



North East Lincolnshire Council

Parent childcare survey 2021



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Introduction

From July to mid-September, a parent survey was undertaken in NEL. The survey went out via the social media platforms and was also shared by our childcare providers. A total of 137 responses were received.

Summary

The majority of people of who completed the survey know about their entitlements for early years funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds, 94% and 93% respectively

The majority of respondents had more than one child (73%) and the most represented age group was the parents /carers of school age children at 46%

Three quarters of families already use formal childcare. For those who do not use formal childcare, affordability was the main reason at 53%, followed by not needing childcare at 35%.

The majority of families currently use childcare all year round in order to work. Many more (75%) would like to use it all year round.

Two thirds of families can find all the childcare they need but this leaves a third who cannot. The main reason is that they cannot afford the hours that they need. Needing atypical hours, before 8am and after 6pm was also the reason given by 84%

During the pandemic almost half of family's childcare needs did not change. However, 32% of families needed more childcare as they either were unable to use family and friends to help out with childcare or they were critical workers who had increased their hours

1. Childcare Preferences

Most families prefer their childcare to be close to home (58%) and 67% need childcare in order work, study or train. 61% of respondents needed 15 or more hours per week and almost half of all families needing up to 30 hours

2. General comments

There main themes from the comments included

2.1 Costs- Many families found childcare to be expensive with some paying almost all of what they earn. Wraparound and holiday childcare was specifically deemed to be more expensive

2.2 Funding for childcare- many felt it was unfair that those who do not work can get 2 year funding but those who need childcare to work or study are not eligible. It was raised that funding that is available to working families does not include those who work less that 16 hours or who work term time/seasonal hours taking them below the threshold for 30 hours and tax free childcare. There were views that free childcare should be extended to include all 2 year olds and working families with under 2's

2.3 Before and after school and holiday childcare- families needing this type of childcare appear to have been hardest hit during the pandemic. Lots of schools stopped offering their breakfast and after school clubs leaving families without childcare or having to find alternative providers.

3. What next

NELC will share the results of the survey with local childcare providers and will work with them to review and explore ways to increase their childcare offers to meet the needs of local families.

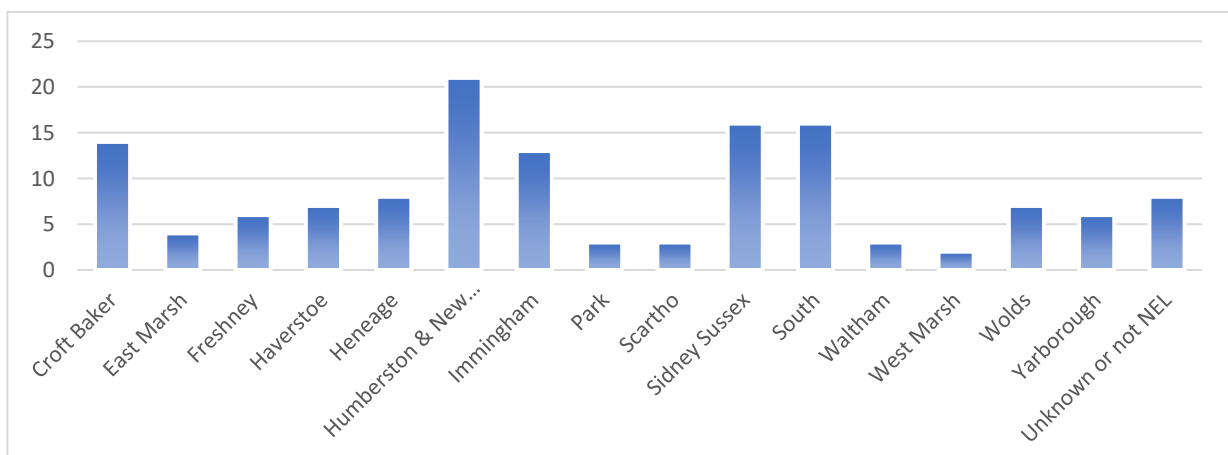
The childcare funding pages on the NELC website will be reviewed, as well as the information shared on the social media pages. This will ensure that information is clear, up to date and comprehensive for families with a specific focus on the availability of childcare and funding for local families.

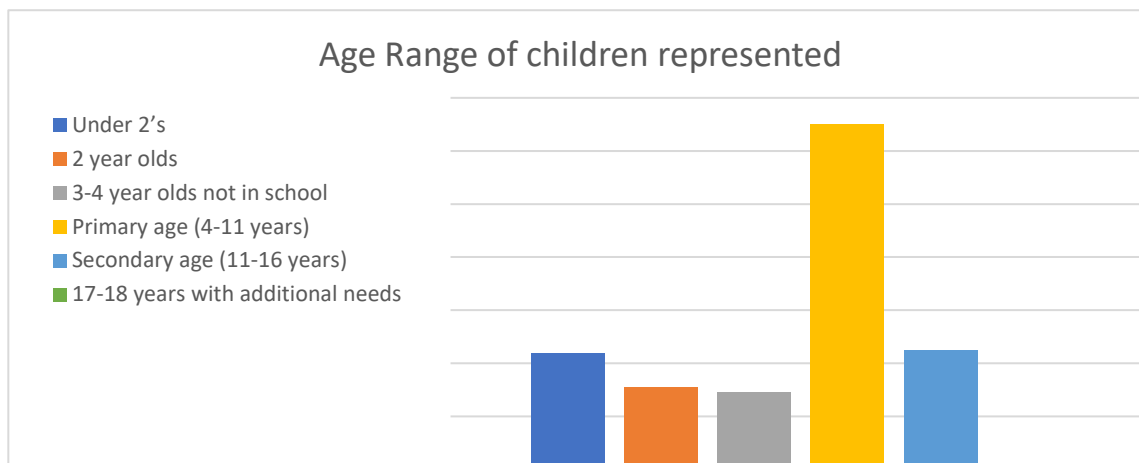
4. Results of the Parent Childcare Survey 2021

All fifteen wards within the borough were represented, including the full 0 to 18 age range within the responses. The biggest response (15%) came from families living in Humberston and New Waltham although South ward respondents represented the largest number of children across all age ranges (17%)

The majority (63%) of respondents had school age children with primary age also having the highest numbers (46%) across all age ranges

Responses





5. Survey responses and comments

5.1 For those with 2 year olds

Did you know some 2 year olds can get free childcare? 29 of the 31 responded

Yes	94%	No	6%
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Do you receive 2 year funding?

Yes	38%	No	62%
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(You may have received a letter from us or you can [check if you can get funding online](#))

5.2 For All

Did you know all three and four year olds can get free childcare?

Yes	93%	No	7%
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Do you use formal childcare (pre-school, nursery, school nursery, childminder, after school, holiday club, etc)?

Yes	76%	No	24%
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If you don't use formal childcare, what stops you?

My chosen childcare provider is full	-
I can't afford it	53%
I can't get the hours I need	12%
I don't need childcare	35%
Other (please specify)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed during COVID and not reopened • Grandparents 	

If you do use formal childcare, when do you use it?

Only when schools are open (term time)	45%	All year round (including school holidays)	55%
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Would you like to use childcare?

Only when schools are open (term time)	25%	All year round (including school holidays)	75%
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Do you need to use formal childcare now so you can work or use funding for a two-, three- or four-year-old?

Yes	81%	No	19%
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Can you get as many hours of childcare as you need to work? And/or if your child is two, three or four can you get all of the funded hours you are allowed?

Yes	66%	No	34%
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What extra childcare do you need? (Tick all that apply)

Pre-school	11%	School Nursery	4%
Day Nursery	17%	Out of school club	27%
Childminder	11%	Holiday club	28%
Nanny	1%		

If you use formal childcare (pre-school, nursery, school nursery, childminder, after school, holiday club, etc) but cannot get enough hours, what stops you using more childcare? (Tick all that apply)

The childcare provider is full	17%
I can't afford it	65%
The childcare provider offers all parents the same number of hours	8%
My chosen childcare provider is closed	10%
Other	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not open during the holidays • As they only take children till they are 8 • Too far to Travel 	

Do you need childcare for these times or days?

Early Morning (6am to 8am)	48%
Late evening (6pm to 10pm)	36%
Overnight (10pm to 6am)	5%
Weekends	12%
Other (please specify)	
School holidays after school (6) 8-6pm, 8-4pm, 4pm, 3-5.30pm, 12-5pm, 3-6pm, 7am-3pm, 9-5pm, 8-3.15pm, Normal working hours (2)	

Would you be willing to answer some more questions relating to your need for childcare?

Yes	85%	No	15%
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6. Additional questions

These questions relate to any type of childcare you use including formal childcare (pre-school, nursery, childminder, out of school club) and informal childcare (friends and family).

Where do you need childcare?

Close to home	58%	Close to work	16%	Close to school	26%
Other (please specify)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminder near me but chose nursery based on what is best for my little girl so is further away Close to grandparents as they pick my child up when I'm at work So grandparents can help with pick ups 					

What are your main reasons for using childcare? (Please tick all that apply)

So I can work	59%	So I can study/train	8%	To help my child's development	25%
So I can do other things	3%	To give me respite as my child has additional needs/is disabled	2%	I do not use childcare	3%
Other (please specify)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable my child to get to school My wife is disabled and helps 					

How many hours of childcare do you use over a normal week?

None	6%	Less than 15 hours	34%
Between 15 to 30 hours	47%	More than 30 hours	14%

Since June 2020 have you used more or less childcare

I use less childcare because I'm worried about my child getting coronavirus	8%
I use less childcare because the hours/days offered no longer suit me	2%
I use less childcare because my childcare providers is closed	7%
I use less childcare because I no longer need the childcare as my work has changed	6%
I use the same childcare as before lockdown	46%
I use more childcare because I can no longer use family and friends to look after my child/ren	15%
I use more childcare as I am a critical worker and have increased my working hours	17%
Other (please specify)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> was on mat leave Can't afford to use childcare as only offered to parents not working Family has them I will be using more because I am going to study Just started uni alongside part time work I find the cost of my children's before and after school care to be expensive compared to some others More due to becoming a parent. 	

- I use more childcare as we were accepted for 30 hours
- Child only eligible to start childcare in January 2021 after her 3rd birthday
- I tried to apply for my 3 years old Daughter online but they don't let me get the code
- My child had only just qualified for funding
- I only started using childcare during lockdown
- Don't use
- Didn't use childcare before but do now
- My child only began attending in June 2021

7. Other comments

Is there anything else you wish to tell us about childcare in North East Lincolnshire? - below is a range of responses received. For the full list please contact fis@nelincs.gov.uk

7.1 Affordability:

- Think about offering some help to working parents during school holidays
- I was currently on maternity leave and now going back to work, unfortunately I have had to drop work hours and pay due to not being able to afford childcare for both my 8 month old and 8 year old for after school club.
- Funding should be available for working mums. Why do people claiming benefits get free childcare from age of 2 yet working parents get nothing until 3?
- The funding is ridiculous for working parents. For my 2 children to go into childcare it'll cost more in childcare fees than what I'm actually earning. If I didn't have help from family members I would be forced out of work. And I have to wait till my son is 3 to get any help whatsoever. Yet people who don't work get 15 hours free for their 2 year olds when they don't need the childcare because they don't work! The system is backwards
- More spaces at settings are required, the costs are astronomical and the government should do more to stop penalising working parents
- out of term time childcare is so expensive. £14 a day is the cheapest I've found and when you have 2 children attending it soon adds up and isn't worth working
- Under 2 need more funding
- Why is 30 hours funding not available for couples where one is working and other is unable to work due to disability? It is only available for working couples
- No funded hours for part time studying

7.2 Availability:

- We need more holiday childcare provision for age 2+
- Parent baby groups should be more accessible and easier to find.
- During covid I struggled to access holiday club because I have to use a different provider to the school they attend. However, they are now open again. The school only offer holiday club if there is enough interest, but I need to make arrangements so can't rely on that kind of childcare so use a different provider. A fellow parent recently shared how they can't take annual leave during term times, so as the school have different term dates to other schools this creates a problem for those weeks other holiday club providers are closed as they follow different term dates to the school our children attend
- Wish there was a facility for breakfast and after school clubs at every school to accommodate working hours of parents jobs

7.3 Access:

- I need some help to get code to school so my daughter can go to school full time thank u

- I try apply for my 3 years old daughter online for nursery I'm working part time and I like she go school full time I try to many times and the online service not let me doing I need help with this I will be appreciate Thank u
- I'm working part time I like my daughter start full Time school I have problem online to get the code I need help I will be appreciate Thank u
- I'm unsure if i get the 30hrs a week during school holidays or if it only applies in term time? Maybe this could be made clearer and what options are available locally for school holidays
- Just wish nurseries opened longer I work at a nursery 8-6 and finding one that opens early enough was very hard
- I had to find alternative child care as my old provider shut during covid for out of school care
- School hours never suit working hours, I work shifts and it's lucky that I do as it wouldn't be beneficial my wife working with the cost of before and after school clubs. Sooner someone actually realises that grandparents aren't the answer anymore as they have to carry on working sometimes even when retired as the pension is pittance. The school hours need to be adjusted so that they go 8.45 till 5.15 and factor this into the school hours. Meaning parents can work and not be at a disadvantage. Myself being a critical worker was told I was only allowed hours around my shifts and had to stay up off nights to look after my children. Yet other parents who were furloughed or working from home got all week. Now I'm expected to pay it all back same as everyone else and have had nothing from the use of any government money.
- I just want when nursery hours be suitable with the school hours

Thank you for your time in completing this survey. For information about childcare funding and what you may be eligible for please go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk or call families First Information service on 01472 326292 option 1