

North East Lincolnshire
Familiesfirst
Supporting children, young people & families



North East Lincolnshire Council
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

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Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) requires North East Lincolnshire (NEL) Council, like all other local authorities in England, to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The duties in the act (section 6) require the council to shape and support the development of childcare provision in NEL in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, whereby the local authority supports the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, along with other stakeholders.

Local authorities must report annually on how they are meeting their duty and are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division, and date of publication. The report should include:

- a specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities; children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care;
- information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and
- details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) evidences how North East Lincolnshire Council are securing sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

In 2004, the Government published a '10-year Strategy for Childcare'¹, to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life; whilst also providing the option for parents, particularly mothers, to work and progress their careers. The strategy covers four primary categories, which will be referred to within this CSA:

- **Choice and flexibility:** *parents to have greater choice about balancing work and family life;*
- **Availability:** *for all families with children aged up to 14 (18 for disabled children) who need affordable, flexible, high quality childcare place that meets their circumstances;*
- **Quality:** *high quality provision with a highly skilled childcare and Early Years workforce, among the best in the world;*
- **Affordability:** *families to be able to afford flexible, high quality childcare that is appropriate for their needs.*

¹ DfE, *Choice for parents, the best start for children: A ten-year strategy for childcare*, December 2004

Overall Assessment and Summary

Like many local authorities, North East Lincolnshire Council uses Families First Information Service (FFIS) enquiries and complaints from parents who are unable to find a place to meet their needs as one measure of sufficiency and to gauge unmet demand. There is currently no evidence of unmet demand using this measure in NEL. However, where there is anecdotal evidence from professionals, the Local Authority undertakes more in-depth investigation to assess needs.

When deciding whether there is a need for additional places, several indicators and measures are used in the assessment. Take up levels are a primary indicator and do not in themselves indicate the need for more places. Another primary indicator is the number of places available. It does not necessarily mean that a lack of places in a particular area is affecting a family's ability to access a place. Families are free to access a place across the authority and many travel to access a provider of their choice as not all families choose to access their funding in the ward in which they reside. It is only when take up rates are also applied that we can understand whether the supply of places might be a barrier to less-mobile families accessing a place. Other factors such as the location of provision in neighbouring wards, travel patterns, future housing developments etc. must be considered. These factors are all considered when carrying out secondary analysis.

Potential gaps for 2-year funded places

The national target for take up of 2-year funding is 80%. To meet this target, there is a need for at least 80 places for every 100 potentially eligible children. Currently (summer 2021) there are 136 places per 100 across NEL but these are not always in the areas of highest demand. Overall, there was an average take up rate of 84% in NEL during the academic year 2020-21. This is an increase of 1% on the previous year.

The number of families who are potentially eligible for 2-year funding has been falling steadily. The projected number of eligible children was highest in summer 2016, at 55% of all local 2-year olds. The projections for autumn 2021 suggest that an average of 44% of children will be eligible. There is the possibility that the number of potentially eligible families could increase soon as the pandemic is likely to impact on employment locally.

3&4-year Early Years Entitlement (EYE)

The national target for this cohort is 100% for the universal offer (15hrs) and 85% of those who are eligible for the extended offer (30hrs) and if this is to be achieved a place is required for every eligible child. Data shows that in total in the summer term 2021, there were 5,474 EYE places available and an eligible population of 4,012 children which equates to 1.36 places per child within NEL.

Potential gaps for 3&4-year EYE places

In autumn 2017 the extended offer (30 hours) was launched. It was projected that almost 40% of local 3-4-year-olds may be eligible for the additional hours in the academic year 2020-21. If the projections are correct there are sufficient places available across the borough but there may be a need for additional places within some wards in the next academic year. The availability and take up of places will be monitored carefully each term to manage the childcare market to meet the demand.

0-4-year old Paid for Childcare

The returns from FIS enquiries report, feedback and the parental survey do not show any unmet demand for 0-4-year old paid for childcare in any ward within the authority. There are occasionally enquiries when no appropriate childcare is found to meet the needs of the family. In these cases, the requirements are usually very specific i.e. need pick-ups from more than one setting etc. but due to the very low number of these cases they do not warrant active intervention in the market. The Local Authority will continue to provide support and advice to families in finding suitable childcare by publishing up to date information on a regular basis. This is available to families through the Families First Directory and via the social media pages.

5-14-year old Paid for Childcare

The Local Authority is not aware of any unmet demand for paid for breakfast club, after school club or holiday club provision.

The Local Authority will continue to provide support and advice to families in finding suitable childcare by publishing up to date information on a regular basis. This is available to families through the Families First Directory and via the social media pages

Coronavirus Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so many things within the early years and childcare sectors. Half of the local schools and settings (including childminders) remained open during the lockdown period, providing services for vulnerable children and keyworkers.

Lockdowns and social distancing have impacted upon all areas of our lives. These have had a direct and significant influence on the delivery of early years and childcare as well as the demand and need for such services now and we expect this to continue well into the future.

Before the pandemic, there were no childcare sufficiency issues within North East Lincolnshire. It is uncertain what the long-term impact the pandemic will have on the childcare market locally. Over the summer 2021, some settings raised concerns about remaining sustainable. The early years and families first information service teams are working closely with settings, supporting them in every way possible to ensure they remain viable. The teams are also working to raise the profile and benefits of childcare locally as well as promoting the funding options available to support families with their childcare choices.

1 Demographic Profile: North East Lincolnshire

1.1 Geography

North East Lincolnshire (NEL) is a small unitary authority covering an area of 192km². Most of the resident population live in the towns of Grimsby and Cleethorpes with the remainder living in the smaller town of Immingham, or in surrounding rural villages.

2011 Census figures classify 94.2% of the population of North East Lincolnshire as living in an urban environment; however North East Lincolnshire has a wide variety of parks and open spaces. On the Northern border, the Humber estuary has been designated as a *Site of Special Scientific Interest* and to the south, the Lincolnshire Wolds are recognised as an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*.

The boundary of North East Lincolnshire is comprised of 106 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs); these LSOAs which contain a minimum population of 1,000 and a mean average of 1,500 are distributed amongst the fifteen electoral wards.

Table 1.1 The fifteen electoral wards within North East Lincolnshire

Croft Baker	Scartho
East Marsh	Sidney Sussex
Freshney	South
Haverstoe	Waltham
Heneage	West Marsh
Humberston and New Waltham	Wolds
Immingham	Yarborough
Park	

² Source: ONS, Standard Area Measurements (2019) for Administrative Areas in the United Kingdom

A map of NEL, by its neighbourhood areas and ward boundaries, is represented below:

Fig 1.1: North East Lincolnshire with Wards



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1.2 Population

In 2020 an estimated 159,364 people live within the boundary of North East Lincolnshire and in 2019, it was very similar with an estimated 159,563 people.³

The latest projections indicate an overall fall in population of 0.35% in the time between 2019 to 2043, with the number of people aged 80+ predicted to nearly double. The proportion of the population who are under 16 and the proportion of those of working age, are predicted to decrease, while the proportion of those aged 65 and over is predicted to increase.⁴

1.2a Population of early years children

In 2019, there are 9166 children under the age of five living in within North East Lincolnshire. These children may require early years childcare.⁵

Table 1.2a Early Years numbers by age:

Wards	0	1	2	3	4	Grand Total
Croft Baker	106	125	126	131	148	636
East Marsh	148	183	192	185	187	895
Freshney	101	83	97	102	110	493
Haverstoe	52	67	63	65	85	332
Heneage	136	150	159	161	163	769
Humberston and New Waltham	84	83	85	86	76	414
Immingham	125	113	114	136	138	626
Park	87	111	133	120	141	592
Scartho	106	103	128	115	127	579
Sidney Sussex	143	171	183	187	201	885
South	166	162	198	223	203	952
Waltham	35	62	64	57	54	272
West Marsh	133	109	109	110	119	580
Wolds	62	77	67	61	79	346
Yarborough	138	165	165	159	168	795
Grand Total	1622	1764	1883	1898	1999	9166

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

The proportions of resident children vary between wards. The proportion of 0 to 14-year olds, in East Marsh, Heneage, Sidney Sussex, South and Yarborough wards is above the average for North East Lincolnshire while Haverstoe, Waltham and Wolds wards are below average for North East Lincolnshire.⁶

³ Source: Office for National Statistics, *Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid-2020 and Mid-2019*

⁴ Source: Office for National Statistics, *Population projections 2019 to 2043*

⁵ Source: North East Lincolnshire Data Observatory, *Population Estimates (Single Year of Age) 2019*

⁶ Source: North East Lincolnshire Data Observatory, *Population Estimates (Single Year of Age) 2019*

1.2b Population of school age children

In total in 2019, there are 14250 children aged 5-11, and 5888 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.⁷

Table 1.2b School age numbers by age:

Wards	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Total 5-14's
Croft Baker	129	130	127	159	125	133	107	132	134	126	1302
East Marsh	161	179	163	171	161	170	176	161	164	127	1633
Freshney	90	108	128	115	124	115	97	109	111	94	1091
Haverstoe	77	74	87	80	101	66	84	99	89	95	852
Heneage	172	178	180	174	187	156	150	153	148	147	1645
Humberston and New Waltham	100	106	116	112	103	122	130	140	122	138	1189
Immingham	158	144	153	146	157	147	153	151	149	158	1516
Park	144	130	163	130	145	159	149	120	160	139	1439
Scartho	109	146	135	137	150	133	126	138	128	139	1341
Sidney Sussex	211	204	222	205	197	195	143	165	167	189	1898
South	206	214	222	219	234	207	208	180	201	206	2097
Waltham	55	55	60	65	58	72	63	82	70	65	645
West Marsh	120	117	101	115	104	109	93	96	81	77	1013
Wolds	76	77	98	70	103	105	107	95	117	126	974
Yarborough	162	157	160	156	153	154	161	134	136	130	1503
NELC	1970	2019	2115	2054	2102	2043	1947	1955	1977	1956	20138

The overall population of ethnic minorities within North East Lincolnshire at the time of the 2011 Census was estimated at 4.6%, which is significantly lower than regional (14.2%) and national (20.2%) comparators⁸; however, the school census suggests that there is more diversity in the younger age groups. North East Lincolnshire school pupils as of January 2019 were predominantly White British (90%) with a small but increasing proportion from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) background (9%).⁹

*Please note 1% of North East Lincolnshire school pupils ethnicities were not obtained.

At the time of the 2011 Census, migration figures for North East Lincolnshire estimates that slightly more people moved into the area (3945) than moved out of the area (3874). Migrants that moved into the area are split between those moving into the area within the UK (3321) and moving into the area from outside the UK (624).¹⁰

⁷ Source: North East Lincolnshire Data Observatory, Population Estimates (Single Year of Age) 2019

⁸ Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 census

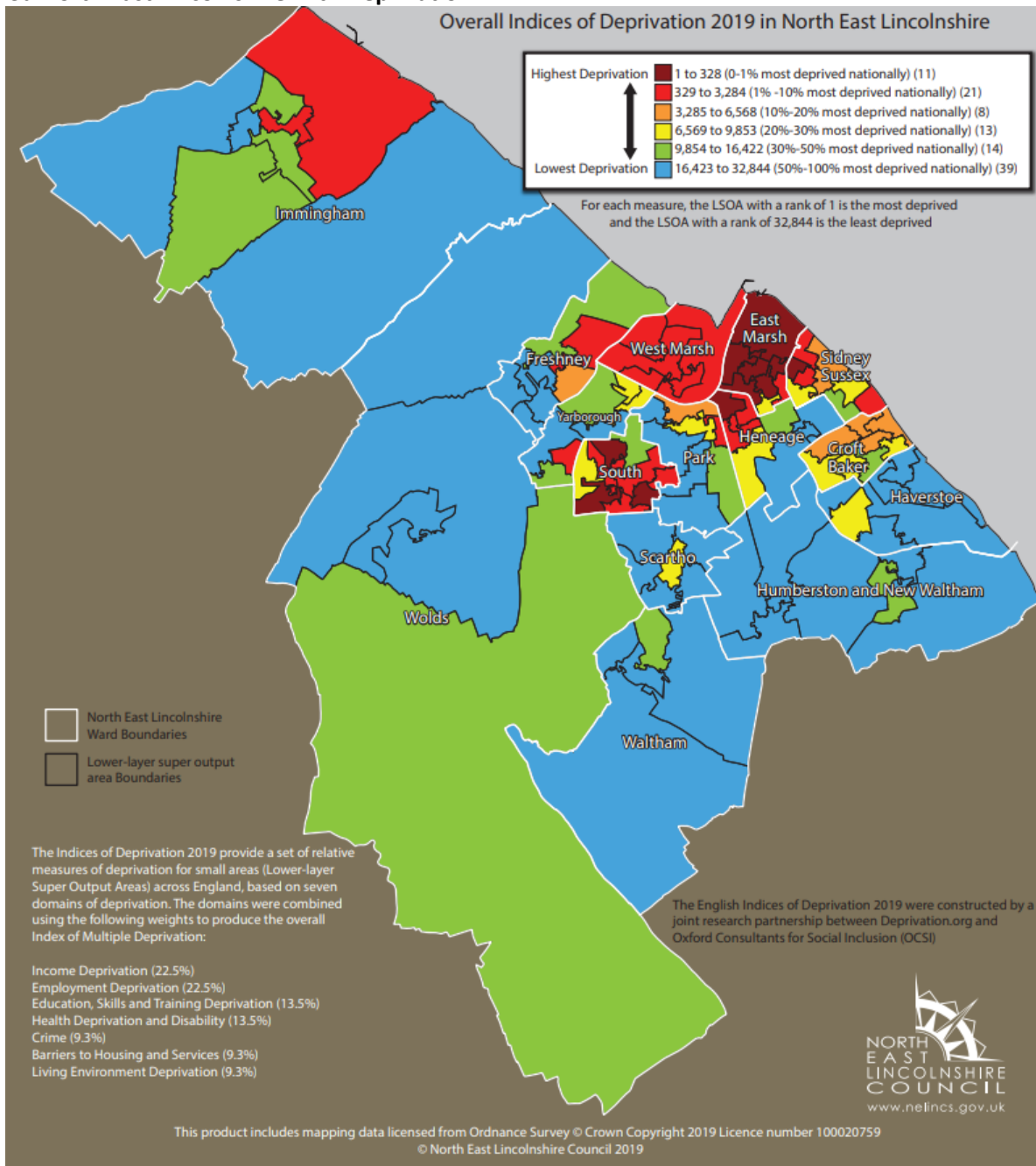
⁹ Source: North East Lincolnshire Council, School Census January 2021

¹⁰ Source: NOMIS, UKMIG008 – Migration, 2011

1.3 Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation, commonly known as the IMD, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England. It is the most widely used of the Indices of Deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area).¹¹

Fig 1.3a North East Lincolnshire with Deprivation



¹¹ Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

Overall North East Lincolnshire is ranked the 29th most deprived local authority in the country¹² with some wards particularly deprived (such as East Marsh and South Wards). There are 11 lower super output areas within North East Lincolnshire (6 in East Marsh, 3 in South, 1 in Heneage and 1 in Sidney Sussex) which are ranked in the top 1% of 32844 areas nationally for Overall Deprivation (measured across 7 domains).

Table 1.3 Summary of the percentage of LSOAs within the most deprived 10% nationally across all 7 domains
Percentage of LSOA in most deprived 10% nationally

	Income	Employment	Education , Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment
North East Lincolnshire	28.30%	24.53%	29.25%	15.09%	36.79%	1.89%	17.92%

30.19% of LSOAs in North East Lincolnshire are in the 10% most deprived nationally, when measured against all domains.

1.4 Labour Market

Table 1.4a Economic Activity and Employment Rates in North East Lincolnshire – 12 months (Jan 20 – Dec 20)

Jan 20 – Dec 20	Economic Activity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Economic Inactivity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Employment Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Unemployment Rate, (aged 16-64) %
North East Lincolnshire	76.3	23.7	72.4	5.0
Yorkshire and The Humber	78.1	21.9	74.6	4.4
Great Britain	79.1	20.9	75.4	4.6

The unemployment rate is 5.0% in North East Lincolnshire. The unemployment rate in North East Lincolnshire is higher than the Yorkshire and The Humber rate (4.4%) and the England rate (4.6%).¹³

¹² Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

¹³ Source: Office for National Statistics – annual population survey, accessed via NOMIS

Table 1.4b Universal Credit – People on Universal Credit by Employment Status

The number of people on Universal Credit is rapidly increasing and this is due to the roll out of Universal Credit.

	Jun-20			Jun-21		
	Not in employment	In employment	Total	Not in employment	In employment	Total
North East Lincolnshire	11,245	5,893	17,138	11,081	7,316	18,394
Yorkshire and Humber	306,121	166,720	472,842	316,090	197,379	513,468
England	2,993,664	1,716,270	4,709,938	3,084,194	2,042,399	5,126,594

Out of the 18,394 people on Universal Credit in North East Lincolnshire in June 2021, 60.2% of them were not in employment. This is slightly lower than Yorkshire and The Humber (61.56%) and marginally higher than England (60.16%).¹⁴

Table 1.4c Claimant Count by Ward – July 2021

*Please note claimant count by ward is subject to rounding, therefore North East Lincolnshire total differs from higher geography totals.

Name	Claimant Count (Females)	Claimant Count (Females) (%)	Claimant Count (Males)	Claimant Count (Males) (%)	Claimant Count (Total)	Claimant Count (Total) (%)
Croft Baker	170	4.9	235	7.1	400	5.9
East Marsh	360	9.8	585	15.3	945	12.6
Freshney	110	3.8	140	5	250	4.4
Haverstoe	35	1.3	50	2	85	1.7
Heneage	215	5.9	355	9.1	565	7.5
Humberston and New Waltham	65	2	75	2.4	140	2.2
Immingham	130	3.7	170	4.9	300	4.3
Park	130	3.6	195	5.2	325	4.5
Scartho	70	2.1	85	2.6	155	2.4
Sidney Sussex	245	6.2	335	8.5	580	7.3
South	270	6.8	340	9.5	610	8.1
Waltham	35	1.8	45	2.6	80	2.2
West Marsh	235	9.6	320	12.4	555	11
Wolds	35	1.5	40	1.8	75	1.7
Yarborough	150	4	205	5.9	350	4.8
North East Lincolnshire	2,255	4.7	3,170	6.7	5,425	5.7
Yorkshire and the Humber	78,770	4.6	117,185	6.8	195,955	5.7
England	802,795	4.6	1,143,995	6.5	1,946,790	5.5

¹⁴ Source: Stat-Xplore, DWP benefit statistics, People on Universal Credit by Employment Status

The total percentage of claimants in East Marsh (12.6%) and West Marsh (11%) are significantly higher than the overall percentage for North East Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and The Humber and England.

9 wards in North East Lincolnshire have claimant counts lower than the England total percentage (5.5%). These wards are Freshney (4.4%), Haverstoe (1.7%), Humberston and New Waltham (2.2%), Immingham (4.3%), Park (4.5%), Scartho (2.4%), South (2.2%) Waltham, Wolds (1.7%) and Yarborough (4.8%).

In all wards, in July 2021, the percentage of male claimants was higher than female claimants.¹⁵

¹⁵ Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Office for National Statistics, July 21

2 Demand for childcare

2.1 Population of early year's children

In total, there are 8,575* children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early year's childcare.

Table 2.1 Numbers of children by age

Age	Number of children 2021
Age 0	1517
Age 1	1681
Age 2	1676
Age 3	1816
Age 4*	1885

* Residents report from SystemOne May 2021

***Some four-year-olds will have started reception*

2.2 Population of school age children

In total there are 12,981* children aged 5-11, and 5,770 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2.2 Numbers of children by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	1277
Age 6	1825
Age 7	1989
Age 8	1893
Age 9	1953
Age 10	2022
Age 11	2022
Age 12	1996
Age 13	1887
Age 14	1887

* *January 2021 school census*

2.3 Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan.¹⁶

¹⁶ [Special educational needs in England, Academic Year 2019/20 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

	2018/19				2019/20				2020/21			
	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN (percent)	SEN support	SEN support (percent)	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN (percent)	SEN support	SEN support (percent)	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN	EHC plans/ Statements of SEN (percent)	SEN support	SEN support (percent)
North East Lincolnshire	660.00	2.70	2,863.00	11.80	765.00	3.10	3,021.00	12.30	874.00	3.60	3,212.00	13.00
Yorkshire and the Humber	23,919.00	2.80	105,755.00	12.20	25,904.00	3.00	107,998.00	12.40	28,501.00	3.30	108,139.00	12.40
England	271,165.0 0	3.10	1,047,163.0 0	11.90	294,758.0 0	3.30	1,079,000.0 0	12.10	325,618.0 0	3.70	1,083,083.0 0	12.20

Table showing - Pupils in all schools, by type of SEN provision – including independent schools and general hospital schools. Totals include state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special-schools, pupil referral units and independent school

Table 2.3 Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). Using the May 2021 Census PowerBI Dashboard, the number of students with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:¹⁷

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	3
Primary school (reception to year six)	175
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	267
Special school	363
Pupil referral unit	12

¹⁷ Source: North East Lincolnshire Council, School Census May 2021

3 Supply of Childcare

Families use many different forms of childcare, with their choices dependent on factors that include family income, employment patterns, parental preferences, childcare availability, and the age of their children. The annual childcare survey was not undertaken in 2020 due to the pandemic. The 2019 Childcare Survey¹⁸, covering England, reported that

- 76% of families with children aged 0-4 years used childcare each week.
- Formal childcare was used by 64% of families, in line with the 62% in 2018.
- Half (50%) of parents felt the number of local childcare places was ‘about right’ (in line with 54% in 2018), while 28% said there were not enough places (unchanged from 2018)

3.1 Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 142 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 3,466 early years childcare places:

Table 3.1a Numbers of early years settings, by type: June 2021

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	6	3	-	3	12
East Marsh	3	3	-	5	11
Freshney	6	2	1	1	10
Haverstoe	5	1	-	2	8
Heneage	6	3	-	2	11
Humberston & New Waltham	2	2	-	3	7
Immingham	8	3	-	3	14
Park	5	1	-	6	12
Scartho	6	2	1	1	10
Sidney Sussex	5	3	-	3	11
South	1	3	-	4	8
Waltham	1	-	-	2	3
West Marsh	2	3	-	2	7
Wolds	5	1	-	2	8
Yarborough	5	2	-	3	10
NEL	66	32	2	42	142

¹⁸ Childcare and Early Years survey of parents 2019 – Department for Education - December 2019.

Table 3.1b Numbers of places offered by early years settings, by type: June 2021

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	20	72	-	125	217
East Marsh	12	91	-	205	308
Freshney	18	48	65	42	173
Haverstoe	18	26	-	89	133
Heneage	30	129	-	94	253
Humberston & New Waltham	6	46	-	98	150
Immingham	30	91	-	184	305
Park	15	26	-	320	361
Scartho	23	52	65	77	217
Sidney Sussex	15	151	-	130	296
South	3	130	-	157	290
Waltham	-	-	-	188	188
West marsh	9	151	-	64	224
Wolds	27	8	-	56	91
Yarborough	18	117	-	125	260
NEL	244	1138	130	1954	3466

- Childminders are the greatest numbers of providers (66), However the private sector, day nurseries and pre-schools deliver the most childcare places (1,954).
- Provider numbers have decreased slightly North East Lincolnshire since last year.
- However, the number of places has increased by approximately 3% since last year.

3.2 Early years vacancies

Vacancy rates are a snapshot and can change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have vacancies that are only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them though not all choose to do take up this offer. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

Table 3.2 Early years vacancies

Type of provision	Number of providers	% having some vacancies
Childminders	66	58%
Nursery classes in schools	32	9%
Maintained nursery schools	2	0%
Private, voluntary and independent providers	42	76%

It appears that more providers now have vacancies than last year. However, providers are now more likely to report vacancies than ever before.

3.3 Early years atypical hours

Childcare places are usually delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times to fit with their work or other responsibilities. There has been a significant change in the atypical hours. More providers are now open earlier but less are staying open later or offering weekends. This is possibly due to the pandemic and changes to working patterns and arrangements i.e., working from home.

Table 3.3 The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekdays	Available after 6pm weekdays	Available weekends ¹⁹
Childminders	66	42	6	5
Nursery classes in schools	32	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	2	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	42	13	1	1

3.4 Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 32 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 14 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. Many childminders also provide care for school age children as part of their wrap-around offer.

A large proportion of the holiday provision is based around activities which is particularly difficult to collate and reliant on private provision informing the service. The Families First Information Service will push for holiday activities to promote through Social Media and through the FFIS web Directory. The service will continue to follow a Digital by Default approach to promoting holiday activities as well as formal childcare.

Table 3.4 Number of school age providers

	Breakfast club – PVI	After-school club – PVI	Holiday Club - PVI	Breakfast club – School	After-school club – School	Holiday Club – School
Croft Baker	-	1	-	4	-	-
East Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freshney	1	1	1	2	-	-
Haverstoe	-	1	1	-	-	-
Heneage	-	-	-	1	-	-
Humberston & New Waltham	1	1	1	2	1	1
Immingham	1	1	1	1	1	-
Park	2	3	2	-	-	-
Scarcho	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sidney Sussex	1	1	1	1	-	-
South	-	-	-	3	-	-
Waltham	1	1	1	-	-	-
West Marsh	1	1	1	3	1	1

¹⁹ This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

Wolds	1	1	1	-	-	-
Yarborough	2	2	2	2	-	-
NEL	11	14	12	16	3	2

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of these providers are registered with Ofsted. It is possible that there is missing data for some providers of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. Parents may also use a provider which is not considered 'childcare', for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

3.5 School age atypical

Childcare is mostly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

Table 3.5 The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekdays	Available after 6pm weekdays	Available weekends ²⁰
Breakfast club	29	14	N/A	N/A
After-school club	17	N/A	-	N/A
Holiday club	14	5	-	-

4 Funded Early Education

4.1 Introduction

The availability of good quality childcare has been recognised as being of increasing importance over the past 15 years, with government policies introduced to encourage families to access good quality early education for their children. Universal entitlement to a funded nursery place began with 4-year olds in 2000, and increased to 3-year olds in 2005, with funded provision for disadvantaged 2-year olds beginning in 2011. The current early years entitlements (EYE) are for 570 hours per year and include

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school²¹
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

The early years entitlements can be taken over a minimum of two days and no session can be longer than ten hours a day. No sessions to be taken before 6am or after 8pm; funding can be split between a maximum of two sites per day and a child is eligible to start the term after their second birthday until the term after their third birthday.

²⁰ This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

²¹ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

A long-term government study²² shows good quality early years provision has a positive and long-term impact on children’s attainment, progress and social-behavioural development. Improvements in children’s academic and social outcomes lasted throughout school, with the effect being especially important for boys, pupils with SEN and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.¹³

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded early years entitlement (EYE). They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

4.2 Take up of funded places

The proportion of eligible children who had taken up a funded place (for at least some of the available hours) during the spring term 2021 census in our local authority is:

Table 4.2 Take up of funded places

Age	Accessing funding	% of all eligible children
Age 2	54579	76%
Age 3 and 4 universal	3460	91%
Age 3 and 4 extended	865	25%

Source Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2021 Department of Education Jul 2021

4.3 Funded places available

Providers are paid directly by the local authority for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers may offer a restricted number of funded places.

Table 4.1b Number of providers and places

Type of provision	Number of providers	2 year funded places	3 and 4 year old universal (15hrs) and extended (30 hrs) places
Childminders	49	9.8%	5.5%
Nursery classes in schools	32	6.8%	40.3%
Maintained nursery schools	2	0.2%	4.7%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	44	83.2%	49.5%

²² EPPSE Project - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eppse-3-to-14-years>

4.4 Two-year-old funding

Evidence shows that 2-year-olds in good and outstanding places - including nurseries, school nursery classes, and childminders - see benefits in terms of their early language skills, and physical, social and emotional development.²³

2-year-old children can get free early education and childcare if their family receives one of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- tax credits and you have an annual 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)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

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

New criteria added in 2019

- Children of Zambrano Carers; (new in 2019)
- Children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private/family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Children of a subset of failed asylum seekers (supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 – 'the 1999 Act').

New criteria added in 2020

- Children receiving support from the local authority under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who also have no recourse to public funds.

If a 2-year-old child is eligible they can access 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year. NEL's Family First Information Service (FFIS) regularly market potentially eligible families based on the data provided by the DFE and DWP and continually promote the offer of free places for eligible two-year-olds on their website, Facebook and twitter pages and with support from local providers and local family hubs.

In our local authority, **44%** of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education, equating to approximately 724 children per term in academic year 2020-21. There has been no change to the percentage of potentially eligible children from the previous academic year

²³ The early education pilot for 2-year-old children - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-early-education-pilot-for-two-year-old-children-age-five-follow-up>

In summer 2021, it was projected that 43% of all resident children may meet the criteria for funding. Of those 97% of the projected cohort had applied and were found to be eligible. The take up rate of those eligible children who accessed a place in the summer term was 81%

Table 4.4 - % of eligible cohort of two year olds accessing a place in summer 2021

Wards	% of potentially eligible resident children	% of resident children taking a place
Croft Baker	44%	31%
East Marsh	63%	57%
Freshney	28%	15%
Haverstoe	12%	11%
Heneage	51%	41%
Humberston and New Waltham	20%	11%
Immingham	40%	34%
Park	32%	23%
Scartho	17%	17%
Sidney Sussex	57%	43%
South	60%	46%
Waltham	10%	10%
West Marsh	61%	58%
Wolds	13%	9%
Yarborough	49%	38%
North East Lincolnshire	43%	35%

- Overall, 35% of North East Lincolnshire’s 2 year olds accessed an EYE place in summer 2021. This is back to the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

4.5 Three-and-Four-year-old funding

Funding for 3-and 4-year olds has two parts:

- Universal offer - All children, the term after they reach the age of 3 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Extended offer - Children aged 3 and 4, where both parents are working, or for lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school²⁴

Table 4.5 Take-up of three and four year old early education places: Summer term 2021

Wards	Universal offer - % take up	Extended offer - % take up
Croft Baker	98%	44%
East Marsh	101%	18%
Freshney	96%	36%
Haverstoe	100%	57%
Heneage	90%	21%
Humberston and New Waltham	96%	55%

²⁴ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

Immingham	86%	40%
Park	96%	44%
Scartho	92%	54%
Sidney Sussex	91%	27%
South	94%	21%
Waltham	97%	55%
West Marsh	87%	22%
Wolds	94%	56%
Yarborough	99%	42%
NEL	94%	36%

*Due to cohorts obtained separately percentages over 100 can occur

- In total 94% of 3-and-4-year-olds had accessed a universal early education place during of Summer term 2021. This is a slight decrease from pre-pandemic levels in summer 2019.

4.6 Availability vs Take-up of Early Education Places

Each place is equal to 15 hours a week term-time (38 weeks per year), and includes all sectors i.e. childminders, pre-schools, day nurseries, schools and academies. It does not include any reception places.

Ofsted registered settings now have more flexibility as to how they allocate their maximum number of places across the age ranges. This means that the overall number of places remains the same but the places available within each age range can change term on term to take account of the occupancy, ages and needs of the children attending.

The penetration rate is the number of places required for each of the early years entitlements. A number under 1 reflects a deficit of places within the ward for the projected number of resident children who may be eligible for funding. Numbers over 1 reflect more places than children. Those 3-and-4-year-olds who are eligible for the extended offer will require 2 places in order to access the full 30 hours

Table 4.6 Availability and take up of two-, three- and four-year-old early education places: Summer term 2021

Ward	Total number of 2,3 & 4 yr olds's	Total number of places (15hrs)	Projected Number of PTE places required	Penetration rate	Actual take up	% take up of places*
Croft Baker	287	301	449	1.56	287	64%
East Marsh	427	408	702	1.64	404	58%
Freshney	231	222	383	1.66	201	52%
Haverstoe	187	193	271	1.45	198	73%
Heneage	392	382	458	1.17	331	72%
Humberston and New Waltham	237	236	325	1.37	233	72%
Immingham	315	318	573	1.82	282	49%
Park	318	326	989	3.11	314	32%
Scartho	299	335	456	1.53	296	65%

Sidney Sussex	423	460	734	1.74	398	54%
South	468	489	671	1.43	419	62%
Waltham	149	181	375	2.52	171	46%
West Marsh	293	277	530	1.81	258	49%
Wolds	200	225	206	1.03	201	98%
Yarborough	376	413	651	1.73	388	60%
Grand Total	4602	4733	7773	1.69	4381	56%

*Due to cohorts obtained separately percentages over 100 can occur

- In summer 2021, there were 7,773 early education places available to two-three-and-four-year-olds. This is decrease on the previous year as some providers have made changes to their funded offer in response to changes in childcare needs.
- Most funded places were available through PVI providers (66.3%).
- The penetration rate of early education places available for every potentially eligible two-three-and-four-year-olds in NEL has remained the same at 1.69 places per child.
- Penetration rates at ward level show that Park and Waltham continue to have more than two places per child.
- The penetration rates suggest that currently all wards have more than enough places for the projected number of eligible children. However, the Wolds ward, is very close to number required for the projected number of eligible children. Most wards have additional capacity in the places available. This is likely to be due to migration, i.e. children choosing to access a place outside of the ward that they live
- Ideally there would be 1.2 places per child to factor in the need for additional hours for fee paying hours required. Based on this the Wolds ward may not have enough places to accommodate the needs of both funded and fee-paying families if take up were to increase.

4.7 Early Year Pupil Premium

The early years pupil premium (EYPP) is additional funding for early years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-olds. 3- and 4-year-olds in state-funded early education will attract EYPP funding if they meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- they are currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales
- they have left care in England or Wales through:
 - an adoption
 - a special guardianship order
 - a child arrangement order

Table 4.7 Number of 3- and 4-year-old children recorded as eligible for early years pupil premium by age - January 2021

	3-year-olds	4-year-olds	3- and 4-year-olds
England	74,488	33,353	107,841
Yorkshire and Humber	9,423	4,239	13,662
North East Lincolnshire	282	160	442

Source; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2021 Department of Education Jul 2021

Children must receive the universal free early education to attract EYPP funding. They do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to receive EYPP.

Children become eligible for free early education at different points in the year depending on when they turn 3.

5 Costs of childcare

Nationally in the Childcare and Early Years Parents Survey 2019²⁵, just under three in five (57%) families who used a childcare provider in the reference week reported paying for this childcare, in line with 2018 (56%). Of families using formal provision, 59% reported paying for this childcare (in line with 2018, 60%), and of families using informal provision, 6% reported paying for this childcare (in line with 2018, 7%).

Just over two in five (42%) parents rated the affordability of local childcare as ‘very’ or ‘fairly good’, a fall from the 2018 survey (47%), but in line with earlier surveys in the series (for instance 40% in 2008, and 44% in 2014-15). Just over a third (36%) of parents rated the affordability of local childcare as ‘very’ or ‘fairly poor’, in line with 2018 (34%). Just under half (46%) of parents who paid for childcare said it was easy or very easy to meet their childcare costs (Table 4.3), in line with 2018 (45%). Just over a quarter (27%) found it difficult or very difficult to meet their childcare costs, a rise from 2018 (23%), but lower than in 2011-12 when a third (33%) of parents found it difficult to meet their childcare costs. There is evidence that the rise in the proportion of parents finding it difficult to meet their childcare costs is largely attributable to families with a child aged 0 to 2.

5.1 Costs of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings*. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Table 5.1 Mean hourly rate of early years childcare

Price per hour*	Under 2 year olds	2 year olds	3 and 4 year olds
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	£5.38	£4.93	£4.92
School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	£N/A	£3.91	£3.71
Childminders	£4.60	£4.60	£4.60

²⁵ Childcare and Early Years survey of parents 2018– Department for Education - December 2019

Lowest	£4.40	£3.32	£3.00
Highest	£7.50	£7.25	£7.25

* prices are averaged by number of providers, and appear above where available

5.2 Costs of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices per hour. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services e.g., lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Table 5.2 Mean hourly rate of school age childcare

Cost	Breakfast club per hour	After-school club per hour	School childminder per hour	Holiday club per hour
Average	£2.45	£2.96	£4.60	£2.51
Lowest	£0.30	£2.50	£3.80	£2.00
Highest	£8.00	£4.80	£7.00	£5.20

6 Quality

6.1 Ofsted Inspection Grades

The quality of registered childcare in England is inspected by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills, using standards set out in the Early Years inspection handbook.

Inspected Providers are given a rating based on the effectiveness of the setting to provide good quality childcare to children. The rating currently ranges from ‘Outstanding’ to ‘Inadequate’. It is essential that, where possible, children should be attending provision of a ‘Good or ‘Outstanding’ rating quality.

- Nationally, nearly threequarters (73%) of parents rated the overall quality of local childcare provision as ‘very’ or ‘fairly good’, with just 6% rating it as ‘very’ or ‘fairly poor’. These proportions are in line with the 2018 survey (75% and % respectively).²⁶

Table 6.1a. Ofsted Rating as at January 2021 for 2-year-old children with FFE places
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Percentage children with 2 year EYE place in setting with	Percentage in setting not yet judged	Outstanding	Good	Percentage attending Good or Outstanding Providers	Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	Inadequate

²⁶ Childcare and Early Years survey of parents 2019– Department for Education - December 2019.

	Ofsted judgement						
England	84	16	22	75	97	2	1
Yorkshire and Humber	85	15	19	79	98	2	1
North East Lincolnshire	89	11	13	87	100	0	0

Source: National Statistics - Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2021 (Department for Education)

- All children attending a setting that had been inspected by Ofsted were in a setting that was judged good or better - This is higher than regionally and nationally.
- The percentage of children attending settings that have not had their first inspection are 13% of the total; this is a smaller percentage than regionally and nationally.

Table 6.1b Ofsted Rating January 2021 for 3- and 4-year-old children with universal EYE places:
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Percentage children with 3 / 4 year FFE place in setting with Ofsted judgement	Percentage in setting not yet judged	Outstanding	Good	Percentage attending Good or Outstanding Providers	Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	91	9	24	69	93	6	2
Yorkshire and Humber	93	7	19	69	88	9	3
North East Lincolnshire	96	4	16	74	90	8	2

Source: National Statistics - Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2021 (Department for Education)

Table 6.1c Ofsted Rating January 2021 for 3- and 4-year-old children with extended EYE places:
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Percentage children with 3 / 4 year FFE place in setting with Ofsted judgement	Percentage in setting not yet judged	Outstanding	Good	Percentage attending Good or Outstanding Providers	Satisfactory / Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	87	13	27	69	96	3	1

Yorkshire and Humber	87	13	24	72	96	3	1
North East Lincolnshire	95	5	27	71	98	2	0

Source: National Statistics - Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2021 (Department for Education)

- 90% of children accessing a universal funded place (15hrs) were attending a setting, which had received a judgement of good, or better - this is lower than nationally but slightly higher than the regional figure.
- 98% of children accessing an extended funded place (30hrs) were attending a setting which had received a judgement of good or better – this is slightly higher than regionally and nationally



Sources of information

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North East Lincolnshire Council
www.nelincs.gov.uk
Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)
www.ofsted.gov.uk

North East Lincolnshire
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

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