- 1.2 To seek approval to publish 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 and 2016. Provisions in relation to sufficiency of childcare are as follows:
- 2.2 Section 6 (2006 Act) requires local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practical, for working parents or parents in education, training or employment, for children aged 0-14 years (or to 18 years for disabled children).
- 2.3 Section 7 (2006 Act) places a duty on local authorities to secure the availability, in each 12 month period, of at least 570 hours of funded 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 Section 1 (2016 Act) places a duty on local authorities to secure the equivalent of 30 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children. Children qualify where parents meet an eligibility criteria linked to their employment status.
- 2.5 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.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To consider the Childcare Sufficiency Audit (Appendix one) and 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 care is sufficient overall. Whilst it appears there is sufficient holiday childcare, a small number of parents and providers highlighted holiday care as a potential gap in supply. Further research with families in April/May 2019 surveyed 268 respondents; almost half stated that they required more holiday childcare arrangements. Work is on-going to identify a partner to delivery holiday childcare to meet the needs of families.**
- **The large majority (72%) of eligible two-year olds and most (95%) of three and four-year olds claimed funded early education in the summer term 2018, compared to 72% and 94% nationally.**
- **999 children accessed the extended 15-hours childcare (30-hours) in the summer term 2018. Parents have said that 30-hours childcare has reduced their childcare bills, they are using less informal childcare (friends and relatives), increased their working hours and feel that 30-hours has improved their career prospects.**
- **Almost all (98%) of children accessed funded early education in an Ofsted registered provider with a good or better inspection judgement, this compares to 96% nationally (spring 2018).**

- **Almost all (98%) of Ofsted registered childminders and the vast majority (97%) of non-domestic¹ providers have a good or better inspection judgement, compared to 95% nationally.**
- **Funding secured through the Education Skills and Funding Agency, created 29 new funded childcare places, improved the sustainability of childcare through business support and advice for 22 providers, as well as funding for consultation with families about their views of childcare.**
- **658 parents gave their views of childcare in North Lincolnshire, both families who use childcare and those who do not. Almost all (98%) families are satisfied with their childcare and most (90%) feel their childcare meets their needs. The large majority (70%) of those not using childcare do not work and do not require childcare.**

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 approves the publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit on the Council Website.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING SKILLS AND CULTURE

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¹ Non-domestic carers – day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs

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Date: 21 August 2019

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Childcare Sufficiency Audit and Executive Summary Reports

SAFE WELL PROSPEROUS CONNECTED

North Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Audit

September 2018

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.



Contents

1.	Sufficiency Duty Requirements	3
1.1	Childcare	3
1.2	Sufficiency duty defined	3
	Definition of childcare	4
1.	Supply of childcare.....	6
2.1	Number of childcare providers	6
2.2	Quality of childcare in North Lincolnshire	7
2.3	Number of childcare places.....	8
2.3.1	Nought to four-year-olds	8
2.3.2	Over five years.....	10
2.4	Childcare vacancies.....	12
2.4.1	Pre-schools and nurseries	12
2.4.2	Childminders.....	12
2.	Early Education Funding	15
3.1	Statutory two-year old funding	15
3.2	North Lincolnshire offer for two-year olds.....	16
3.3	Sufficiency of two-year-old places.....	16
3.4	Promoting funded early education	17
3.5	Take-up of two-year-old funding.....	17
3.6	Quality of two-year-old places	19
4.	Three and Four-year-olds	21
4.1	North Lincolnshire offer.....	21
4.1.1	Universal Offer.....	21
4.1.2	Extended Offer (30-hours Childcare)	21
4.2	Take-up	22
4.3	Quality of the early education offer.....	24
4.4	Three and four-year-old projections	26
5.	School Holiday Care	29
5.1	Children under five years	29
5.2	School aged children	29
6.	Care for Young People (11 plus years)	32
6.1	Before and after school.....	32
6.2	School holidays.....	33
7.	Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities	35
7.1	Early Years	37
7.1.1	Early Identification	37
7.2	Five years and over after school care	38
7.3	Five years and over holiday childcare	38
8.	Consultation.....	41
8.1	Perceptions of childcare.....	41
8.1.1	Parent's views of childcare.....	41
8.1.2	Affordability	42
8.1.3	Two, three and four-year old funding	43
8.1.4	Parents that do not use childcare.....	44
8.1.5	Children with a special educational need and/or disability.....	45
8.2	Consultation with children in North Lincolnshire holiday clubs.....	45
8.3	Consultation with childcare providers	46
8.3.1.	Methodology	46
8.3.2	Private and voluntary providers.....	47
8.3.3	Schools and Academies	50
9.	Affordability of Childcare	53
9.1	Cost of childcare	53

9.1.1	Childminders.....	53
9.1.2	Full day care	54
9.1.3	Pre-schools.....	55
9.1.4	Before/after school and holiday care.....	56
10.	Information for Parents.....	60
10.1	Support for families with the cost of childcare	62
10.1.1	Funded childcare	62
10.1.2	Tax Credits and Universal Credit	63
10.1.3	Tax Free Childcare.....	63
10.1.4	Employer supported childcare.....	64
10.1.5	Students	64
10.2	Flexible working practices	65
10.3	Shared parental leave.....	65
	Appendix one - Quality of childcare.....	67
1.	Ofsted inspection judgements	67
1.1	Childminder Ofsted inspections.....	68
1.2	Non-domestic inspections	68
2.	Raising the quality of childcare in North Lincolnshire	68
2.1	Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	68
2.2	Qualifications and workforce	69
2.3	Early Years Team	70
	Appendix Two - Understanding North Lincolnshire.....	73
1.	Population Data	73
1.1	Children and young people population.....	73
1.2	Children and young people with a disability.....	74
1.3	Ethnicity.....	75
	Household Type/Family Composition.....	77
2.1	Housing land allocations	78
3.	Employment Status.....	79
3.1	Employment.....	79
3.2	Hours worked per week and earnings.....	80
3.3	Worklessness	81
4.	The Economy.....	83
5.	Locality Profiles.....	83
5.1	Scunthorpe South	84
5.2	Scunthorpe North.....	84
5.3	Brigg and District Locality.....	85
5.4	Barton and District Locality	85
5.5	Isle Locality.....	86
	Appendix Three – Map of Scunthorpe.....	870
	Appendix Four – Map of North Lincolnshire	880

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 funded 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 funded 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, or by request to eef@northlinc.gov.uk.

The Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities June 2018 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 providers¹ in a particular locality² and the amount and type of supply that currently exists

¹ 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.

² 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,

- the potential demand for childcare by age ranges of children and localities
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers, and the labour market.

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 Education³ carried out research in 2018 with families and found that the large majority (75 per cent) of families with children aged nought to 14 years used childcare. Formal childcare was used by the majority (62 per cent) of families, down from 66 per cent in 2017, primarily due to a fall in the use of after school clubs and activities among school age children (which fell from 41 per cent in 2017 to 35 per cent in 2018). A small minority (23 per cent) used both formal and informal childcare. Figure one illustrates the take-up of childcare. Pre-school children receiving formal childcare spent on average 18 hours per week in formal childcare, whilst school age children spent on average four hours per week in formal childcare.

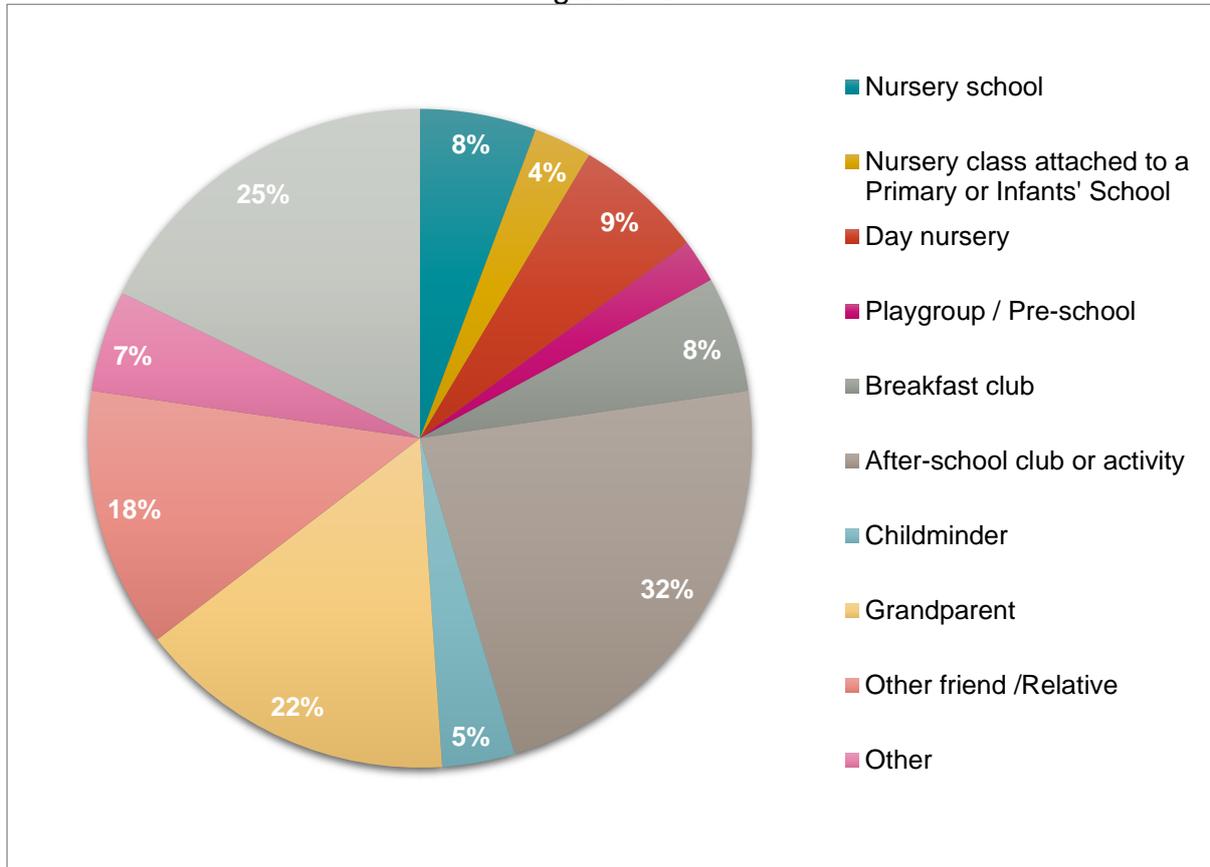
The majority of children (52 per cent) receive formal childcare. Pre-school children (age nought to four) were most likely to receive formal childcare from day nurseries

Broughton & Appleby and Ridge), Barton and District (Barton, Ferry and Burton upon Stather & Winterton) and the Isle of Axholme (North, Central and South Axholme).

³ Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents in England 2018, Department for Education, December 2017, SFR73/2017

(used by 19 per cent of all pre-school children), nursery schools (17 per cent) and nursery classes (nine per cent). School-aged children (five to 14 years) were most likely to receive formal childcare from after school clubs (used by 25 per cent of all school-aged childcare), followed by breakfast clubs (eight per cent). One in five families (21 per cent) used formal childcare during school holidays.

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



1. Supply of childcare

2.1 Number of childcare providers

There are 217 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire as at 31 August 2018 (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 at Ofsted registered providers including schools (excludes home carers and a crèche at 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^	Out of school clubs^	Holiday clubs~
Brigg	7	8	11	13	1	0	16	14	8
Barton	5	7	7	11	9	0	17	11	6
Isle	3	2	10	20	7	4	13	6	3
Scunthorpe North	2	5	10	13	4	2	5	3	2
Scunthorpe South	7	14	17	34	7	3	22	13	13 [~]
Total	24	36	55	91	28	9	72	47	31

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

^ Includes school run provision offered using the school Ofsted registration⁴, three providers are not registered with Ofsted as they care for children for less than 2 hours per day

~ A number of providers

~ Special Educational Needs Playscheme runs Easter and summer holidays only

The number of providers overall has remained consistent in North Lincolnshire. During the period 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2018 there were few changes in the childcare market. Three pre-schools closed during the summer of 2018; however the first was not registered for early education funding and will not affect the overall childcare market. Two of the providers were located in Scunthorpe South in

⁴ 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.

relatively close proximity, their closures do not appear to have created a sufficiency gap; however demand and supply in the area is being closely monitored. The number of childminders in the area continues to fall. In the last year overall there are seven less childminders to March 2018. In all parts of Britain childminder numbers have decreased year on year, with 9.9 per cent fewer providers nationally over the two-year period up to March 2018. Fifty eight per cent of childminders are registered for funded early education, however not all childminders have funded children all of the time.

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 schools diversifying to offer wrap around care to families in their community.

2.2 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 education⁵.

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 95 per cent of childcare providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) have an Ofsted inspection outcome of good or outstanding⁶. This is a substantial increase from 74 per cent in August 2012, when Ofsted revised the inspection framework. During 2017/18, Ofsted carried out 14,700 full inspections of childcare providers registered on the Early Years Register. Eighty six per cent of the providers were judged to be good or outstanding in their overall effectiveness.

In North Lincolnshire:

⁵ 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.

⁶ Ofsted Childcare Providers and Inspections August 2017

Most (94.1 per cent) childminders with Early Years children on role and inspected in the year up to 31 August 2018, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. Overall in North Lincolnshire the largest majority

- (98.4 per cent) of all childminders have a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome. This is a slightly decrease from 98.5 per cent in August 2017, which is just one childminder being rated as requires improvement overall.
- Most (90 per cent) 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 2018, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. Overall in North Lincolnshire the vast majority of providers (96.7 per cent) have a good or better inspection outcome, this is however a reduction from the previous year of 100 per cent, with two providers receiving a less than good judgement.

2.3 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 funded 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 funded childcare at three-years of age almost all families access the funded 15 hours to support their child in preparing for school. In addition working parents may be eligible for an additional 15 funded hours, known as 30-hours childcare. 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.

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.

2.3.1 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.

Overall there are more nought to four-year old places available in Brigg and Isle localities than elsewhere in North Lincolnshire. The lowest number of places as a percentage of the population is in Scunthorpe North.

From two-years of age funded early education is introduced for economically disadvantaged and low income families. Approximately 40 per cent the two-year old population are eligible. When considering the availability of places as a percentage of the population there are sufficient places to meet both the demand for funded and paid for places by families in employment throughout North Lincolnshire.

Scunthorpe North is highlighted as an area where the population exceeds the number of childcare places available particularly for funded early education for three and four-year olds. However the number of places increased in the last year due to the opening of a new pre-school. The owner is working closely with the community to maximise take-up of places by families in the area. In the summer term 87 per cent of eligible three and four year-old children took up a place. The demand for funded early education will be explored further in the report in section 4.4.

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	626	51	346	131	73%	666	399	120%	47
Brigg	498	60	284	180	124%	544	296	114%	43
Isle	372	27	216	64	54%	392	285	149%	68
Scunthorpe North	690	42	356	102	57%	696	307	93%	40
Scunthorpe South	1283	147	684	290	82%	1437	750	107%	102
Total No. of places in North Lincolnshire (inc School Nurseries)	3469	327	1886	767	79%	3735	2037	112%	300

~ Population Data Source – North Lincolnshire Health Commissioning Group (March 2018)

^ includes places at childminders delivering funded early education

It should be noted that not all parents require childcare for their children, particularly for those below three-years of age. Where one or both 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. Research also demonstrates a strong reliance upon friends and particularly relatives for childcare needs (40 per cent of families nationally).

2.3.2 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, after school club or childminder offering a drop off service currently. These are West Butterwick Church of England Primary School and Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School. Both schools serve small rural communities where there is low demand. Luddington and Garthorpe Primary School are exploring the feasibility of a breakfast club at the school due to a small demand from working parents. This is an improvement from 2017 with new clubs opening to meet a parental demand.

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	2657	46	266	12%	215	10%
Brigg	2175	46	234	13%	234	13%
Isle	1692	83	213	17%	132	13%
Scunthorpe North	2548	42	110	6%	44	3%
Scunthorpe South	5146	122	435	11%	170	6%
Total no. of places in North Lincolnshire^	14,218	339	1258	11%	795	8%

~ Source – North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2018)

^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.

*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 in West Butterwick and Westcliff; 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 during the school holidays as shown in figure five. The decision to open during the school holidays is usually as a result of a known demand from parents. Where there is little or no demand places are not offered. The Department for Education found in a survey a small minority (21 per cent) of families as an average use Ofsted registered holiday care for their children during school holidays and for just one or two weeks of the year. Demand for holiday clubs in North Lincolnshire is estimated based on the Departments research.

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	102	117	148%
Brigg	84	102	148%
Isle	65	72	134%
Scunthorpe North	98	16	20%
Scunthorpe South	198	157	77%
Total no. of places in North Lincolnshire^	547	464	114%

~ Source – North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2018)

^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.

#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. However, research with parents in the summer of 2018 found a very small number of parents (two per cent) that cited the availability of holiday childcare as an issue. Whilst there appears to be sufficient childcare places in the school holidays what is available may not be in a suitable location, open for a sufficient number of hours or affordable for families. However the sample size is not sufficient to categorically state that there is insufficient childcare in the school holidays.

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 and therefore 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.

2.4 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 funded 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. Providers are requested to update an on-line provider portal with information about their provision including childcare vacancies. Providers are regularly reminded to complete this data, however a number of providers are not updating the information on a regular basis.

2.4.1 Pre-schools and nurseries

An analysis of the data from pre-schools and nurseries for the autumn term 2018 indicates place availability across North Lincolnshire in all key towns and villages, for all age ranges. A minority of providers indicated a limited number of spaces (42 per cent), particularly for babies, however there are other providers near-by with vacancies, as such this does not indicate a sufficiency gap. In the summer term 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.

2.4.2 Childminders

The number of childminders in the area continues to gradually decline, in the last year overall there are seven less childminders to March 2018. This is in-line with a national trend in all parts of Britain childminder numbers have decreased year on year, with 9.9 per cent fewer providers nationally over the two-year period up to March 2018.

When considering the number of places available overall, the number of places available has decreased by 36 places. An increasing number of childminders now employ an assistant to work alongside them in their home. There are 16 childminders employing at least one assistant, increasing the number of places that they offer. 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. In 2017/18 the average percentage of vacant places was at 16 per cent, this is the same as 2016/17.

Figure six – Childminder vacancies April 2017 – March 2018

Month	No. of registered childminders	No. of places	% of places vacant
April 2017	96	598	14%
May 2017	98	610	14.8%
June 2017	98	610	14.4%
July 2017	97	604	14.4%
Aug 2017	94	587	16.7%
Sept 2017	92	569	17%
Oct 2017	91	563	17.8%
Nov 2017	92	569	16%
Dec 2017	91	564	15.4%
Jan 2018	92	570	17.2%
Feb 2018	91	562	17.6%
March 2018	91	562	18.3%

Parents say

“Amazing childminders who always put each child first. Outstanding provision and my child has really developed.”

“Fantastic affordable provision that enables me to go to work.”

“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.”

“I am extremely happy with my daughter’s care, they are very accommodating, friendly and do so much with my daughters in the way of her continued development. I would highly recommend them.”

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

“My child’s preschool is an outstanding childcare provider with caring and professional staff and a fantastic setting for my child who loves it there.”

“My child’s learning has improved. She has friends and they teach her things we haven't thought of.”

“They have been great in dealing with and seeking help with my daughter’s medical condition.”

2. 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. 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. 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 where both parents (or a single parent) have a combined income from work of £15,400 or less a year, after tax⁷
- 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)

⁷ 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 1,472 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

For the overwhelming majority 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, however 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.

In Scunthorpe North, where take-up is the lowest (see figure eight) a new pre-school opened in April 2018. This is in the most deprived area of the locality. Though numbers are low, the hard to reach children; often those from minority groups are now accessing their entitlement here. Sixty six per cent of children accessing a place are from a minority group (summer 2018). Also, the two local authority nurseries in the locality have reconfigured their offer and now operate a nursery solely for two-year olds and the other caters for three and four-year olds. They have on average 45 funded two-year olds per term.

There has been two closures of settings within Scunthorpe South during the summer term of 2018. This was due to poor Ofsted judgements, an inadequate and requires improvement. Both had limited capacity to improve. It is believed there will be little impact on the number of two-year old places in the short term, due to the natural movement of children in the autumn term 2018. However, if we find there is an impact we will use our market management role to work closely with providers and investors to ensure place availability for two-year olds.

From September 2017, three and four-year-olds of working parents, that meet eligibility criteria, were eligible for an additional 15-hours of childcare per week during term time. Demand projections did not indicate that an increase in demand for three and four-year old places would negatively impact on two-year old places and that has been the case to date.

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). 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, how to apply for their 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 2017/18, officers reported that some parents didn't access their funded two-year old place as they felt their child was too young.

An online application tool became available from November 2017 ready for applications for the spring term 2018. This allows parents to be automatically advised of their eligibility status. In addition, childcare providers, children's centres and the Family Information Service can carry out assisted applications on behalf of parents who do not have access to online facilities.

Marketing activities are on-going. The Family Information Service now have their own social media platform and they schedule tweets and posts to prompt and remind parents to apply for their funded place. The council continues to attend community events in order to promote the funding and encourage take-up; these have included events organised by ONGO (social housing) and events specific to families of children with disabilities.

Each term we send a 'golden ticket' to the parents of approved children who have not yet taken up their place to encourage them to start the next term.

3.5 Take-up of two-year-old funding

Nationally 154,960⁸ two-year olds took up funded early education. This is the largest majority (72 per cent) of eligible two-year olds. Whilst the take-up percentage nationally increased the actual number of children benefitting from a funded place declined by almost 10,000 due to the reduction in the number of eligible children nationally.

⁸ Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: January 2018, Department for Education

In North Lincolnshire, for the first time since the introduction of funding for two-year olds, the take-up percentage in the spring term 2018 is lower than the national average as is shown in figure seven. Whilst the largest majority (71 per cent) of children took up their funded place, this was the lowest take-up of the year.

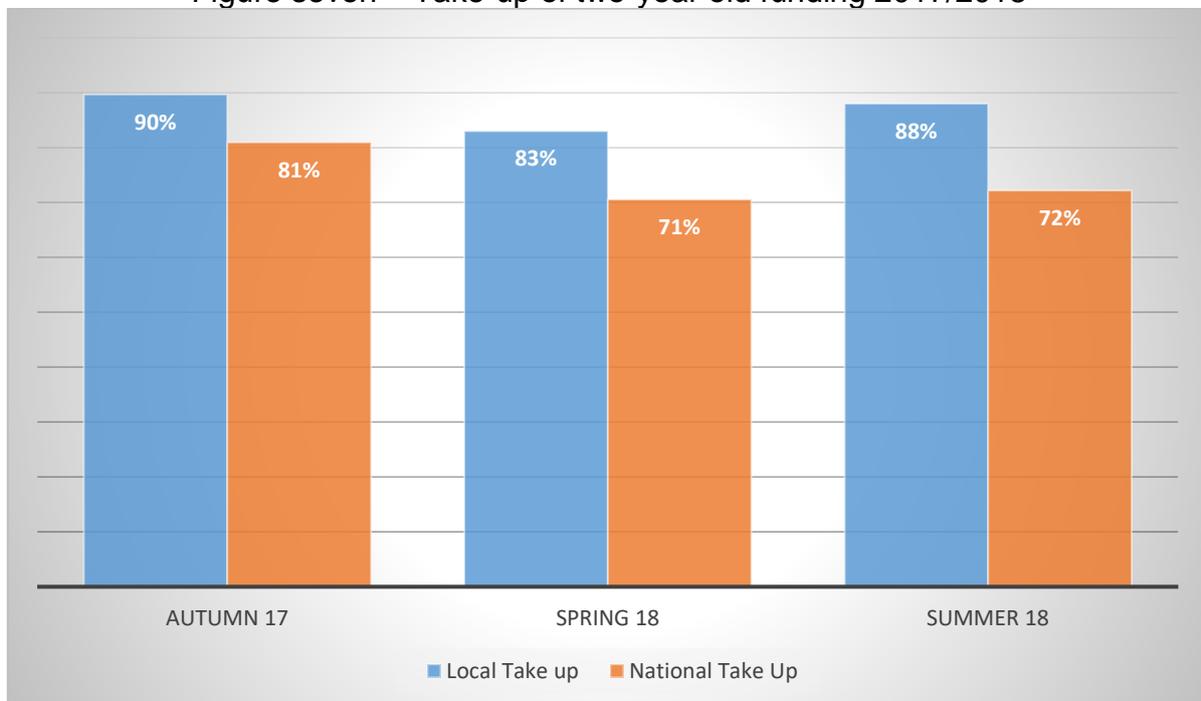
Unfortunately, there were a number of factors that affected take-up:

- Initial access issues for parents with the online application tool which could have contributed to the low application and take-up rate for the spring term 2018.
- Universal credit was rolled out from September 2017 in North Lincolnshire. This could have impacted on the approved applications as the online system didn't fully configure with the new thresholds until April 2018 and there can be a delay of up to six weeks from receiving universal credit to receiving an answer with regards eligibility for two year funding.
- Direct marketing to parents was also put on hold due to the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations 2018. This could have negatively impacted on the take-up figures too.

A marketing plan is in place to reinforce the messages in relation to two-year old and increase take-up.

Take-up was highest in the autumn term. There is anecdotal evidence to suggest this is a trend 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.

Figure seven – Take-up of two-year old funding 2017/2018



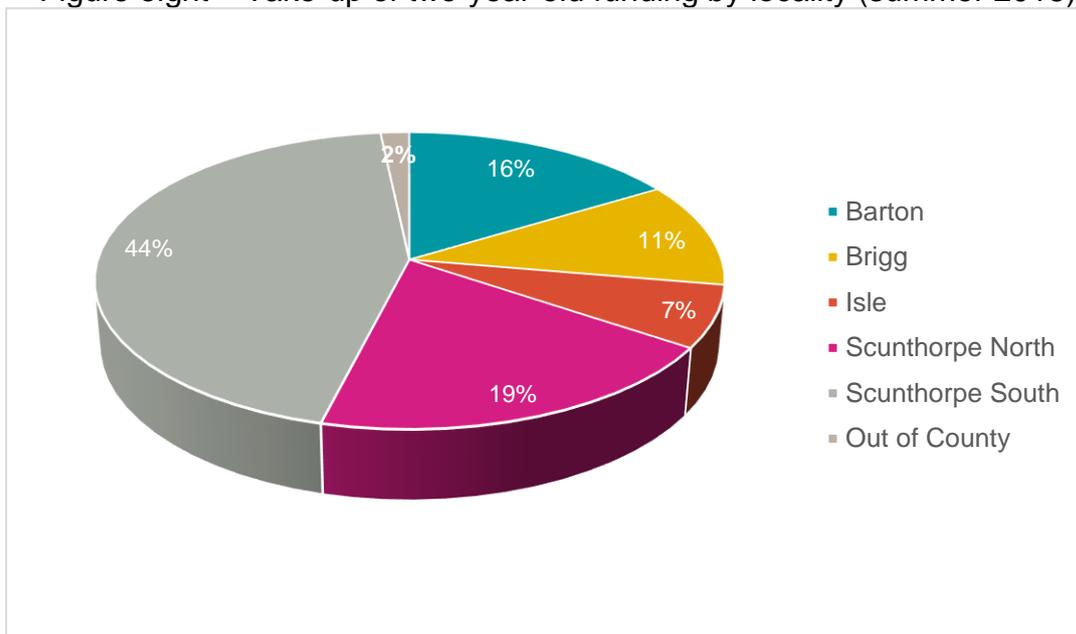
Local take-up is measured against the number of eligible applications from parents. National take-up is measured against the number of names on the list supplied by the Department of Education (see 3.4).

Overall there has been a four per cent improvement in the average take-up over the year, increasing from last year’s average of 83 per cent to 87 per cent.

Each term a number of families apply for the funding but then do not take-up their place. In the summer term 2018, 73 children did not then take-up their place, forty nine of these live in Scunthorpe. All families are followed up and encouraged to take-up a place in subsequent terms. A golden ticket is used to remind them of their funded place.

The take-up of two-year-old places by locality is shown in figure eight. There continues to be a high take-up in Scunthorpe with 63 per cent of eligible children taking up their place.

Figure eight – Take-up of two-year-old funding by locality (summer 2018)



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 most (96 per cent⁹) two-year olds receive their funded early education in settings rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. In North Lincolnshire the vast majority (98 per cent) of children access their funding in a good or better provider.

⁹ Provision for children under 5 years of age in England: January 2018, Department for Education

Ofsted say



The childminder plans a wide variety of stimulating activities and experiences based on children's assessments and individual interests. She follows children's interests and extends activities to challenge them appropriately. The quality of teaching is good and sometimes outstanding. All children make good progress.

Children are happy and confident. They enjoy their time at nursery. They have strong relationships with staff and good friendships with other children. Staff promote good behavior. They teach children the importance of listening, sharing and taking turns. The Ark Day Nursery

Staff play alongside children and support their communication and language skills well. They listen to children's views and repeat words back to them, helping them to hear the correct pronunciation of words. Children make good progress in their learning. Bonby Pre- School

Staff work well with schools when children move on. They share information about their progress and levels of learning, providing extra support for children with additional needs. Orkidz

The childminder encourages parents to bring their children for settling-in sessions when they first start. She recognises the importance of getting to know children well and form them to become familiar with her.

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 nurseries¹⁰ (36), pre-schools¹¹ (24), with registered childminders¹² (55) and out of school clubs (2). In total, there are 152 providers and 4,310 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 Code¹³. 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 introduced 30-hours funded childcare for three and four-year-olds (15 universal and 15 extended hours), where the parent(s) are in employment. The aim of the extended hours is to benefit working parents and increase employment, by reducing the cost of childcare and making returning to work more attractive.

¹⁰ For classification purposes a day nursery is open from 8am to 6pm daily

¹¹ For classification purposes a pre-school is open 9am to 3pm term time only

¹² Registered childminders have applied to deliver funded early education under agreement with the council

¹³ 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.

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 for 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 on parental leave, sick leave or annual leave
- each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week

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
- 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

From September 2018, foster carers are eligible to apply for the funding for children in their care. To be eligible both carers (or single carer, if applicable) must be in employment (there is no minimum number of hours).

All providers 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. A number of providers introduced charges for meals and other services they provide; this will be off-set for parents against the savings made in childcare fees. In addition business support has been offered to all providers to support their financial sustainability, including finance and business training and one to one business advice and a business audit.

4.2 Take-up

Take-up of funded early education places is monitored termly. Figure nine, illustrates the take-up of both the universal hours and extended hours by three and four-year-olds each term. There is no take-up percentage for the extended hours as the total eligible population is unknown. The statistics demonstrate in the academic year 2017/18 most children (95 per cent) take up a funded place.

A number of children take-up their funded 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 2018, 77 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 (universal hours)	Take-up as a percentage of population (3 & 4 year-olds)	Number of Funded Children (Extended Hours)
Autumn 2017	1818	98%	596
Spring 2018	2540	94%	904
Summer 2018	2750	95%	999

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

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 2018, a large majority (66 per cent) of children accessed their universal hours and (76 per cent) and extended hours in private and voluntary provision. The remainder accessed their place in school nurseries. This compares to 65 per cent and 82 per cent of children respectively nationally that accessed their extended hours in the private, voluntary and independent¹⁴ provision.

The take-up of three and four-year-old funding nationally is very high, with most (94 per cent) eligible children taking up a place in spring 2018. This equates to 92 per cent of three-year-olds and 95 per cent of four-year-olds. In North Lincolnshire also most (94 per cent) three and four-year-olds took up their funded early education, this is the same as the national average.

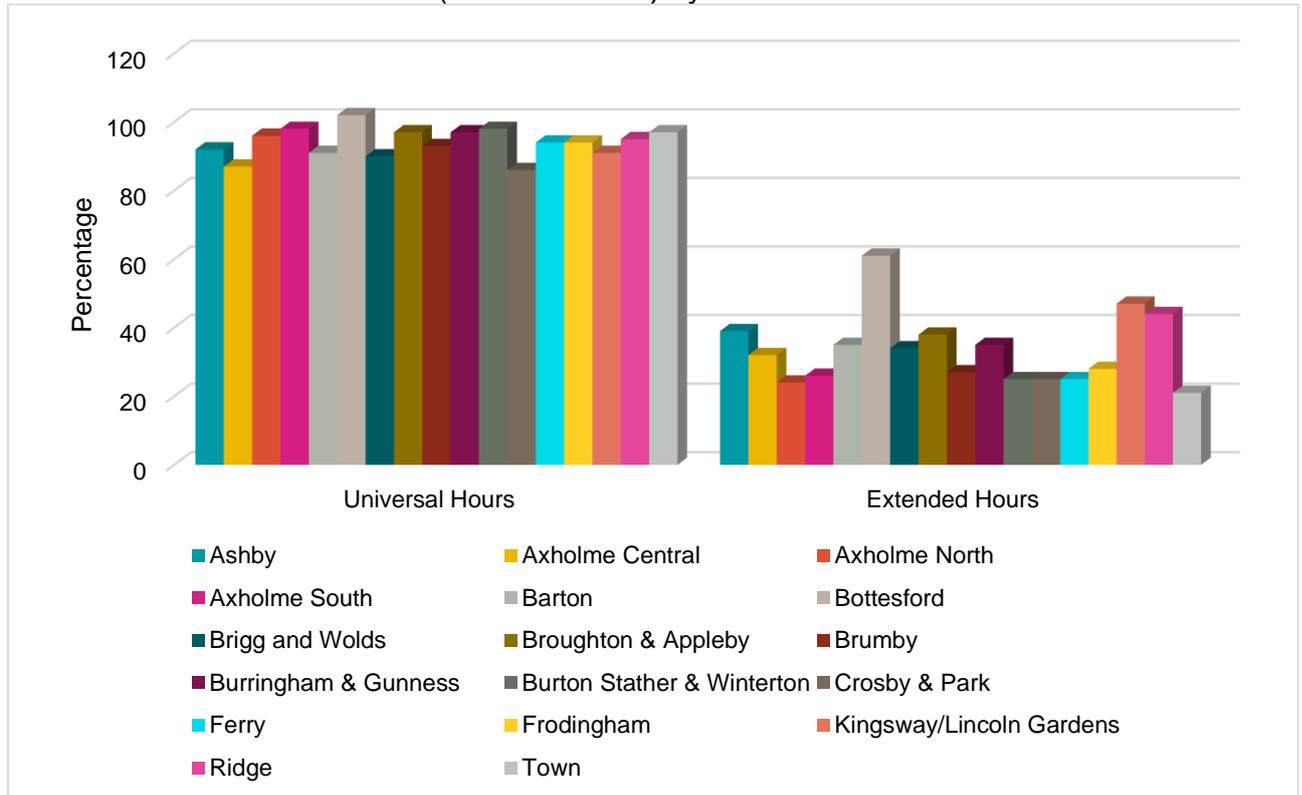
An analysis of take-up by ward has been undertaken and is illustrated in figure 10. The wards with the highest take-up were Bottesford, Axholme South and Burton upon Stather and Winterton. The take-up in the Isle of Axholme is assumed higher as families access their funding in neighboring council areas of Doncaster and Nottinghamshire. The lowest take-up is in the Crosby and Park ward 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 (Summer 2018 – Crosby and Park 87 per cent). 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 March 2018, as such population movements after this date are not reflected in the data.

¹⁴ Independent provision refers to independent schools, there are no independent schools in North Lincolnshire.

The presented take-up for extended hours, is the percentage of the population that have accessed the extended hours. Again Bottesford has the highest percentage of the population taking-up the extended hours with children in the Town ward least likely to be accessing extended hours. This is likely to be reflective of employment patterns in the area.

Figure 10 - Take-up of three and four-year-old funded early education (Summer 2018) by Ward



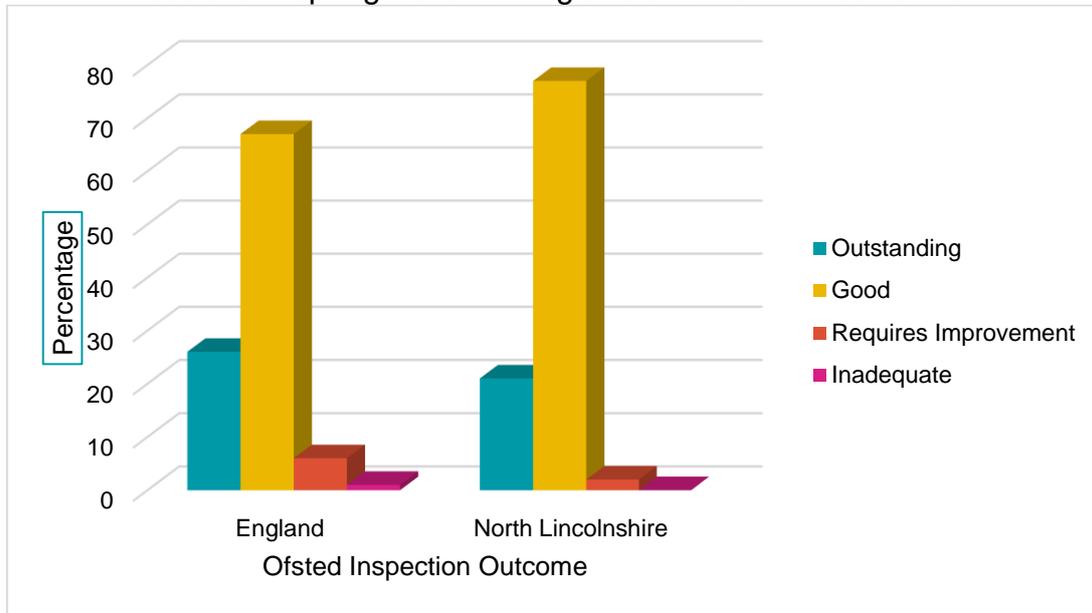
When considering the percentage of children that access their full early education entitlement a large majority access the full 15 hours of early education, at 89 per cent, with 99 per cent accessing 13 hours or more. This is higher than the national average for three-year olds of 85.5 per cent of children accessing 12.51 or more hours per week. When the extended hours are considered the majority (64 per cent) of children access the full 15 extended hours (or more), this is however lower than the national average of 72 per cent.

4.3 Quality of the early education offer

In January 2018, in North Lincolnshire almost all (98 per cent) children benefitting from some funded early education were at a setting with an Ofsted inspection rating of good or better excluding providers where there was no match to an Ofsted inspection rating, This is five per cent higher than the national average of 93 per cent. Figure 11 demonstrates the percentage of children benefitting from funded early education in all sectors in the spring term 2018 for England and North Lincolnshire. In North Lincolnshire a higher percentage of children are attending a

good provider than nationally, but five per cent less children are attending an outstanding provider. This percentage has narrowed by two per cent in the last year. In North Lincolnshire 154 children were attending a provider not yet inspected by Ofsted. This is due to new providers not being given an inspection grading for up to 30 months from when they first open.

Figure 11 – Percentage of children benefitting from funded early education in all sectors in spring 2018 for England and North Lincolnshire



In January 2018, half of all of three and four-year-olds benefitted from funded early education at providers in the private and voluntary sectors with staff, that work directly with the three and four-year olds, qualified at QTS/EYPS/EYTS¹⁵. Nationally 72 per cent of children benefit from staff qualified at these levels. When schools and academies are included this increases to 65 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.

The largest majority of North Lincolnshire’s children (71 per cent) achieved a good level of development, compared to 71.6 per cent of their peers nationally. The LA’s result was 0.9 percentage points above the Statistical Neighbour average of 70.1 per cent. and 1.6 percentage points above the Yorkshire & Humber regional average of 69.4 per cent.

The largest majority of children in North Lincolnshire (68.9 per cent) achieved at least the expected level in all 17 Early Learning Goals, compared to national average of 70.2 per cent. This is a slight decline of 1.1 percentage points on the 2017 result although remains 0.9 percentage points above the Statistical Neighbour average

¹⁵ QTS – qualified teacher status, EYPS – Early Years Professional Status, EYPT – Early Years Teacher Status

(70.1 per cent) and 1.6 percentage points above the Yorkshire & Humber regional average (69.4 per cent). The attainment gap between the lowest achieving 20 per cent of the cohort and the average for all children has widened slightly and is wider than the national gap, though this remains narrower than the gap seen in the Yorkshire & Humber region. The average score for the lowest achieving 20 per cent of the cohort was 23.0 in North Lincolnshire, which is 0.2 points lower than the national average

In 2018, the large majority of children in North Lincolnshire (71.8 per cent) achieved at least the expected level in Communication & Language and Literacy (CLL), compared to 72.4 per cent of children nationally. The LA's result was 0.9 percentage points above the Statistical Neighbour average of 70.9 per cent. The LA's result was 1.7 percentage points above the Yorkshire & Humber average of 70.1 per cent.

4.4 Three and four-year-old projections

The council projects the number of three and four-year-olds eligible to access funded early education. 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 population data¹⁶ and 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 population data and take-up trend data from the last academic year including a factor for growth in numbers.

Supply has been measured using Ofsted registration data and provider data regarding places available for each age group. The places have been converted to hours. Childminder places have not been included with the exception of areas where there appears to be insufficient or limited supply of childcare. This is indicated in the analysis. Whilst there are more than 50 childminders registered for funded early education, the number varies term on term dependent upon whether children in their care are eligible. In addition the numbers of places is variable dependent upon other children in their care, as well as their own children that are counted in the registered numbers.

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, or where it is insufficient supply (minus figure) however if childminder hours are included there would be sufficient supply of places.

¹⁶ Clinical Commissioning Group – Doctor registrations in North Lincolnshire, March 2018

- green indicates where there is sufficient supply to meet estimated demand for childcare places (light green indicates childminder numbers have been included).

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 six per cent of children were attending for more than 30-hours per week (162 children).

The wards of Broughton and Appleby and Gunness and Burringham both suggest a shortage of supply, as does Axholme Central during school holidays. However, in each instance the villages of Broughton, Burringham and Belton offer term-time only pre-school provision. Families that require full days have a choice of nurseries in nearby Brigg, Scunthorpe, Epworth or Ealand 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 – An analysis of demand and supply of childcare hours by ward in North Lincolnshire.

Ward	Difference in demand and supply (Childcare Hours)																	
	autumn 2018			spring 2019			summer 2019			autumn 2019			spring 2020			summer 2020		
	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays	Total number of children 15/30	Term Time	School Holidays
Ashby	282	1429	1073	384	411	722	440	-152	527	263	1609	1159	371	536	765	408	165	637
Axholme Central	95	1353	-327	127	1036	-439	140	904	-485	99	1305	-335	125	1052	-433	142	881	-492
Axholme North	117	2211	761	153	1845	640	175	1626	569	101	2366	818	132	2057	710	156	1812	630
Axholme South	71	2428	1783	104	2096	1674	114	1991	1640	71	2425	1787	91	2224	1716	102	2106	1678
Barton	176	4532	3777	221	4082	3622	265	3635	3468	180	4480	3774	250	3786	3521	282	3461	3409
Bottesford	135	2698	1813	189	2162	1619	232	1743	1467	144	2605	1796	177	2280	1662	206	1995	1558
Brigg and Wolds	145	3626	1504	212	2952	1274	247	2597	1152	171	3346	1423	214	2924	1265	246	2608	1157
Broughton and Appleby	89	-108	-311	125	-468	-437	147	-693	-516	93	-159	-320	122	-438	-426	143	-648	-500
Brumby	198	4757	1842	272	4009	1596	313	3597	1461	204	4685	1831	273	3996	1592	332	3397	1396
Burton upon Stather and Winterton	146	1279	303	205	680	102	234	390	4	151	1218	294	197	766	131	232	407	9
Crosby and Park	266	4770	153	350	3918	-133	401	3406	-306	259	4825	190	348	3947	-123	388	3544	-259
Ferry	167	2521	994	211	2074	844	246	1717	724	133	2856	1117	180	2389	951	210	2085	848
Frodingham	173	2488	1321	237	1836	1105	274	1461	980	172	2495	1335	221	2000	1160	262	1586	1022
Gunness and Burringham	59	-171	-201	80	-387	-275	93	-514	-318	66	-246	-221	90	-487	-308	101	-599	-347
Kingsway with Lincoln	213	5857	5208	267	5321	5020	292	5066	4930	146	6514	5450	197	6016	5262	243	5562	5102
Ridge	163	4089	4428	212	3601	4255	237	3350	4167	145	4262	4503	201	3711	4294	237	3356	4169

The projections for the Ashby ward indicate a potential shortage of supply in the spring and summer terms. However, when childminder places are taken into consideration there is no deficiency in supply. The projections for Crosby and Park ward indicate a potential shortage of childcare supply during school holidays, however when childminders are again taken into consideration there is no deficiency in supply of childcare.

The number of childcare places in Burton upon Stather indicates that whilst there is sufficient supply of childcare a spike in population or additional demand could mean that families are not able to access childcare in the village. However, there is no indication of a growth in population for the village and it is likely that some families will be using nurseries in Scunthorpe as provision is not currently offered until children reach two years of age.

Parents say

“My child has attended from six months old, the provider is fabulous. We will continue to use them for holiday club when she is at school.”

“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 funded childcare will be a huge help.”

“My childcare provider is excellent and provides a home environment for my child, she is also caring for another child of a similar age which is a benefit for my child.”

“The day nursery I use are fantastic, they put the needs of the children first and offer a great service. They are friendly and work closely with parents and my daughter has made great progress in her education during her time with them.”

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

“I am making full use of the 30-hours for my three-year old while on maternity leave. When I am back at work my child will stay at nursery and my baby will go to a childminder.”

“We have stretched the funding for my youngest child. We didn't need to use the full 30-hours per week so it has great to use some of those funded hours to cover childcare in the holiday. A big help financially.”

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-one 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 31 pre-school providers, that are open term time only have limited opportunity for care during school holidays. Just five of the pre-schools offer wrap-around care (before/after school and holiday care for pre-school and school age children) opening in the holidays where there is parental demand. None of the school nurseries are open during the school holidays.

Research with families in North Lincolnshire during the summer of 2018 found that 90 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 2018, there were 31 providers offering holiday childcare to children of school age (four plus years). Just over half of the providers are before and after school clubs that offer holiday care. The remainder are nurseries that offer care for older children. Fifteen of the providers offering holiday care were in Scunthorpe, six in Barton locality, five 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. Providers regularly have more than 40 children at the activities each day, however, not all of the parents will be at work whilst the children are at the activity. 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).
- 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.
- Clixby Active Pro-sports – mixed sports session from 9am – 3.30pm for six days of the summer holidays

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 Trust¹⁷ 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.

¹⁷ 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

Children's self-esteem is promoted well. The childminder praises and encourages children to 'have a go' during activities. This helps raise children's self-concept and belief in themselves and their own abilities.

Children arrive happy and quickly settle into this calm and welcoming pre-school. They enjoy accessing the good range of activities and resource offered. This supports children's independent choices and enables them to follow their interests. Yaddlethorpe Pre-school

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

The highly inspirational leadership provide staff with an exceptionally clear and purposeful direction for continuous improvement. There is a relentless drive for further improvement from the staff and management. Staff are highly ambitious and strive to attain the highest quality in all aspects of their work. Peekaboo



The childminder supports children's mathematical development well. She encourages them to recognise numbers during their play and when out in the community. For example, looking at numbers on house doors and car number plates.

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 summer of 2018, research with parents that did not use childcare in North Lincolnshire did not indicate a demand for childcare for young people over eleven years of age. Thirteen per cent of the respondents had children over 12 years of age (29 families).

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 16 year olds.
- For young people with a disability there are a football clubs for 11 to 19 year olds – on Friday's and Scorers Disability Session on a Tuesday from 6 – 8pm at West Common Sports Hall
- Street Sport and On Target, there are 30 sessions per week 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.

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. They are also excellent at communication and are approachable.”

“Often during school holidays the childminder is full or away so it is difficult out of term time to organise childcare during working hours.”

“Most childcare places want you to pick set days that the child goes each week which is very difficult when you work retail and they usually want your shifts to vary and be flexible. The cost is also very high which I do understand to cover all their costs but there is not enough financial help for those couples who are both trying to work. I recently left work and dropped my daughter from 3 days a week at nursery to just one day as most of my wages were going on nursery fees.”

“My childcare provider is excellent and provides a home environment for my child, she is also caring for another child of a similar age which is a benefit for my child.”

“My child goes to a good nursery and I am happy with it. The cost of childcare is very high and we are lucky that grandparents look after him for two days and we only need to pay for one day a week.”

“I feel safe and happy letting my little boy attend. He has learnt so much in the past few years and continues to grow and make friends. I couldn't ask for a better place to have sent him. Lovely staff.”

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 nought 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) 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 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 recognised, 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. Previously “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 an 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 years 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 of ‘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 years 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.

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 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 recognised, 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. 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 play scheme 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 2018 a total of 27 children attended. The children travelled from all over North Lincolnshire and were from five years of age upwards¹⁸. Between 17 and 20 children attended daily. In total there were 218 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 playscheme 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 playscheme 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 large group activities such as 'What's the Time Mr Wolf' and other traditional playground games. Activities such as the construction area equipped with cardboard boxes and foam bricks allowed the children to develop their gross motor skills.

All children were encouraged to participate in all activities but it was their choice how much and what they did.

- Children and young people were enabled to communicate effectively and form meaningful relationships
- Children built positive relationships with the play staff and with other children attending
- Children and young people and their parents were involved in planning and evaluation

Feedback was gathered from the parents. Their comments were positive:

"I just want to say a massive thank you to all you lovely ladies, my child has loved every day."

Thank you for the play scheme. It gave us some valuable family time to spend with my other children. This was a very helpful service and the staff are friendly and caring."

"I only have basic knowledge of the play scheme, as my little grandson attends it. However, I can say that we all (including his mum and dad) appreciate the facility and the obvious dedication of the staff who work there. My grandson really enjoys the play scheme and we are grateful this facility exists – please keep up the good work."

"As ever it was a godsend, giving me breathing space and Jack entertainment. Well done everyone. Though I got the last of his nail polish off this morning before school."

¹⁸ North Lincolnshire Play Scheme for Children with Complex Needs Summer 2018, Children's Links

Ofsted say



Staff work well with other professionals to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They provide targeted plans to support their individual needs.
Bonby Pre-school

Staff work well in partnership with schools and other early year's settings children attend and share information about children's learning and development. This promotes consistency for children's learning.
Yaddletorpe Pre-school

In 2018, half of the children exceeded the early learning goals in both reading and mathematics, which is higher than found nationally in previous years. Children make rapid progress from their overall typical starting points because of adults' correct and detailed assessments of their needs and teachers' prompt action to take them to the next step.
Alkborough Primary School

The provider implements highly effective monitoring of individual and groups of children. She identifies and addresses any gaps in achievement quickly. She uses additional funding well to help gaps in attainment close. Parents share their aspirations for their children and are involved in monitoring their children's progress. The Ark Day Nursery

The childminder has a good knowledge of how children learn and displays good-quality teaching. She talks to children as she plays alongside them, supporting the development of their communication and language skills

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 Perceptions of childcare

The Childcare Act 2006 requires all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for the needs of working parents in their area. Local authorities must also secure sufficient funded early education provision for all eligible two, three and four-year olds in their area. To meet this duty local authorities are required to carry out a sufficient assessment to ensure adequate supply of childcare to meet parental demand.

To gain details of parent's views and use of childcare, research with families was carried out across North Lincolnshire in the summer of 2018. A random sample of the population was used. Parents and carers that use childcare were given a copy of the questionnaire via their childcare provider. Questionnaires were sent to all day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs and school nurseries to distribute to parents. To gain the views of parents that don't currently use Ofsted registered childcare, a questionnaire was shared with Children's Centres and the Family Information Service. In addition researchers visited swimming lessons, play groups and events throughout North Lincolnshire to speak with parents. The questionnaires were also available on the council website for families to complete.

In total 658 responses were received from parents, 73 per cent of questionnaires were completed by families that use childcare and 27 per cent by families that do not. There are more returns by families for early years children, however this is reflective of the take-up of childcare overall with early education funding being available for some two-year olds and a universal offer for all three and four-year olds. All other childcare is chargeable. The full report can be viewed at <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/people-health-and-care/family-information-service/childcare-sufficiency-assessment/>

The key finding of the research are reported here.

8.1.1 Parent's views of childcare

The questionnaire gathered information about families' use of childcare, the reasons for using childcare, the cost, the number of hours their child attends both paid for and funded. The questionnaire also determined parent's views of flexibility, quality and affordability of childcare.

Key finding include:

- A large majority of parents (75 per cent), main reason for using childcare is to enable them to work or study. Parents also choose childcare:
 - to help their child to socialise and make friends (61 per cent)
 - to help their child prepare for school (49 per cent)
 - and for their child's development and education (both 49 per cent).

- Key factors that influenced the majority of parent’s choice of childcare are its location (58 per cent), reputation (53 per cent), recommendations (50 per cent) and opening hours (45 per cent).
- Almost all parents are satisfied with their childcare (98 per cent) and feel that their childcare arrangements met their needs (90 per cent). There is also a perception by most parents that their childcare provider is of a high quality (86 per cent).
- Parents were asked if any improvements were needed to their childcare, less than half (43 per cent) felt no improvements were needed. Where improvements were cited by a small minority of parents they indicated that childcare could be more affordable (35 per cent), available at different times (22 per cent) and more flexible (18 per cent). Very few parents highlighted opening hours, school holiday care and travel to childcare.
- Single parents have a more positive experience of childcare, with the majority citing that no improvements are need to their childcare (48 per cent). Fewer parents also felt that childcare should be more affordable or be more flexible.

Parent’s comments included:

“I feel safe and happy letting my little boy attend. He has learnt so much in the past few years and continues to grow and make friends. I couldn’t ask for a better place to have sent him. Lovely staff.”

“My children have attended almost eight years. My childminder has been pro-active in their development and learning as a result they function above expected levels. She has supported the children through negative situations and I could not ask for a better childminder.”

“It is not open early enough or late enough for pre-school and after school.”

“I would be better off (personally and financially) if I could have a greater level of flexibility as I have to book breakfast club in advance for the whole half term and give 4 weeks-notice for after school club for any changes... If I could book a week in advance that would be a lot better.”

“Disappointed with lack of OOSC during the school holidays. Six weeks is a very long time to beg childcare from family and we cannot get enough time off work to cover it. Last year we paid for our older children to attend day long energise sessions which were excellent and a real lifesaver. This summer is causing problems due to the lack of provision.”

8.1.2 Affordability

It is important to consider the cost of childcare as it is a large financial commitment for any family. The questionnaire asked families the cost of their childcare and whether they receive any support with the cost of childcare.

- In relation to the affordability of childcare, 37 per cent of respondents feel that their childcare is value for money, whereas 27 per cent feel that it is too

expensive. A minority of families (39 per cent) received help with the cost of childcare either through childcare vouchers, Tax Free Childcare, the childcare element of Working Tax Credits and Universal Credit. This is comparable with the Department for Education research where 23 per cent of families received financial assistance with childcare fees.

- It is common for families to receive support with childcare from friends and family, there is a correlation between the number of children and the use of friends and family for childcare purposes. Forty-six per cent of families with three children rely upon family and friends compared to twenty-five per cent of families with one child.

Parent's comments included:

"Luckily I have parents in laws who can help otherwise we would struggle to work and pay for childcare."

"It is value for money but with having more than one child accessing the free hours we wouldn't have been able to afford it with a limited fixed income."

8.1.3 Two, three and four-year old funding

It is a statutory duty of the council to ensure that there are sufficient funded early education places to meet the needs of families for both the universal and extended hours. The questionnaire determined whether families were able to access their first choice of provision, whether they access all their funded hours and where appropriate the impact of the extended hours on the family.

- The majority (58 per cent) of the families are accessing funded early education for two, three or four-year olds, of these the largest majority (62 per cent) are eligible for the extended 15-hours. A large quantify (75 per cent) of families were accessing the full allocation of hours for their children. Where families were not accessing the full allocation of hours this was their choice, they felt that their child was too young or they were accessing the hours they had chosen.
- In relation to the extended hours (30-hours) families were generally positive stating that their childcare fees had remained the same or reduced, where they had stayed the same or increase this was usually due to accessing additional hours for the child or a sibling. Twenty-five per cent were using less informal childcare. Other impacts of the funding include parents increasing their working hours or working patterns and a ten per cent felt that their career prospects had improved as a result of 30-hours funding.

Parent's comments included:

"We use 21.5 hours of my 30-hours to cover days that I am at work."

"We have stretched the funding for my youngest child. We didn't need to use the full 30-hours per week so it has been great to use some of those funded hours to cover childcare in the holidays. A big help financially."

“Extremely happy with childcare providers and the three-year old funding with up to 30-hours has helped us as a family massively. Prior to the funding I felt I was going to work to pay for childcare and to keep my job. With a baby due I am concerned about my costs of childcare when I go back to work and is it worth me working.”

8.1.4 Parents that do not use childcare

A second questionnaire sought the views of parents that do not currently use childcare to determine if this is their choice or they have not been able find childcare to meet their needs. The questionnaire gathered information about the size of the family, whether parents are in employment and whether childcare was a barrier to them seeking or staying in employment.

Key finding from the research include:

- The large majority (70 per cent) of families cited that they either chose not to use childcare, do not work and do not require childcare, or other family members looked after their child.
- A small minority (21 per cent) of families said that childcare issues had stopped them or their partner working more hours and a few (nine per cent) said it has caused them problems at work, all families were in employment and were using informal childcare arrangements.
- The cost of childcare was a factor cited by a few (12 per cent) families, stating childcare is too expensive. There was a high level of awareness of two, three and four-year old funding but less than half of families were aware of tax free childcare, universal credit, childcare vouchers and student support for childcare. As a very large majority (87 per cent) of families are in employment, studying or looking for work there is a potential demand for childcare and an improved awareness of financial support could benefit families.
- A very small minority (six per cent) of families cited that there was no childcare to meet their needs, the reasons included no childcare in the right location, poor quality of childcare and no qualified staff. This would suggest that parents are not fully aware of the childcare offer in North Lincolnshire, as all childcare providers have a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome, a key factor in the quality of provision and almost all staff are qualified to at least a level two, with many having a degree in childcare.

Parent’s comments included:

“Not just North Lincolnshire but generally too expensive, hourly cost is more than hourly salary so not worth doing.”

“I don't use childcare as it's too expensive and isn't financially viable”.

“I used the three-year old funding when my children were that age.”

“There is not enough support for working parents. Funded childcare should be eligible for all. Otherwise you do not gain working full time as majority pays for nursery fees.”

“I have used nurseries in the past and do see the role they have as a crucial one, with childcare and other input they have on families.”

“When I needed childcare I found childcare very easy.”

8.1.5 Children with a special educational need and/or disability

High quality early years provision has a particularly positive effect for children with SEND. All Ofsted registered childcare providers within North Lincolnshire are inclusive of all children and welcome children with SEND to attend. Additional support is provided to childcare providers and schools to meet the needs of all children and to assist providers with any additional costs incurred. The research asked parents to identify if any of their children have a disability or long-term limiting illness to ensure that their experiences of childcare are the same as other families and that childcare is fully inclusive. Six per cent of families that use childcare and eight per cent of families that don't use childcare indicated they have a child with a disability or long-term limiting illness.

Key finding from families include:

- All families were able to access a place at their first choice of provider, suggesting that providers are fully inclusive. More than half of the families felt that no improvements were need to their childcare. Importantly where improvements were cited these related to being available at different times, more flexible and more affordable. Just two parents stated that the childcare could be better at meeting the needs of their child.
- Children with a disability or long-term limiting illness that were not using childcare were more likely to have more siblings (with three, four or five siblings being common) and their parents cited that they did not work and as such did not need childcare. It appears that whilst parents were not working, they were aware of funded early and would access it for eligible children.

Parent's comments included:

“Adapted each year to ensure the needs of my children are met.”

“They liaise very well with specialists.”

“Super positive experience throughout provision over past six to seven years.”

“Our childcare setting is always helpful and willing to go extra steps for our children.”

8.2 Consultation with children in North Lincolnshire holiday clubs

The council previously 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 travelling by car from other villages. 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.

8.3 Consultation with childcare providers

All childcare providers, schools and academies were consulted in relation to their views of the sufficiency of childcare in their catchment area during 2018.

8.3.1. Methodology

Each term all private and voluntary childcare providers that deliver funded early education attend a meeting with the council. At the meeting a questionnaire was circulated. The questionnaire was then emailed to all non-funded childminders and out of school clubs to ensure that all providers had the opportunity to share their

views of the childcare market. Of a total of 160 providers, 67 provided a response to the consultation (42 per cent).

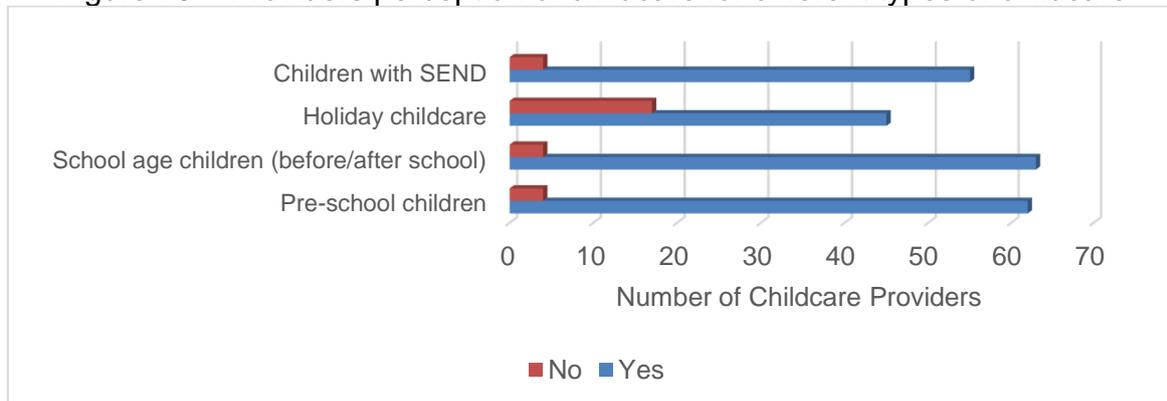
Secondly, all schools and academies were sent a short questionnaire via email to determine what wrap-around care they offer and their views in relation to sufficiency of childcare in their locality. Of a total of 77 schools and academies 14 schools responded via email (18 per cent).

8.3.2 Private and voluntary providers

The questionnaire sought their views of sufficiency of the childcare market and their business objectives for the coming year as well as challenges to the business.

Firstly providers were asked their perception of the childcare market and whether they felt that there was sufficient childcare to meet parental demand in their area. Their responses are illustrated in figure 13.

Figure 13 – Providers perception of childcare for different types of childcare



In general childcare providers were in agreement that there is sufficient childcare provision for families in their localities. However, as identified in the parental research 27 per cent of respondents felt that there is insufficient holiday childcare for families.

The following comments were made regarding the sufficiency.

Pre-school children:

“Depending what term. It’s a small village and another provider probably would help with numbers so families didn’t have to look outside the village.”

Children with SEND:

“I am unaware of any issues for children with SEND”

“There appears to be a lack of EY provision for SEND children and attend school and then need care in the holidays. We are struggling at Ashby to offer this due to costs and staffing. It is also not ideal for children to return to the nursery setting.”

“I feel that the settings in the area provide excellent care for a child with SEND”

Holiday childcare:

“The church run a holiday club but only on occasional days”

“Comments from parent’s families using I Learn Brigg for holiday care is that there is limited around the area - summer holidays in particular.”

“Before and after school care- particularly Holiday Childcare”

“Holiday is offered 2 days a week but isn't used much”

“Aware that there are nurseries in the area that offer extended hours. On the whole I think the area does offer sufficient childcare but holiday clubs could be beneficial.”

“Definitely no holiday childcare other than childminders”

Before and after school care:

“School provide breakfast/afterschool - limited places”

“We have spaces, but need more children for all of the above”

“There is not enough provision for out of school club children, we as a nursery are full and often have to turn people away, they nearly always phone again asking if we know of anything in the area and a lot of childminders in the area.”

“We have a lot of parents that struggle to arrange after school collections from school.”

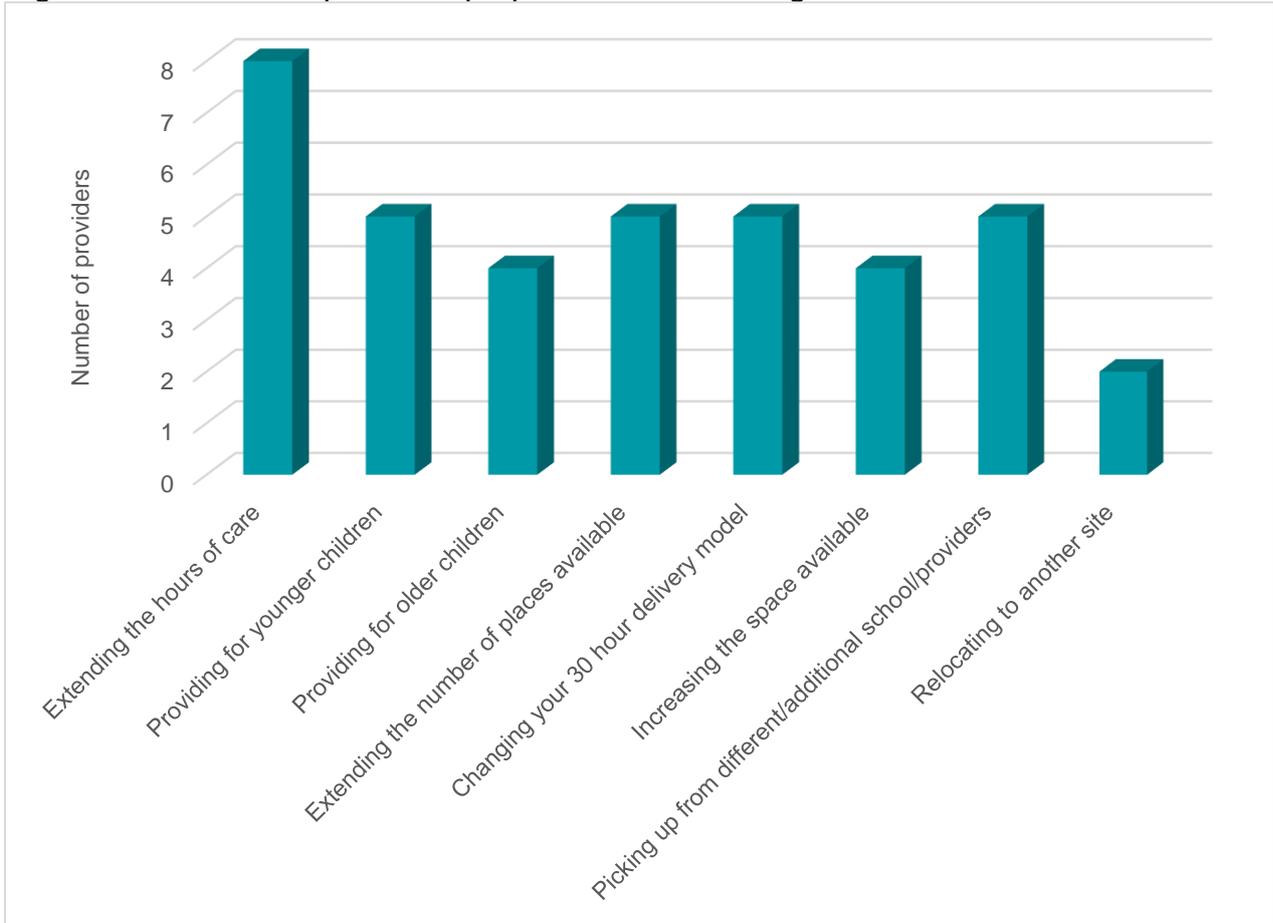
“My area seems to be ok. I do get messages for other school pick-ups which I cannot do.”

“We as a setting are piloting before/after/holiday childcare as there hasn't been anything in our area to support working parents.”

“I am aware of a small number of parents who struggle with after school care but manage using family members.”

Next providers were asked whether they were considering expanding or changing their service in the next twelve months. Providers were asked to tick one or more of eight options. Their response are illustrated in figure 14.

Figure 14 – Childcare providers proposed service changes in the next twelve months



It is positive that providers are considering expanding their business and in ways in which parents have highlighted in the research as areas of demand.

Providers were then asked a number of questions to ascertain their offer to parents, including the availability of irregular hours and weekend care, whether they work in partnership with others to offer wrap-around care to families. Childminders were also asked whether they employ an assistant.

When asked if they allowed parents to stretch their funded early education across the whole year, taking less hours each week, the majority (39) of the providers did offer this (58 per cent). This is beneficial for parents as it means they can access their full entitlement of hours and/or can have the same childcare bill for additional hours throughout the year. In addition 55 per cent of providers work in partnership with other childcare providers to help parents with childcare either side of their opening hours (37 providers).

In North Lincolnshire there are parents working shifts and wishing to vary their childcare each week based on their working pattern. Providers were asked if they allowed a small number of their parents to access irregular hours each week, the majority (44) of the providers allowed this (65 per cent).

To understand what availability there is for families overnight and at the weekends providers were asked if they offered this care. Just three childminders indicated that they offered weekend care and one offered overnight care.

To understand levels of forward planning providers were asked if they prepared a business plan. Sixty seven per cent of providers have a business plan. Providers were then asked a number of questions in relation to sources of income and payment of fees. As an average:

- 56 per cent of providers income is through funded early education
- seven per cent of parents have unpaid or overdue fees
- 19 per cent of parents pay their fees after the due date
- 32 per cent of providers plan to increase their fees in the next year

The key priorities for their business over the coming year included to remain sustainable, increase publicity and improve communication with parents and to encourage families to apply for 30-hours. Key challenges expressed by the childcare providers include staff pensions and rising salaries, increasing costs, late payments and recruitment of experienced staff.

8.3.3 Schools and Academies

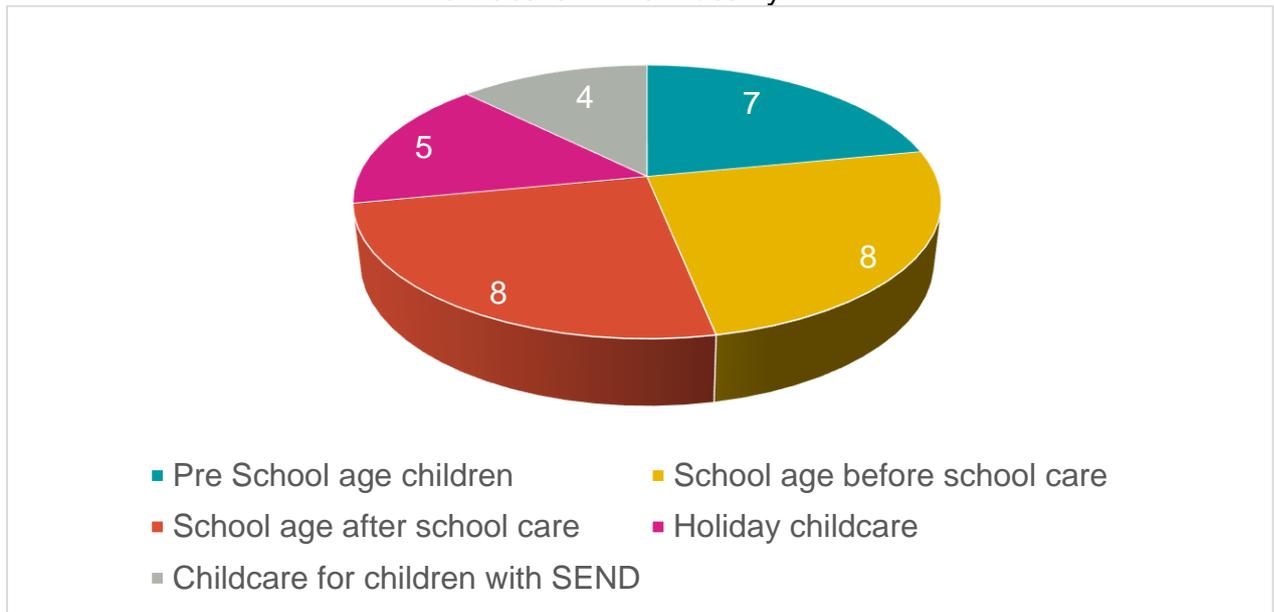
All schools and academies were sent a short questionnaire to determine what wrap around care they offer and whether they perceive there to be sufficient childcare in their locality.

Of the 14 that responded they offered the following wrap-around care to families:

- eight offered breakfast club
- four offered after school clubs
- three offered a holiday club in partnership with a private or voluntary provider
- 13 offered after school activities (sports, drama, etc)

Based on their knowledge of the childcare market in their locality schools indicated whether they perceived there to be sufficient supply of different types of childcare. The responses are illustrated in figure 15. More than half of the respondents felt that there was sufficient childcare for pre-school age children, before and after school.

Figure 15 – Number of schools/academies that perceived there to be sufficient childcare in their locality



The small rural schools indicated they were aware of childminders that served their school. One rural school cited that parents had said they were struggling to work or were not able to return to work as a result of childcare difficulties.

Parents say:

“My children have attended almost eight years. My childminder has been pro-active in their development and learning as a result they function above expected levels. Karen has supported the children through negative situations and I could not ask for a better childminder.”

“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.”

“Our nursery setting is very flexible and allows us to pop in extra hours if needed if they have them available, for unexpected appointments or my inset days etc. My childminder is flexible in the same way.”

“My childcare provision I feel is value for money, as open seven till seven and provide breakfast, dinner and tea as well as drinks. Friendly reliable and approachable. Also pick up from my sons school.”

“My child’s learning has improved. She has friends and they teach her things we have not thought of.”

“In our case, I feel school provision should have play worker staff - however, I have a background in childcare/play work so probably looking at it with different eyes! Holiday play scheme would be good. At the end of the day, son enjoys going and it’s handy for a couple of sessions after school a week. Really flexible too.”

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's Family Information Service (FIS) and website provides a wealth of information related to support with the cost of childcare to enable 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. Providers are able to enter their childcare fees in the council's Self Update Portal so that families are aware of charges. 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. The highest percentage of 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 £3.80; an increase of seven pence since 2017. The lowest hourly rate is just £3 per hour and the highest £6 per hour. Almost all childminders promote a daily rate; the average figure in North Lincolnshire is £35.67 per day.

The average hourly rate for each locality is presented in figure 16. The lowest price childminders are based in Scunthorpe South, where there is more choice.

Figure 16 – The average hourly rate for childcare with a childminder by locality in North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£3.81	£3.98	£4.07	£3.88	£3.80

Nationally a figure is presented by the Family and Childcare Trust¹⁹. The average cost for a childminder for 25 hours²⁰ of care per week is £142.61 per week, an increase of £32.77 since 2017. In North Lincolnshire at an average hourly rate the cost to families is £95 this is £47.61 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 £39.18 (an increase of 74 pence over the year); the price is variable from £32 to £52.50. Figure 17 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 17 – Average cost of a nine hours childcare in a nursery in the localities of North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£42.73	£36.67	£41.93	£34.04	£40.46

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 earned²¹.

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 £149.13 and for two-year olds it is £191.56, the cost difference between 2017 and 2018 is £32.88 for under two-year

¹⁹ Childcare Survey 2018, Claire Harding and Joshua Cottell on behalf of Family and Childcare Trust

²⁰ 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.

²¹ ONS - Appendix Two 5.5

olds and £79.18 for two-year olds. This equates to a daily rate of approximately £31.22 and £38.43. 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 £49.36. 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 £39.18 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 weeks 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 2016/17 illustrated that the average help with childcare costs per week was £56.12 nationally²², well below the maximum of £122.50.

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 £12.88, with the lowest price being £8.40 and the highest being £15. Figure 18 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 18 – the average price for full day’s pre-school session in North Lincolnshire

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£21.36	£31.26	£27.53	£31.92	£27.39

The cost of childcare in Scunthorpe North, one of the least affluent areas, has the highest cost for a full day at pre-school. 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

²² Table 3.2 Average number of in-work families benefitting from the childcare element, Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics: finalised annual awards in 2016 to 2017, HMRC National Statistics 2018

additional hours in a pre-school is £4.28 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 £1.98, with prices ranging from free to £4.30. When compared to Ofsted registered childcare for which the average cost is £4.48 a session, with the lowest cost of £3.20 and the highest at £9. 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 £9.39 from school finish to 6pm, the lowest priced childcare is £6 (for hours only) and the highest priced is £19.50. A number of providers drive children to their provision and the cost can include transport.

Figure 19 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 19 – 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	£2.94	£4.16	£2.82	£1.11	£2.75
After School	£8.56	£8.34	£12.61	£9.00	£10.71

Most childminders offer a school run service and holiday care. Based on the average hourly cost of £3.80, 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 £3.80. The average for North Lincolnshire is £46.95 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 £62.25. This compares to £57 per week in North Lincolnshire.

Holiday care

A number of out of school clubs and day nurseries offer holiday childcare for working parents (30 providers). Typically families use holiday childcare schemes for one or two weeks of the year²⁴ 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 £30.41; with the lowest price being £17 and the highest price being £49.50. Four 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. Twenty of the childcare providers are day nurseries caring for children from nought to eight or 11 years.

There is a considerable price variance in holiday childcare as illustrated in figure 20.

Figure 20 – The average cost of holiday childcare by locality

Barton	Brigg	Isle	Scunthorpe North	Scunthorpe South
£25.86	£31.93	£36.17	£32.00	£28.72

Nationally the Family and Childcare Trust found in its Childcare Costs Survey 2018²³ the average cost of holiday childcare is £133 per week, an increase of £8.77 per week. In North Lincolnshire the average cost is higher than the national average at £152 per week (£19 a week higher than the national average).

Childminders also offer care for older children during the school holidays. Their average daily rate is £24 for children five to eight year olds. This is lower than the

²³ Holiday Childcare Survey 2018, Joshua Cottell Kanto and Fiaferana on behalf of the Family and Childcare Trust

average cost for a holiday club; however prices range from £18 per day up to £50. Children over eight years are not included in childcare ratios and no cost information is collected, as such we have assumed the same daily rates will be charged. As older children require less intensive support than younger children the average daily rate is lower than that for pre-school children.

There are other opportunities for children in the holidays with sports camps and drama clubs for children over seven/eight years. 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:

- Scunthorpe United Community Sport and Education Trust offer football coaching from a 9am to 3pm throughout the holidays for £10
- Kimberley Performing Arts Centre offer a Musical Theatre week daily 10am to 3pm for £25 per day

Ofsted say



The childminder shares information about children's learning with schools when children move on. She invites teachers into her setting to see the children and to find out about their unique qualities.

Parents comment positively about the pre-school and how their children are learning key skills in readiness for their move on to school. Staff promote children's independence well and encourage them to socialise with others. Yaddlethorpe Pre-school

The nurturing childminder provides a welcoming and homely environment. Children develop very close bonds with the childminder and her assistants. The childminder gets to know children extremely well. Children show an exceptionally strong sense of belonging. They are familiar with routines and demonstrate that they feel secure.

Well planned activities many of which children can choose for themselves, offer a wide range of opportunity and are well managed to maximise learning. Frodingham Infant School

The management team is enthusiastic and dedicated to raising outcomes for children. They demonstrate determination to drive forward continuous improvements. The views of staff, parents and children are regularly sought and used to inform action plans. The management value the advice they receive from their local authority representative. Happy Days

Staff make excellent use of rigorous observations of children's learning to precisely assess their progress. They effectively plan activities closely matched to children's interests to ensure they securely reach the next steps in their learning. Peekaboo Day Nursery



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 and the support available to help families with the cost of childcare.

The Children's Centres in North Lincolnshire also play a pivotal role in both promoting childcare, this year with a focus on 30-hours funding 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 funded childcare places. All health visitors have a pack of information to support them in fully promoting the funded childcare.

The council web site has a wide range of information for families about childcare. An online application service for two-year old funding means they receive an instant decision in relation to their eligibility. This speeds up the process and provides an around the clock service to families. Families can also apply with any childcare provider, at a Children's Centre or via the telephone with the Family Information Service.

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, monthly newsletters and face-to-face at regular outreach events. 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 and the 30-hours
- 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.
- Providing information on free and cheap activities for children in the local area including maintaining an online activity guide

Since gaining the Families First Award in December 2015, the FIS has continued to provide a high quality service to local families which exceeds the statutory requirements laid down in Section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006.

The FIS Steering Group has grown considerably to include key local authority and external stakeholders supporting families as a whole not just children and now

receives regular attendance from a wide range of partners. There have been many benefits to this wider membership in terms of improving information, advice and guidance for families who increasingly perform a number of caring roles for children, older relatives and family members with long term health conditions or disabilities.

The FIS received 248 telephone and email enquiries directly related to families looking for childcare during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 which equated to a 22 per cent drop from the previous year.

In addition, 611 telephone and email enquiries were received about funded early education for two, three and four-year olds, 30-hours and other schemes to help families meet the costs of using registered childcare.

In 92.6 per cent of the enquiries, the detailed and up-to-date information provided to the family in the form of a personalised list, was sufficient to enable them to find appropriate childcare without further assistance.

For 17 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 in all but four cases.

Generally, difficulties remain for some families with finding school pick-ups, with a small number of schools having no childcare available or just one or two childminders covering them. However, it is a very small and sporadic 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 reduction in the number of telephone enquires coincides with the Council's push to enable residents to find the information they need for themselves via the online self-service portals; in this case the childcare web pages on the Council website and the Family Information Directory which includes details of all Ofsted registered childcare providers.

Analysis of web page use shows that in the last year (to March 2018) there were 16,284 visitors seeking information about childcare; this is a 26.2 per cent increase on 2016/17.

The number of visits to the council funded early education web pages was in excess of 5,600 visits (funded education 2031 visits, two-year old funding 2668 and three and four-year old funding 911 visits). This equated to an increase in web visits of over 29 per cent compared with the previous year.

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 was extensively re-vamped in 2018 and now makes it even easier for families to find childcare to meet the individual needs of their child. In the last year (April 2017 –

March 2018) there has been 4,513 visitors viewing the childcare pages of the site an increase of over 54 per cent.

10.1 Support for families with the cost of childcare

There are a number of forms of assistance available to help almost all families with the cost of childcare. The government launched Childcare Choices in the spring 2017 (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 regarding their views of childcare during the summer of 2018²⁴. This shows that, of the 458 families using childcare the minority (39 per cent) of families were in receipt of financial support with the cost (56 childcare vouchers, 6 universal credit, 15 Tax Free Childcare, 27 childcare element of Working Tax Credit and one student finance (this excluded funded early education). In addition the majority (58 per cent) of the families were accessing 15 or more hours of funded early education for two, three or four-year olds. Of the 177 families that did not use childcare the affordability of childcare was cited as a reason for not using childcare by a few (12 per cent) families. An analysis of their responses indicates that they are likely to be eligible for some assistance with the cost of childcare.

10.1.1 Funded childcare

All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours a week funded early education (for 38 weeks of the year) 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) were eligible for an additional 15 hours per week (during term term). Families apply for the extended 15-hours on-line via Childcare Choices (30-hours per week for 38 weeks of the year). Working families can stretch the entitlement allowing them to access funded childcare for fewer hours per week but throughout the year.

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

²⁴ Parents Views of Childcare in North Lincolnshire 2018, North Lincolnshire Council research.

applications and to assist them in finding quality childcare to meet their individual family circumstances.

10.1.2 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 financial assistance starts to taper off once the household income reaches £6,420. Nationally, HMRC finalised awards data for 2016/17²⁵ illustrates that 1,079,000 families benefitted from support with childcare costs. The average help with childcare costs per week was £56.12.

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.

10.1.3 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. The government top-up the money families pay into the account. For every £8 paid in, the government adds an additional £2. Families can receive up to £2,000 per child (£4,000 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

²⁵ HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics Finalised Awards in 2016-17, Table 3.1.

Childcare cannot be used alongside Childcare Vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. It can be used with the 15 and 30-hour childcare schemes.

10.1.4 Employer supported childcare

Parents were able to claim relief on income tax and National Insurance Contributions on the cost of childcare, using childcare vouchers or workplace nurseries provided through their employers. The scheme closed to new families in October 2018 and is replaced by Tax Free Childcare. Employer supported childcare is being phased out due to the limited number of employers that offered the scheme (only 5 per cent of employers nationally offered vouchers). Tax Free Childcare replaced employer supported childcare and is more accessible for families. However parents that were signed up to employer supported childcare prior to the scheme closing continue to be eligible.

Each parent benefits from up to £55 per week (£2,860 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 £625 each year. One of the largest employers locally, North Lincolnshire Council, offered a salary sacrifice scheme (childcare vouchers) to their employees.

10.1.5 Students

10.1.5.1 *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.

10.1.5.2 *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.

10.2 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.

10.3 Shared parental leave

The government introduced shared parental leave to support families with the introduction of new family members. Families can 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 nursery, 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 think the hours of free childcare has really benefited my husband and I and our child. We wouldn't be able to afford these hours on our own and my husband would not be able to get enough sleep after his night shifts. My child's development and speech has improved.”

“We took on our three grandchildren and found childcare provision an absolute godsend. We have no other small children among our friends to help them to socialise and develop. They were very supportive offering very practical advice and help as well as a huge amount of emotional support for the entire family.”

“I am very happy with the private nursery that my children attend. They are child focussed and always looking for ways to improve.”

“See previous comments Keep asking for holiday provision though- wouldn't use every day but even if opened for a couple of days a week or a two week block, would help so many families plan work schedules. Luckily we both have flexible jobs, family help and now he is old enough to access football and sailing camps that run in holidays when he goes term time. Appreciate we are lucky enough to be able to afford this at a stretch, not all families are. Seems ridiculous council holiday activities are for over 8s!”

“I use 21.5 hours of my 30-hours to cover days that I work. I still need family and friends to pick up. We have a better quality of life due to funding and it actually work going to work to pay for childcare.”

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 time²⁶. An early education has a positive net effect on Math's and English, not just on early outcomes, but still showing in English and Math's 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 Years 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 peers²⁶.

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 552,760 three and four-year-olds nationally, sixty three per cent of all children accessing funded early education²⁷. It is estimated by Ofsted²⁸ that the private, voluntary and independent sector provides 1.3 million places overall.

Schools also play a major role in early education with 319,450 children accessing early education in a school nursery class or maintained nursery school (37 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 (2018) 96 per cent of childcare provision on the Early Years Register is rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted in their most recent inspection. As a result, many more parents now have a better chance of finding a high quality early education place in the area. Quality is rising for nurseries, pre-schools and childminders, as well as in schools.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ Provision for children under 5 years of age in England, January 2018, Department for Education

²⁸ The annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2017/18, Ofsted

Ofsted highlight a number of factors that may have contributed to the rise in the quality of the early years sector over time.

- Inspection and registration processes
- Changes to the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2012 mean that childminders have to complete training before they can be registered with Ofsted. This may have reduced the overall numbers of joiners over time, while improving the quality of those joining.
- Since November 2013, Ofsted have re-inspected all nurseries and pre-schools judged as requires improvement within 12 months. This means that those providers have been more frequently monitored and so have had the opportunity to improve sooner.
- Similarly, from August 2016, Ofsted have prioritised inspecting childminders that have previously been judged as requires improvement.

1.1 Childminder Ofsted inspections

In North Lincolnshire most (94.1 per cent) childminders with early years children on role and inspected in the year up to 31 August 2018, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. This meant that the overall percentage of good or better providers available was 98.4 per cent of all childminders. This has decreased very slightly from 98.5 per cent in August 2017 but still equates to just one childminder being rated as Requires Improvement overall.

1.2 Non-domestic inspections

Most (90 per cent) 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 2018, received a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection outcome. This decreased the overall percentage of good or better providers to 96.7 per cent of available providers; this was a decrease over the year of 3.3 per cent, from 100 per cent in August 2017.

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 additional funding is restricted to the universal funded hours only. 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. To be eligible families must be in receipt of government benefits or the child must be in the care of a local authority or have left care through an adoption, a special guardianship or child arrangements order.

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 2018 a small minority (approximately 13 per cent) of children in receipt of funded early education were eligible for EYPP, this is seven per cent less than the previous year. The reduction in the numbers of children may be as a result of changes to the government benefits system and the introduction of income thresholds for families in receipt of universal credit.

2.2 Qualifications and workforce

Our electronic recording systems enable early years providers across the sector to input workforce qualifications. This takes into account all staff working within the private and voluntary early years sector.

Data 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 21 provides a breakdown of qualifications in 2017-18 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 the 847 employees within the early years workforce, 134 are graduates (level six or above). This equates to 16 per cent of the total early years workforce in North Lincolnshire.

Thirty three graduates have completed or are completing teacher status (Early Years (EYT) or Qualified (QTS) which equates to 25 per cent of the graduate workforce. All but two of these employees with teacher status are working in good or better provisions. The other two are in provisions awaiting their first inspection.

Figure 21 - Locality Breakdown of qualifications (2017/18)

Locality	Unqualified Number (<i>percentage</i>)	L2, 3, 4, 5 Number (<i>percentage</i>)	Graduates (<i>percentage</i>)
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 available through the local authority Early Years team. A new graduate/EYP/EYT network will be set up in the coming year in partnership with the local authority and North Lindsey College 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 an Introduction to Home Based Childcare (IHBC) course 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 2017, 26 people attended the childminder briefing. Eleven people then went on to complete the IHBC course, two of whom were from other local authority areas. Four learners were certificated in July 2017 with the NCFE CACHE Level Three Award Preparing to work in Home Based Childcare. Additionally five learners started the CACHE Award in September 2017.

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 a graduated approach of support which providers are offered. Where providers require a particularly high level of support to develop and progress, bespoke packages of support are offered within Provider Improvement Plans and Provider of Concern action plans. Where there are significant ongoing concerns regarding a decline in quality at the setting; a registered person not accepting or responding positively to support or intervention; the applicant or registered person's understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, provider action plans are shared with Ofsted as part of the local authority's duty to share information with Ofsted in relation to registered early years provision.

Training is provided by professionals within the Early Years Team and also external trainers according to the needs and requests of the early year's sector. Training aims to be responsive to the requirements and needs of the sector. Bespoke safeguarding training packages are available for providers to book for their individual staff teams. There is ongoing engagement from Early Years Professionals and Teachers in supporting quality improvement and best practice 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, out of school club forums, childminder network meetings and SENCO termly updates

for private and voluntary sector providers in each of the localities to share best practice.

A moderation programme is in place across all age groups birth to five years which improves the accuracy of assessment and precision of teaching across all early years' providers and schools. Practitioners from early year's provision and early years in schools are trained moderators. The Early Years Team encourages and facilitates partnership working between early year's providers and schools on moderation to support children's transition into school. A transition toolkit will be revised and developed in the near future.

The council employs four practicing childminders as locality childminder network coordinators. 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 facilitate childminder groups at local Children's Centres each week. These childminders carry out this role in addition to their own childminding role.

Support visits from the Early Years Team are 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 Stay and Play sessions with other childminders and termly childminder network meetings to share good practice.

The majority of leaders and managers across the early years sector have now accessed the Leadership and Management programme and there is now a need to support and develop stronger day to day leadership within some provisions. A bespoke package of leadership training is being developed which will be offered to individual providers on a needs basis.

- **Quality Marks**

A number of quality improvement tools are offered by the Early Years Team. These are available to private and voluntary providers and schools. These include the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R), Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale ECERS-R (Revised), ECERS-E (Extended), Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Wellbeing (SSTEW) and Steps to Quality. Revised ITERS and ECERS scales are due to be released in 2018 and will be implemented in North Lincolnshire.

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

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. Five Early Years Professionals/Teachers (EYP/EYTs) continue to undertake assessments alongside Early Years Team officers. Impact of these audits is tracked through an

annual ITERS and ECERS report. This information will inform future training needs and moderation. In 2017, three early years providers received ITERS Audits and five early years' providers and one school received ECERS Audits.

Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being (SSTEWE) has been delivered to a cohort of six early years providers. This consisted of a seven module programme that focused on the emotional well-being and how the environment and practice within provision supports children's resilience and independence. EYP/EYTs were involved in the dissemination of this development programme through workshop sessions alongside LA staff. Further consideration will take place as to how SSTEWE can be used within the sector in the future.

- **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. During 2017, there were five providers on Step One, 14 on Step Two and eight on Step three.

- **Childminder Engagement**

The Family Information Service alongside the Early Years Team have looked at the levels of childminder engagement across North Lincolnshire. Lower levels of engagement are highlighted at Quality Improvement Review meetings based on contact with local authority teams (Family Information Service, Children's Centres and Early Years Team). There is a procedure in place to categorise all childminders 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 year's provision and ensuring 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, Children's Multi-Agency Resilience and Safeguarding board (CMARS), Educational Psychology, the Early Learning and Development Centre (ELDC) and SEND teams. Links and contacts are in the process of being made between North Lincolnshire Early Years Team and other local authorities through regional moderation and Steps to Quality meetings, the national ECERS network and with Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Early Years Teams in relation to the Continuous Professional Development packages offered by each authority.

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 small (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 1,924. The highest numbers of children live in the Ashby, Crosby and Park wards. There are also high numbers of children in the Brumby ward. 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 March 2018. The population of 0 to four-year olds overall has declined slightly since 2015, whereas, there are more children from five years upwards.

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	557	381	590	614	635
Axholme Central	189	121	227	254	311
Axholme North	238	154	282	306	335
Axholme South	161	117	180	207	280
Barton	363	241	422	383	486
Bottesford	234	174	291	299	400
Brigg and Wolds	312	225	355	402	485
Broughton and Appleby	159	120	201	189	271
Brumby	483	361	548	569	660
Burringham and Gunness	131	58	107	97	99
Burton upon Stather and Winterton	290	195	354	367	471
Crosby and Park	552	407	681	630	758
Ferry	319	230	380	385	452

Ward	0 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 7 years	8 - 10 years	11 - 14 years
Frodingham	362	240	388	321	432
Kingsway with Lincoln Gardens	331	281	388	401	542
Ridge	311	199	346	370	482
Town	363	231	367	330	424
Totals	5363	3737	6113	6126	7524

Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2018)

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 2018 to 2041

	Population Projections 2016 (5 Year Age Groups)					
	People Aged 0-4		People Aged 5-9		People Aged 10-14	
	Count		count		count	
	2018	2041	2018	2041	2018	2041
North Lincolnshire	9100	8418	10198	8758	9596	9054
Percentage Difference						

2018 - Actual Population Data Source: North Lincolnshire Health Commissioning Group

2041 – Population projections by single year of age – Clinical Commissioning Groups²⁹

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 Plan (EHCP). An EHCP 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.

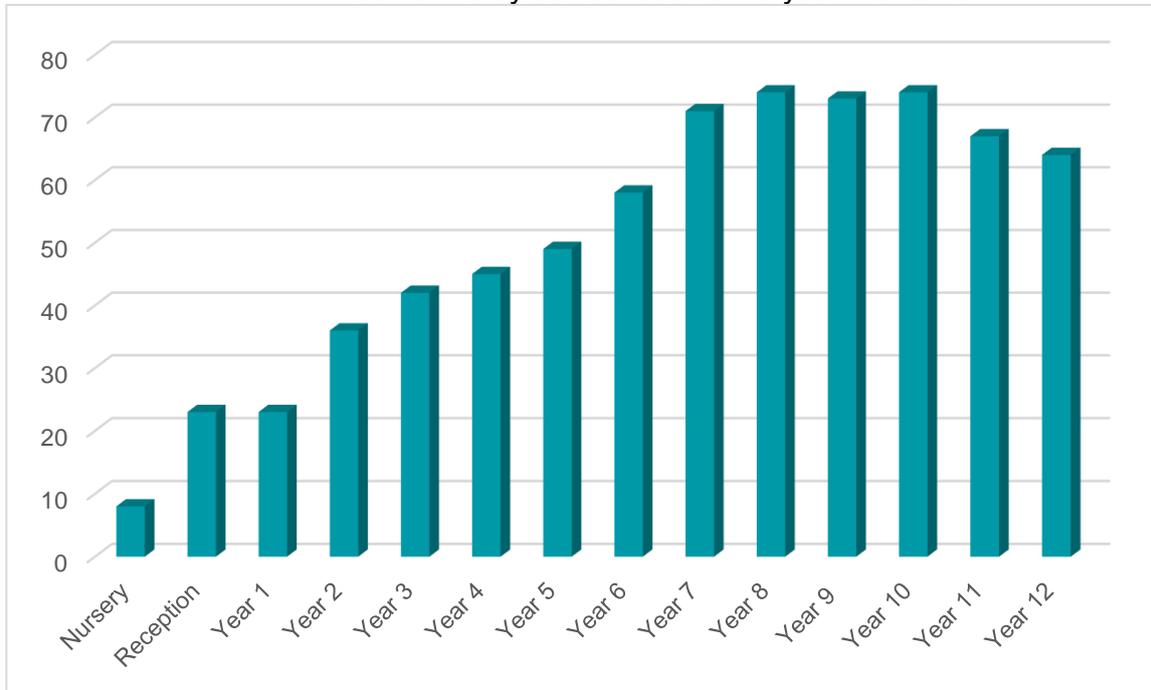
It is a way of providing support that puts children, young people and families at the centre of the assessment and planning process, to make sure that their views are not only heard but also understood. This new process focuses on what is important for children and young people, i.e. what they and you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

In the autumn term of 2018 in North Lincolnshire there were 707 children attending schools and pre-schools with an EHCP. Figure 24 illustrates the numbers of children with an EHCP whose family live in North Lincolnshire. The table demonstrates an

²⁹ Population projections by single year of age – clinical commissioning groups 2016: SNPP Z2, ONS

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 have an EHCP.

Figure 24 - The numbers of children with an EHCP whose family live in North Lincolnshire by school academic year 2018/19



It is unusual for an early years aged child to have an EHCP. 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 2018 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. The large majority (84 per cent) of three and four-year-olds are white British.

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)	3432^	2865	1	9	264*	9	7	11	35	21	22	57	4	28	16	32
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*White European – 264, (6 White Eastern European, 235 White European, 22 White Other Background and 1 White Turkish)

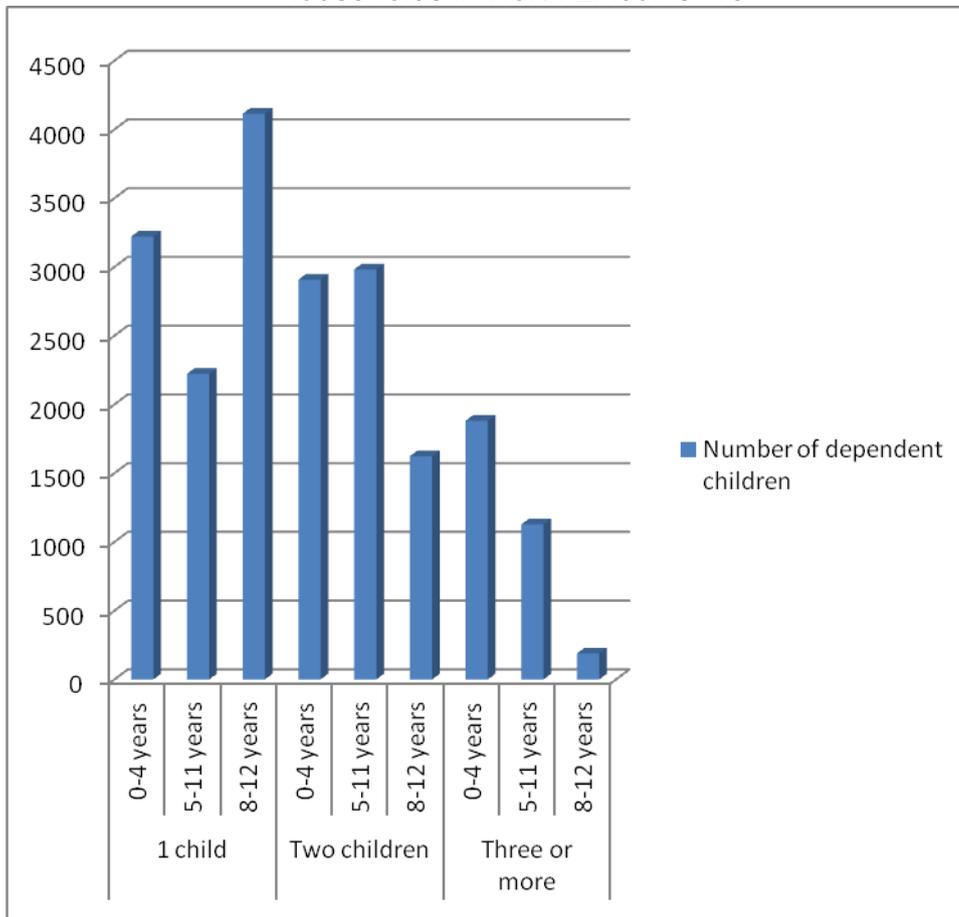
^Children attending both a maintained nursery and private or voluntary provider are double counted in the 3 & 4 year old statistics (50 families did not disclose their ethnic origin)

Household Type/Family Composition

There are 70,684 households in North Lincolnshire recorded in the Census 2011. The majority (54 per cent) of the households are in urban wards 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 2017. This shows an increase in dwellings in the period 2017-18, 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 increased by 356³⁰ per year, this figure is consistent with the increase in the number of dwellings reported.

Figure 27 - Ownership of dwellings in North Lincolnshire (2017)

	All Dwellings	Dwelling Stock – Council Owned	Dwelling Stock – Registered Provider ¹	Dwelling Stock – Other Public Sector	Dwelling Stock – Private Ownership
North Lincolnshire	75,720	10	11,320	20	64,380

¹ 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 August 2018 was £150,434 considerably lower than the national average of £232,797³¹. 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 78,000 in 2030, according to the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Interim Household Projection figures³². The average household size is set to change from 2.4 in 2011 to 2.5 in 2026³³.

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 882 new homes per annum to 2026.

³⁰ Net Additional Dwellings 2012-2018, Table 123, Gov.uk

³¹ Land Registry UK House Price Index England: January 2017 www.gov.uk/land-registry

³² Table 406: Household projections by district, Household projections for England and local authority districts, 2014-based, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Gov.uk

³³ Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan, Assessment of Five Year Housing Land Supply 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2021, North Lincolnshire Council

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 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 2017, was 104,100 people (16 to 64 years), of these 52,200 were males and 51,900 are females.

When considering those that are economically active in September 2018, 80,700 residents are economically active³⁴, 43,700 are males and 37,000 are females. Between October 2017 and September 2018 there were 74,900 people in employment³⁵. This represents the largest majority (70.8 per cent) of the population aged 16 to 64 years, compared to 75.1 per cent nationally. North Lincolnshire

³⁴ Economically Active is defined as the number of people between the ages of 16 – 64 years either in employment or unemployed actively seeking work.

³⁵ Source - NOMIS Labour Market Profile – North Lincolnshire (Oct 2017 – Sept 2018)

traditionally has a higher percentage of the population that are economically active than nationally.

The majority of the employed in North Lincolnshire work full-time. The figures for 2017 show a total of 51,000 people work full-time, representing 70 per cent of the 16 to 64 year old population. This compares to a regional figure of 67 per cent and a national figure of 67.5 per cent. Of the remaining working aged population, 21,000 people (representing 29.2 per cent) work part-time, compared to 32.9 per cent regionally and 32.5 per cent nationally.

The proportion of employees employed in professional occupations is lower than both the regional (18.2 per cent) and national rates (20.5 per cent) at 11.9 per cent. The other key difference in employment roles in North Lincolnshire, is for skilled trades (13.4 per cent) and process, process plant and machine operatives (13.5 per cent) the percentage of employees in these roles is higher than the national (10.1 per cent and 6.4 per cent) and regional averages (11.1 per cent and 7.7 per cent), this is reflective of key business sectors in the area.

The number of people self-employed (September 2018) was 8,400 people this represents a very small minority (7.5 per cent) of the working age population. This compares to a regional figure of 9.3 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 the large majority (68 per cent) are males, this is an increase of seven per cent.

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 worked³⁶ 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 worked 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; the largest majority (70 per cent) of the cost of childcare can be met in the form of the childcare element of Working Tax Credits and (85 per cent) through Universal Credit. In addition parents of three and four-year olds working more than 16 hours are eligible for a further fifteen hours of funded childcare for 38 weeks of the year.

³⁶ 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.

The median gross hourly rate of pay for full time workers residing in North Lincolnshire in 2018 is £13.03, for England this is £14.36. In relation to the gross weekly pay for 2018, it is £532.70 in North Lincolnshire (£571.10 for Great Britain). When considering pay for males and females; the gross weekly salary for a male employed full time is £612.70 (£612.20 for Great Britain) and £431.60 for females working full time (£510 for England). As such, males in North Lincolnshire as an average earn slightly in excess of males in other parts of the country. With 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.

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.³⁷

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 (74,900 people) or unemployed (4,300 people). The economically inactive (24,500 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 weeks³⁸. Many are economically inactive as a choice due to family responsibilities (6,100 people (24.9 per cent higher than national average of 23.9 per cent), or early retirement (4,300 people (17.3 per cent higher than the national average of 12.9 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 4,700 people were identified as wanting a job. A small minority (almost 16 per cent) of households in North Lincolnshire are workless households (8,400 households), this is higher than the national average of 14.5 per cent, but has reduced by 1.3 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 period October 2017 – September 2018, the rate of 18-14 year old claimants has risen to 5.9 per cent (a rise of 1.7 per cent)³⁹.

³⁷ Source – ONS, QS701EW – Method of travel to Work Census 2011

³⁸ Source – North Lincolnshire Labour Market Profile (Oct 2016 – Sept 2017), Nomis, ONS

³⁹ Source – North Lincolnshire Economic Assessment 2017, North Lincolnshire Council

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) (being replaced by Universal Credit) or any other benefits. In September 2018, 4,300 individuals were classed as being unemployed, a rate of 5.5 per cent of the economically active. This compares to 4.2 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/Universal Credit. 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 count⁴⁰ rate is 0.7 per cent (732 claimants) of the population for May 2018, this is compared to a national rate of 1.1 per cent. This is a reduction of 727 claimants in the year however, new claimants since October 2018 are in receipt of Universal Credit. There is no published data for Universal Credit. 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 employment⁴¹.

The most recent information regarding Tax Credits⁴² shows 14,500 families in receipt of payments in 2016/17, 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 8,100 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 £44.56 per week. This represents a childcare cost of £44.56 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 parent⁴³. There is an expectation that parents will actively seek employment.

⁴⁰ Source – JSA01 Jobseeker's Allowance by unitary and local authority, NOMIS

⁴¹ Exploring the flexibility of the free entitlement to early education: research among parents Ipsos MORI June 2012.

⁴² Source – Child and Working Tax Credit statistics finalised annual awards – geographical analysis 2016- 2017, HMRC

⁴³ 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 sites on the south side of the Humber estuary; it is divided into five localities⁴⁴. The geographic boundaries of the five localities encompass the 17 electoral wards of North Lincolnshire. Appendix four and five provide maps of North

⁴⁴ Source – North Lincolnshire Data Observatory, Locality Profiles www.nldo.northlincs.gov.uk
Population data based on ONS mid-year population estimates 2012. Workforce and Education data ONS, Census 2011.

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)⁴⁵. 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.

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

⁴⁵ Source – 2011 Census (Table LC510EW – highest level of qualification by economic activity

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 Seeker's 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 (3,692 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 Seeker's 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

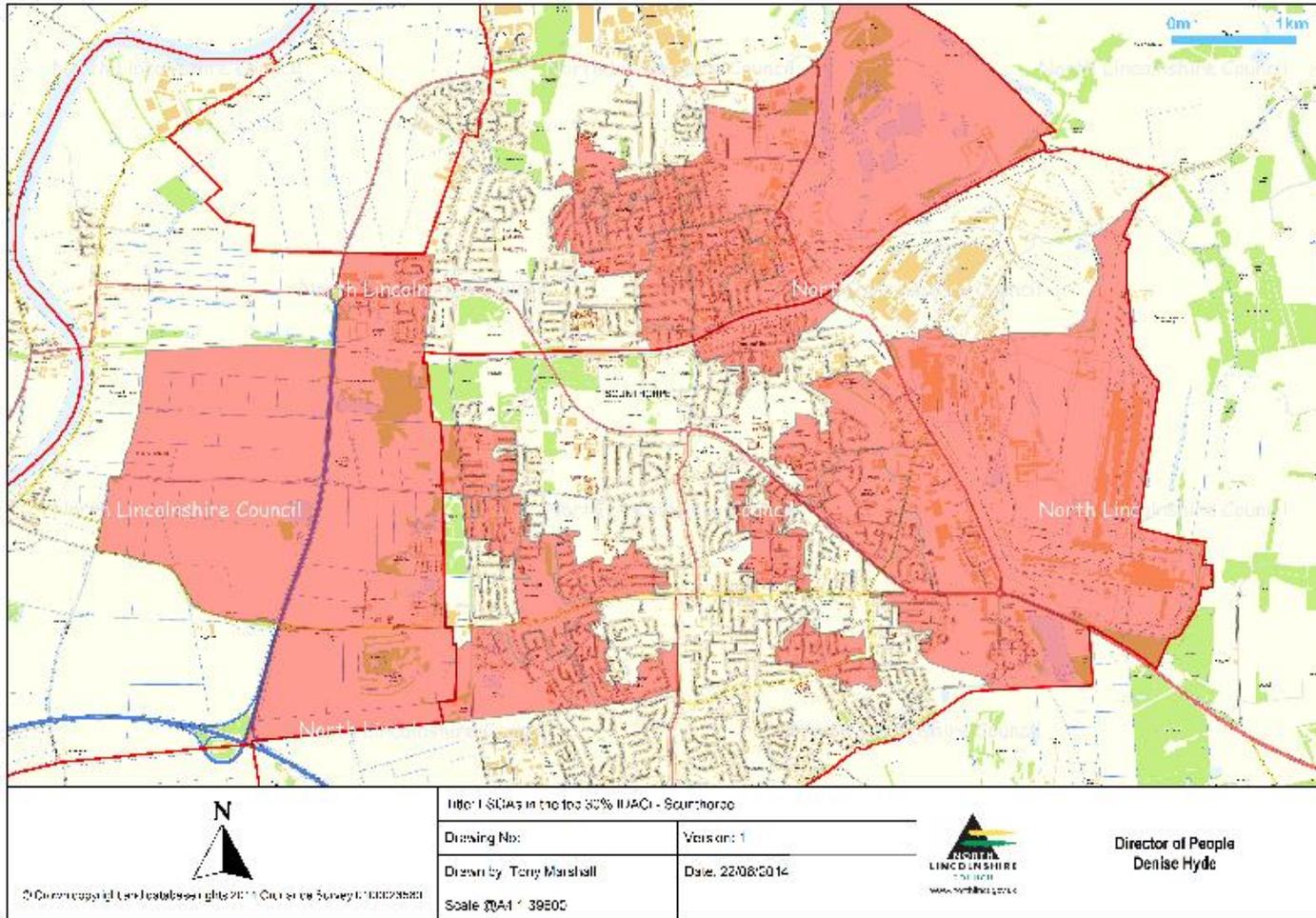
Lincolnshire as a whole at 11.9 per cent compared to 14.7 per cent. In October 2016, 395 people were claiming Job Seeker's Allowance; this represents 1.9 per cent of the working age population, however in Barton the claimant count percentage is 2.6 percent higher than the North Lincolnshire average of 2.3 per cent. This is a reduction of 82 people since August 2015. Of the people claiming Job Seeker's 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.

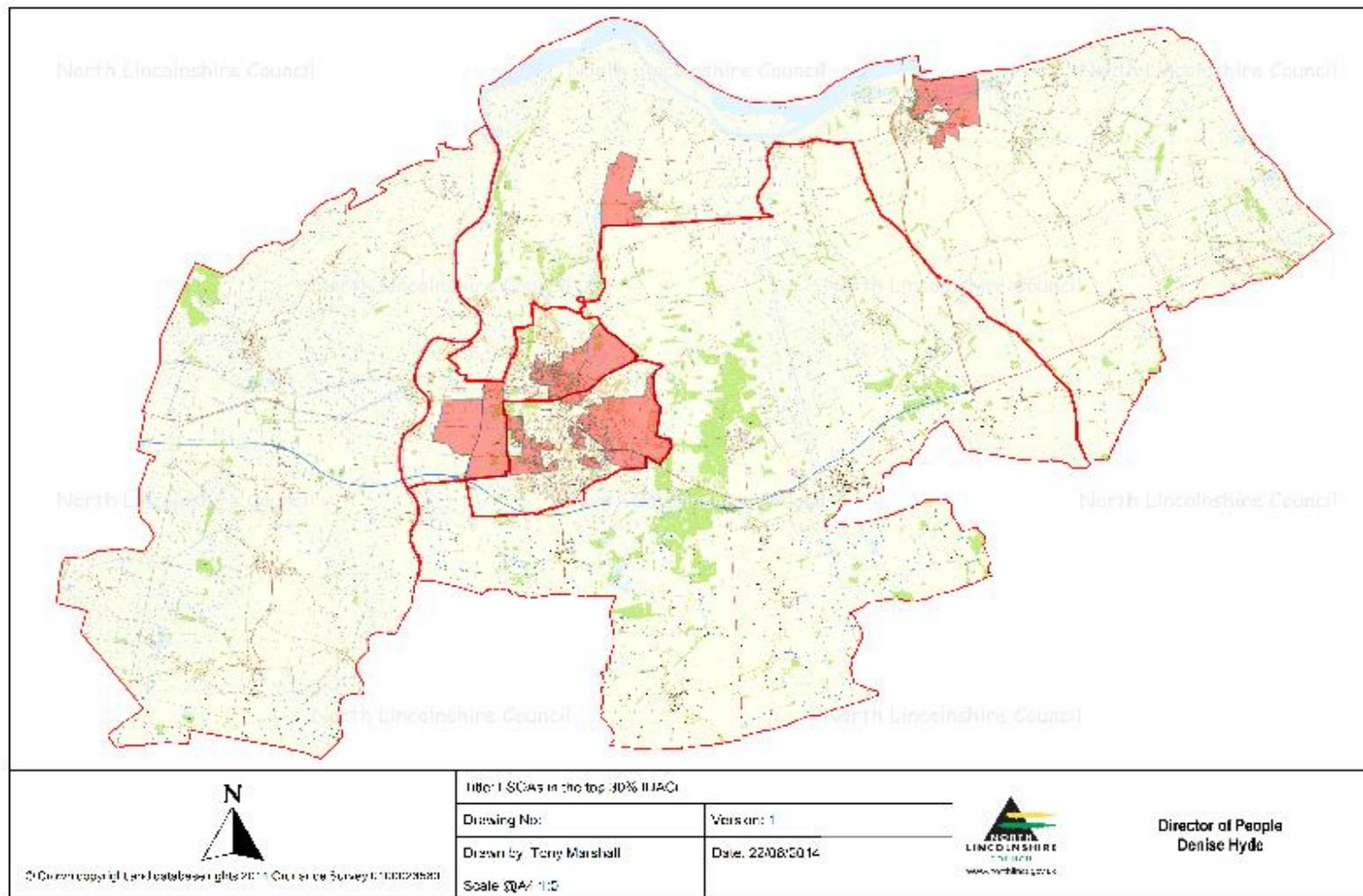
The population in the Isle locality is recorded as 22,852; the population has a higher incidence of 40 to 69 year olds than the average for North Lincolnshire and has a lower percentage of nought to nine year olds. The population in the main classify themselves as being of white British origin, 97.6 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 Seeker's 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 – Map of Scunthorpe



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

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.

SAFE WELL PROSPEROUS CONNECTED

North Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Audit 2018

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.

Headline statistics:

- The large majority (72%) of eligible two-year olds and most (95%) of three and four-year olds claimed funded early education in the summer term 2018, compared to 72% and 94% nationally.
- 999 children accessed the extended 15-hours childcare (30-hours) in the summer term 2018.
- Almost all (98%) of children accessed funded early education in an Ofsted registered provider with a good or better inspection judgement, this compares to 96% nationally (spring 2018).
- Almost all (98%) of Ofsted registered childminders and the vast majority (97%) of non-domestic¹ providers have a good or better inspection judgement, compared to 95% nationally.
- The large majority (71%) of children achieved a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage 2018, compared to 71.6 per cent of their peers nationally.

Consultation with parents²:

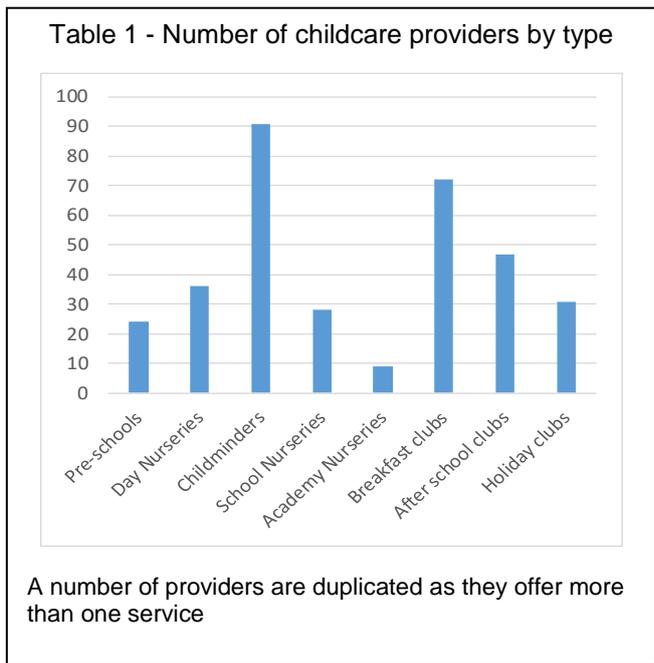
- 658 parents gave their views of childcare in North Lincolnshire – both families who use childcare and those who do not.
- Almost all (98%) are satisfied with their childcare and most (90%) feel their childcare meets their needs.
- When asked about the impact of 30-hours funded childcare on families, they cited – reduced childcare fees, less use of informal childcare (friends and relatives), increased working hours and an improvement in career prospects.
- The large majority (70%) of those not using childcare do not work and do not require childcare. However, a small minority (21%) said that childcare issues stopped them or their partner working more hours and a few (12%) felt childcare was too expensive. This suggests a potential demand for childcare if there was an improved awareness of financial support for families.
- A few (6%) responses were from families of children with a special educational need and/or disability. Half of the families were in employment or studying. The minority (44%) felt no improvements were needed to the childcare. Where improvements were cited they did not relate to their child’s needs, but timings, affordability and flexibility. Almost all (98%) families that do not use childcare felt there was childcare to meet their child’s needs with appropriately trained staff, very few families raised this as a concern (3 families).



¹ Non-domestic carers – day nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs

² Parent’s Views of Childcare in North Lincolnshire 2018, North Lincolnshire Council

Childcare Offer



There are 217 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire as at 31 March 2018. Childcare includes day nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups, childminders, crèche provision, out of school and holiday clubs as well as home carers. Further provision is offered in school and academy nurseries, before and after school clubs.

The number of childcare places in North Lincolnshire has been estimated for each sector and locality by age group. The demand for childcare places varies for each age group depending upon the family circumstances. Parents in employment have the highest demand for childcare; 75 per cent of those surveyed cited using childcare to enable them to work or study.

Childcare places are offered to children from birth to twelve years of age (14 years for young people with a special education need and/or disability). Demand for childcare starts to increase at the age of two-years when approximately 40 per cent of children are eligible for 15 funded hours childcare per week³. The demand for funded two-year old places is concentrated in Scunthorpe. During the summer term 2018, 63 per cent of children accessing a funded place were in Scunthorpe (44 per cent in Scunthorpe South).

The highest incidence and demand for childcare places is for three and four-year olds where there is both 15 funded hours for all children and an additional 15 funded hours childcare available for working parents (30-hours childcare)⁴. All funded childcare is offered for 38 weeks of the year or if preferred families can access fewer hours over the whole year. As children start school the demand for childcare is almost exclusively from working parents and wraps around the school day.

The number of childcare places for nought to twelve year olds has been determined as a percentage of the population in table two. Whilst the percentage of places to population may appear low they are in-line with demand and it is deemed that there is sufficient childcare in North Lincolnshire for all age groups.

Scunthorpe North⁵ locality is highlighted as an area where there are less childcare places available for families. However this area has higher levels of unemployment, lower

³ To be eligible for two-year old funding parents must - be claiming a recognised benefit, or be in work with an income of less than £16,190 and claim tax credits, or 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

⁴ Parents in employment may be eligible for an additional extended 15-hours of childcare, to qualify both parents (or single parent) must each expect to earn (on average) at least £125 per week. Where one of the parents is on maternity, paternity, adoption leave, or are unable to work because of a disabled or caring responsibilities, parents may still be eligible. Parents that expect to earn in excess of £100,000 or more are not eligible.

⁵ North Lincolnshire is split into five localities for reporting purposes. Scunthorpe North is a grouping of the wards of Crosby and Park, Frodingham and Town.

qualifications levels and almost half of the households are among the lowest income households in North Lincolnshire. These factors suppress the demand for childcare.

Table 2 - Number of childcare places for 0 – 12 year olds as a percentage of the population in North Lincolnshire

Locality	Number of places as a percentage of the population					
	0-2 year olds	2 year olds	3 & 4 year olds	Breakfast clubs	After School clubs	Holiday clubs
Barton	16%	73%	120%	12%	10%	160%
Brigg	21%	124%	114%	13%	13%	177%
Isle	26%	54%	149%	17%	13%	238%
Scunthorpe North	12%	57%	93%	6%	3%	59%
Scunthorpe South	19%	82%	107%	11%	6%	141%
Average for North Lincolnshire	18%	79%	112%	11%	8%	147%

There are more breakfast places than after school club places. 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 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. The analysis does not include activity clubs offered by schools and academies that take place at the end of the school day, however there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that working parents do use these as a form of childcare.



Demand for school holiday childcare has been estimated based on 21 per cent of families using holiday childcare for up to two weeks of school holidays per annum, as per Department for Education research. In addition to Ofsted registered holiday childcare various organisations offer activity sessions for children from eight years of age. These are usually from 9am – 3 or 4pm and include football, dance and mixed sporting sessions. Although popular with families they do not always meet the needs of working parents. Research with families indicated that for a number of families holiday childcare does not always meet their needs as it is often further away from home, at times that are not suitable or too expensive. As such there are sufficient childcare places but these may not always meet parental demand or expectations.

A more in-depth analysis of demand and supply for three and four-year olds has been undertaken estimating the take-up of hours by children including the additional 15-hours (30-hours childcare) by ward throughout North Lincolnshire. A more localised analysis does highlight some areas where families are offered only pre-school provision and in these instances families must use a childminder or travel short distances to access full days of childcare in nurseries. The projections do however demonstrate that there are sufficient 15-hours and 30-hour places available for families throughout North Lincolnshire.

Timings and Flexibility of Childcare

In assessing the supply and demand for childcare the times of day at which childcare is available and the flexibility in catering for irregular patterns of usage across the day or year are important. The opening hours and degree of flexibility offered by childcare providers is determined by the childcare provider themselves. However, to enable parents to meet their working commitments and commute, the childcare offer must extend beyond the working day. The highest percentage of full day care nursery providers are open from 8am to 6pm; however a small number of nurseries open earlier and finish later. Childminders generally offer the most flexibility offering evening and in some instances weekends. Pre-schools and school nurseries are generally open school hours around the core hours of 9am – 3pm daily. Before and after school care usually opens from 7/8am and closes between 5.30/6pm depending upon parental demand. A number of nurseries cater for shift-patterns of families, but these places are usually limited to small numbers of families due to difficulties in managing children's ratio requirements and the cost of keeping a place open.

When asked how the childcare families use could be improved, 21 per cent cited available at different times and 18 per cent cited more flexible sessions. When this is analysed further ten families (two per cent) would have preferred earlier opening, later closing and three would have preferred more flexibility in relation to their shift patterns. Calls to the Family Information Service do not indicate further unmet demand.

Childcare for Children with Disabilities

All Ofsted registered childcare providers within North Lincolnshire are inclusive of children and welcome children with special educational needs and disabilities to attend. Additional support is provided to childcare providers 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 in childcare.

The research found that families were able to access a place at their first choice of provider, suggesting that providers are fully inclusive. More than half of the families felt that no improvements were needed to their childcare. Importantly the improvements cited related to timings, flexibility and affordability. In addition, there are no reports from parents that suggest families have not been able to find a suitable place for their child.

Parents said:

“My childcare is adapted each year to ensure the needs of my children are met.”

“They liaise very well with the specialists.”

“Super positive experience throughout provision over past six to seven years.”

“Our childcare setting is always helpful and willing to go extra steps for our children.”

Children and young people with complex needs, physical and learning disabilities are invited to attend a holiday play scheme in the Easter and Summer school holidays at St Luke's Primary School. Parents are positive about the experiences their children received and feel it is a safe environment that meets the needs of their children.

Cost of childcare

The SEND local offer website (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.

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 entering or remaining in employment.

An analysis of the cost of childcare for all sectors has been undertaken and compared to national averages. The comparisons demonstrate that the cost of childcare in North Lincolnshire is below national averages with the exception of holiday care where the daily rate is higher. Pre-schools tend to be most affordable (£26 per day), but generally offer just a six-hour day. Childminders and nurseries charge similar rates to parents (£35 and £39 respectively per day). The cost of a breakfast club is variable. School run breakfast clubs (average £1.98 per session) are cheaper than clubs run by the private and voluntary sector

To support families with the cost of childcare there are a number of options available, almost all families are eligible for some form of assistance. Support with the cost of childcare includes:

- Funded hours for two-year olds
- Funded hours for three and four-year olds (universal 15-hours & 30-hours childcare)
- Tax Free Childcare
- Childcare Vouchers
- Universal Credit
- Childcare element of Working Tax Credit
- Student financial support/grants

(£4.48 per session). After school care averages £9.39 per session.

Childcare for school holidays is variable (average £30 per day). Parents who are able to work flexibly can benefit from activity sessions (for children over eight years of age), these are often more affordable (£10 - £25 per day (six to seven hour day)).

Of the parents consulted who are using childcare 37 per cent felt that their childcare was value for money and 27 per cent felt that childcare was too expensive. Thirty nine per cent of families received some support with the cost of childcare including Tax Free Childcare. It is also common for families to receive help with childcare from friends and family, particularly as the number of children in the family grows, the reliance on family and friends increases.

Of the families who do not currently use childcare 14 per cent cited the affordability of childcare as a barrier, 21 per cent of the families said that childcare issues had stopped them or their partner working more hours and nine per cent said that childcare arrangements have caused problems at work. These families are likely to be using shift parenting or are reliant upon family and friends. They could also be eligible for financial support but are not aware of the help available.

Parents said:

“Luckily I have parents in law who can help otherwise we would struggle to work and pay for childcare.”

“It is value for money but with having more than one child accessing the free hours we wouldn’t have been able to afford it with a limited fixed income.”



Sufficiency Action Plan

Sufficiency Requirement	Actions to enhance sufficiency	Timeframe
Two, three and four-year old funding	Monitor places, vacancies and take-up against the population termly to highlight any potential gaps ensuring that the extended 15-hours does not impact on two-year old places or the universal 15-hour offer. To continue to manage the childcare market minimising identified gaps.	31 August 2019
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	31 August 2019
Information for parents	To maintain a service that provides information for parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in the area, particularly the support with the cost of childcare. To train parent champions to support families with information and advice in relation to childcare options and support with the cost of childcare.	Spring 2019
Availability of childcare	To share the parental research with providers highlighting the demand for increased opening hours. To encourage providers to extend their opening hours where demand exists.	Autumn term 2018
Holiday childcare	To work with existing holiday providers to increase the childcare offer in school holidays. To consult with children/families to determine their views of childcare and their needs for the school holidays.	Spring/Summer term 2019