

North East Lincolnshire  
**Familiesfirst**  
Supporting children, young people & families



**North East Lincolnshire Council**  
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

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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) provides evidence as to how North East Lincolnshire Council is 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'<sup>1</sup>, 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.*

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

## **Overall Assessment, Summary and Action plan**

Like many local authorities, North East Lincolnshire Council uses data from Families First Information Service (FFIS) as one measure of sufficiency and to gauge unmet demand. This includes enquiries and complaints received from parents who are unable to find a suitable childcare place to meet their needs. 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.

### **Upcoming changes and expansion of funded childcare**

The financial support that is available to parents to help with the cost of childcare is increasing. The first phase in April 2024, will see working families with 2-year-olds being able to access up to 15 hours of funded childcare during term time. This will expand again in September 2024, to include children from the age of 9 months. By September 2025, working parents with children aged 9 months old to when they start school will be eligible for 30 hours funded childcare support.

### **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 2023) there are 306 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 87% in NEL during the academic year 2022-23. This is an increase of 2% on the previous year.

The number of families who are potentially eligible for the current 2-year funding offer 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 2023 suggest that an average of 42% of children will be eligible. This remains the same as the previous year. However, from April 2024 a new cohort of 2-year-olds will become eligible for a funded place

### **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 2023, there were 5,483 EYE places available and an eligible population of 3,876 children which equates to 1.41 places per child within NEL.

### **Potential gaps for 3&4-year EYE places**

In autumn 2017 the extended offer (30 hours) was launched and take up has increased year on year from the autumn 2017 of 28%. It is projected that 48% of 3& 4-year-olds across NEL will be eligible for 30 hours in the academic year 2023-24. At ward level projections range from just 21% in East Marsh up to 77% in Waltham. Based on the projections, there are sufficient places available across the borough however there may be a need for additional places within some wards in the next academic year. The availability and take up of places are monitored carefully each term to manage the childcare market and to ensure the demand is met.

### **0-4-year-old Paid for Childcare**

The returns from FFIS 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.

### **Other factors affecting sufficiency of childcare places.**

Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, there were no childcare sufficiency issues within North East Lincolnshire. There have been some long-term impacts from the pandemic that still affect the childcare market locally. These include.

- **Changes to work patterns-** many families, work patterns changed during the pandemic i.e., working from home, flexible working etc. For some these changes have now become the norm meaning that they may not need as much childcare as they had previously.
- **Recruitment and Retention-** many settings have seen staff leave to take up roles in other sectors. Recruiting to vacant posts has also been difficult due to lack of qualified and or experienced applicants.
- **Costs of living crisis-** is impacting on families as well as providers. Over the summer, some settings have raised concerns about remaining sustainable.

The early years and families first information service teams continue to work closely with settings, supporting them in every way possible to meet the challenges of the issues above and 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 192km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

The percentage of people living in an urban environment based on the Rural-Urban Classification is 90.1% of the population of North East Lincolnshire<sup>3</sup>; 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<sup>4</sup>**

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

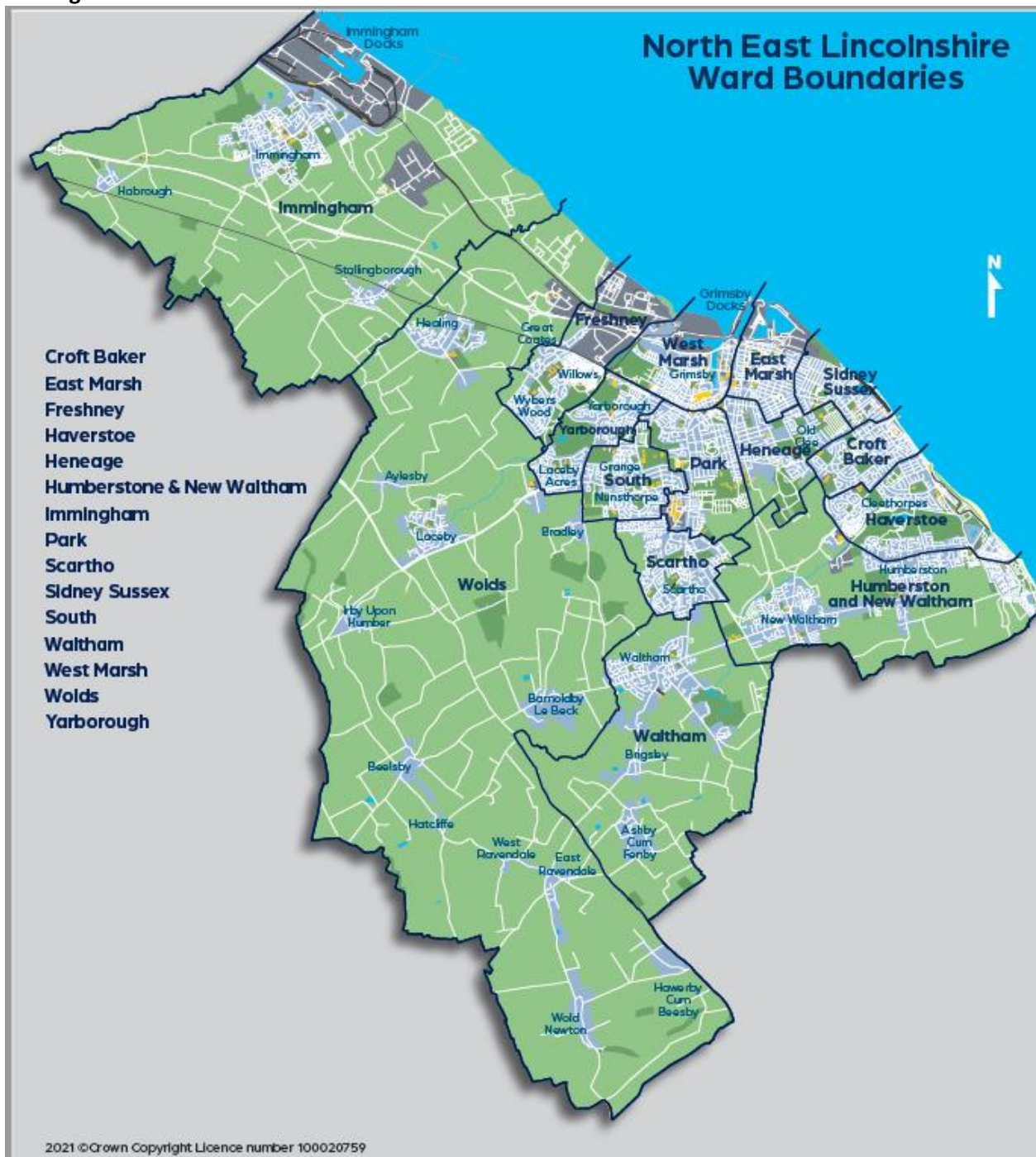
<sup>2</sup> ONS, census 2021 first results. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>3</sup> ONS, census 2011. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>4</sup> [nelincs.gov.uk wards](https://nelincs.gov.uk/wards/).

A map of NEL ward boundaries, is represented below:

**Fig 1.1: North East Lincolnshire with Wards<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>5</sup> [nelincsdata.net Maps](http://nelincsdata.net/Maps)

## 1.2 Population

In 2021, an estimated 156,900 people were living within the boundary of North East Lincolnshire<sup>6</sup>. This is a decrease of 1.7% from around 159,600 in 2011<sup>7</sup>. By comparison, the total population of England grew by 6.6%<sup>8</sup> over the same period.

Comparing age groups to the 2011 Census shows an increase of 16.0% increase in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 6.3% aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 2.2% in children aged under 15 years<sup>9</sup>.

### 1.2a Population of early years children

In 2020, there are 8,359 children under the age of five living in within North East Lincolnshire<sup>10</sup>. These children may require early years childcare.

**Table 1.2a Early Years numbers by age<sup>11</sup>:**

Wards	0	1	2	3	4	Grand Total
Croft Baker	124	101	115	134	125	599
East Marsh	178	149	177	176	190	870
Freshney	82	89	78	97	105	451
Haverstoe	47	51	73	66	65	302
Heneage	146	133	150	163	153	745
Humberston and New Waltham	85	90	82	89	101	447
Immingham	97	123	112	115	129	576
Park	100	93	103	132	121	549
Scartho	110	114	115	136	121	596
Sidney Sussex	179	135	182	174	180	850
South	153	176	177	206	225	937
Waltham	51	33	69	70	57	280
West Marsh	126	130	105	105	111	577
Wolds	58	64	87	74	69	352
Yarborough	125	141	161	154	151	732
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1661</b>	<b>1622</b>	<b>1786</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>1903</b>	<b>8863</b>

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

<sup>6</sup> ONS, census 2021 first results. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>7</sup> ONS nomis. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>8</sup> ONS [census population change](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationchange/censuspopulationchange).

<sup>9</sup> ONS, census 2021 first results. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>10</sup> ONS, population estimates 2021. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>11</sup> ONS, population estimates 2020. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).



The proportions of resident children vary between wards. The proportion of 0- to 15-year-olds, in East Marsh, Heneage, Sidney Sussex, South, West Marsh, and Yarborough wards is above the average for North East Lincolnshire while Croft Baker, Freshney, Haverstoe, Humberston and New Waltham, Immingham, Park, Scartho, Waltham, and Wolds wards are below average for North East Lincolnshire.<sup>12</sup>

## 1.2b Population of school age children

In total in 2020, there are 14261 children aged 5-11, and 5900 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.<sup>13</sup>

**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	135	129	122	130	156	138	136	106	135	130	1317
East Marsh	160	166	174	155	168	170	159	160	159	156	1627
Freshney	109	98	114	133	116	123	121	105	107	111	1137
Haverstoe	91	70	75	92	81	98	62	85	98	86	838
Heneage	177	175	174	171	165	176	158	144	155	147	1642
Humberston and New Waltham	91	108	111	123	125	109	131	135	143	124	1200
Immingham	147	156	147	149	137	147	151	156	153	151	1494
Park	143	137	130	154	128	146	152	154	116	172	1432
Scartho	130	129	141	143	145	151	142	129	137	130	1377
Sidney Sussex	192	202	200	212	214	195	188	145	164	169	1881
South	208	195	211	211	220	225	205	209	181	198	2063
Waltham	55	59	57	59	62	61	67	65	83	67	635
West Marsh	113	112	120	98	120	99	105	101	94	92	1054
Wolds	81	75	78	104	75	106	107	111	97	121	955
Yarborough	163	153	150	160	153	152	159	153	133	133	1509
<b>NELC</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2094</b>	<b>2065</b>	<b>2096</b>	<b>2043</b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>20161</b>

The overall population of ethnic minorities within North East Lincolnshire at the time of the 2021 Census was estimated at 3.8%, which is significantly lower than regional (14.5%) and national (19%) comparators<sup>14</sup>; however, the school census suggests that there is more diversity in the younger age groups.

North East Lincolnshire school pupils as of January 2023 were predominantly White British (85.93%) with a small proportion from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

\*Please note 2.35% of North East Lincolnshire school pupils ethnicities were not obtained.

<sup>12</sup> ONS population estimates 2020. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

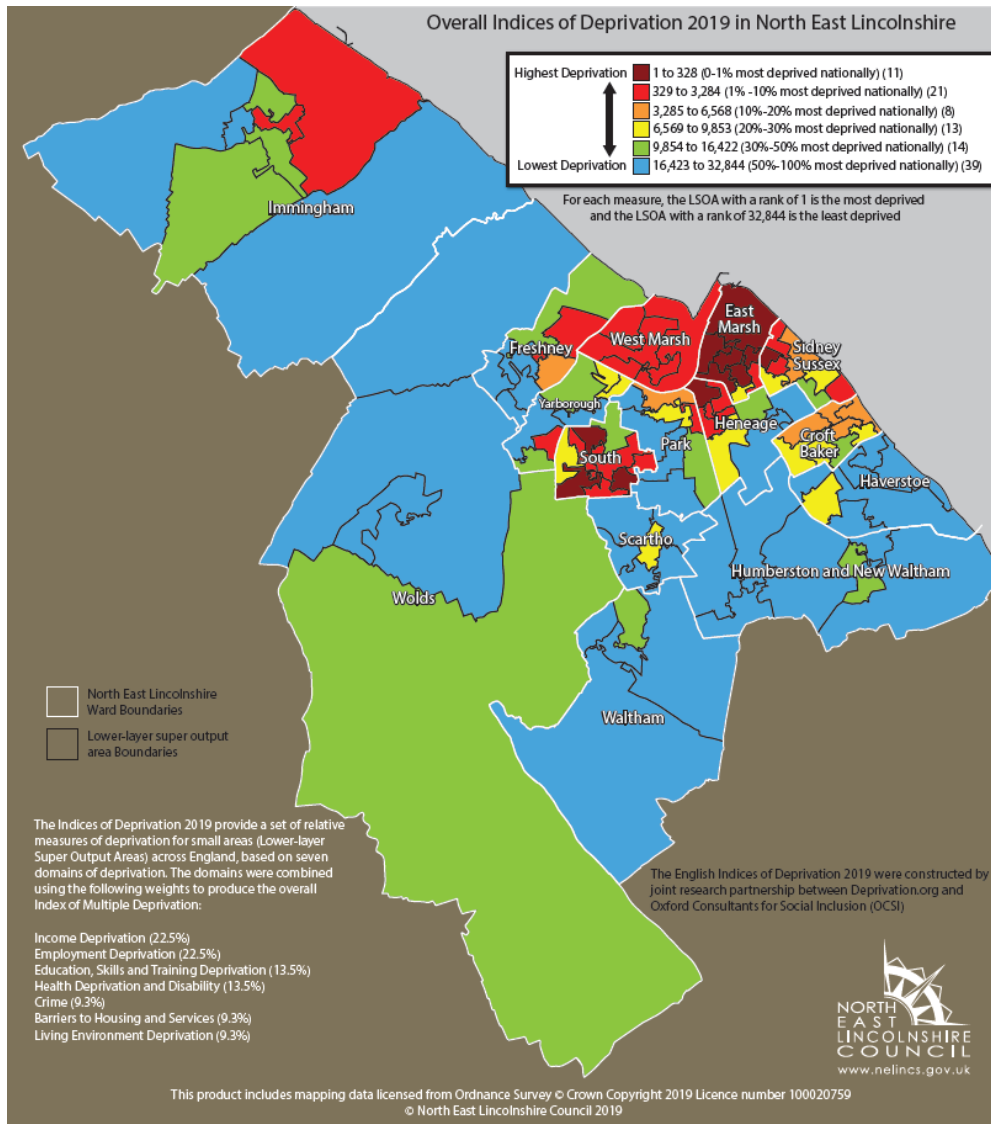
<sup>13</sup> ONS population estimates 2020. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

<sup>14</sup> ONS 2021 census. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

### 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).<sup>15</sup>

**Fig 1.3a North East Lincolnshire with Deprivation<sup>16</sup>**



Overall North East Lincolnshire is ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority in the country<sup>17</sup> with some wards particularly deprived (such as East Marsh and South Wards). 11 lower super output areas within North East Lincolnshire (6 in East Marsh, 3 in South, 1 in Heneage and 1 in Sidney Sussex) are ranked in the top 1% of 32844 areas nationally for Overall Deprivation (measured across 7 domains).

<sup>15</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

<sup>16</sup> [nelincsdata.net indices of deprivation map](http://nelincsdata.net/indices-of-deprivation-map)

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. [nelincsdata.net deprivation profile](http://nelincsdata.net/deprivation-profile).

**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
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	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<sup>18</sup>, Economic Inactivity<sup>19</sup>, Employment Rates<sup>20</sup> and Unemployment Rates<sup>21</sup> in North East Lincolnshire**

Jul 22 – Jun 23	Economic Activity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Economic Inactivity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Employment Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Unemployment Rate, (aged 16-64) %
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	75.2	24.8	72.5	3.5
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	77.0	23.0	74.2	3.6
<b>England</b>	78.6	21.4	75.6	3.8

The unemployment rate is 3.5% in North East Lincolnshire. The unemployment rate in North East Lincolnshire is lower than the Yorkshire and The Humber rate (3.6%) and the England rate (3.8%).

**Table 1.4b Universal Credit – People on Universal Credit by Employment Status<sup>22</sup>**

	May 2022			May 2023		
	Not in employment	In employment	Total	Not in employment	In employment	Total
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	10,672	7,529	18,201	12,149	7,517	19,666
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	298,583	196,291	494,874	339,146	196,456	535,602
<b>England</b>	2,839,986	1,976,012	4,815,998	3,169,869	1,980,134	5,150,003

<sup>18</sup> NOMIS Annual Population Survey, economic activity. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer).

<sup>19</sup> NOMIS Annual Population Survey, economic inactivity. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer).

<sup>20</sup> NOMIS Annual Population Survey, employment rate. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer).

<sup>21</sup> NOMIS Annual Population Survey, unemployment rate. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer).

<sup>22</sup> Department for Work & Pensions Stat-Xplore. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer).

Out of the 19,666 people on Universal Credit in North East Lincolnshire in May 2022, 61.8% of them were not in employment. This is slightly lower than Yorkshire and The Humber (63.3%) and slightly higher than England (61.6%).

**Table 1.4c Claimant Count by Ward – June 2023<sup>23</sup>**

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

	Claimant Count by Ward - August 2023					
	All Count	All Count (%)	Male	Male (%)	Female	Female (%)
Croft Baker	285	4.2	160	4.9	120	3.4
East Marsh	720	9.7	435	11.6	280	7.6
Freshney	175	3.2	105	3.9	70	2.5
Haverstoe	70	1.4	40	1.6	30	1.2
Heneage	380	5	235	6.1	145	3.9
Humberston and New Waltham	105	1.6	50	1.6	55	1.7
Immingham	225	3.3	125	3.7	100	2.9
Park	255	3.5	150	4.1	105	3
Scartho	105	1.6	60	1.8	45	1.4
Sidney Sussex	390	5	240	6.1	150	3.8
South	450	6	235	6.6	215	5.4
Waltham	30	0.8	20	1.2	10	0.5
West Marsh	425	8.3	250	9.6	175	6.9
Wolds	45	1	30	1.3	15	0.7
Yarborough	255	3.6	145	4.3	110	3
North East Lincolnshire	3915	4.1	2,285	4.9	1,630	3.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	137825	4	79,635	4.7	58,190	3.4
England	1,339,660	3.8	751,335	4.3	588,325	3.3

The total percentage of claimants in East Marsh (9.7%) and West Marsh (8.3%) 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 (3.8%). These wards are Freshney (3.2%), Haverstoe (1.4%), Humberston and New Waltham (1.6%), Immingham (3.3%), Park (3.5%), Scartho (1.6%), Waltham (0.8%), Wolds (1%) and Yarborough (3.6%).

In all wards, except Humberston and New Waltham, in August 2023, the percentage of male claimants was either higher or the same as for female claimants.

<sup>23</sup> ONS NOMIS claimant count by age and sex. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

## **2 Demand for childcare**

### **2.1 Population of early year's children\***

In total, there are 8,311 children under the age of five living in our local authority. This is approximately a 3% drop on the previous year. These children may require early year's childcare.

**Table 2.1 Numbers of children by age**

Age	Number of children 2023
Age 0	1508
Age 1	1520
Age 2	1588
Age 3	1733
Age 4*	1762

\* Residents report from SystemOne April 2023

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

### **2.2 Population of school age children\***

In total there are 13,275 children aged 5-11, and 5,773 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	1698
Age 6	1860
Age 7	1835
Age 8	2019
Age 9	1879
Age 10	1975
Age 11	2009
Age 12	1987
Age 13	1932
Age 14	1854

\* Residents report from School Census January 2023

## 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 SEND but do not have an EHC plan.<sup>24</sup>

	2020/21				2021/22				2022/23			
	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)
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	874	3.6	3,212	13.0	945	3.8	3,244	13.1	1,020	4.1	3,139	12.7
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber</b>	28,501	3.3	108,139	12.4	31,104	3.5	113,031	12.9	33,863	3.8	118,894	13.5
<b>England</b>	325,618	3.7	1,083,083	12.2	355,566	4.0	1,129,843	12.6	389,171	4.3	1,183,384	13

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 schools

<sup>24</sup> [Special educational needs in England, Academic Year 2021/22 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

**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 Jan 2023, the number of students with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:<sup>[2]</sup>

<b>Pupil Numbers with EHC Plan by School Type/Age Group - January 2023</b>	
<b>School Type</b>	<b>EHC Plan</b>
Nursery (Birth to school age)	6
Nursery (Birth to school age) - excluding Special/Pru School Types	4
Primary (Reception to Year 6)	477
Primary (Reception to Year 6) - excluding Special/Pru School Types	315
Secondary (Year 7 to 13)	407
Secondary (Year 7 to 13) - excluding Special/Pru School Types	211
Special School	358
Pupil Referral Unit	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>902</b>

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<sup>[2]</sup> Source: North East Lincolnshire Council, School Census, Jan 2023

### 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 2022 Childcare Survey<sup>25</sup>, covering England, reported that there has been little change in the use of childcare since 2021. Overall, in 2022, almost three in five (58%) children in England aged 0 to 14 had used some form of childcare, both formal (such as nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs, and after-school clubs) or informal (such as grandparents, friends or relatives, and older siblings) during their most recent term-time week.

- 71% of families with children aged 0-4 years used childcare each week. This is in line with 2021 (68%)
- The proportion of families with children ages 0-14 using formal childcare was 62% in 2018 (the most recent comparable wave) to 55% in 2021
- Around two in five parents overall (41%) felt the number of local childcare places was 'about right' (a fall from 46% in 2021), while 33% said there were not enough places (a rise from 30% in 2021)

#### 3.1 Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 135 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 3,528 (full time equivalent) early years childcare places: The number of providers remains the same as last year. However, over the last year two PVI providers and two childminders have closed and four new Childminders have opened. There has been an overall decrease of 50 places across the borough. The majority of these are due to PVI providers reducing the places available due to the number of staff available or the needs of the children attending.

**Table 3.1a Numbers of early years settings, by type: June 2023**

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	4	3	-	2	9
East Marsh	3	3	-	4	10
Freshney	3	2	1	1	7
Haverstoe	5	1	-	2	8
Heneage	6	3	-	2	11
Humberston & New Waltham	2	2	-	4	7
Immingham	10	3	-	3	16
Park	4	1	-	4	8
Scartho	4	2	1	1	8
Sidney Sussex	6	3	-	3	12
South	2	3	-	4	9
Waltham	1	-	-	2	3
West Marsh	1	3	-	2	6
Wolds	4	1	-	2	7
Yarborough	7	2	-	3	12
<b>NEL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>133</b>

<sup>25</sup> [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)



**Table 3.1b Numbers of places offered by early years settings, by type: June 2023**

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	24	72	-	89	185
East Marsh	18	78	-	177	273
Freshney	19	39	65	42	165
Haverstoe	28	30	-	109	167
Heneage	36	131	-	87	254
Humberston & New Waltham	12	61	-	91	164
Immingham	60	91	-	218	369
Park	22	30	-	210	262
Scartho	21	65	65	63	214
Sidney Sussex	35	143	-	130	308
South	12	115	-	176	303
Waltham	9		-	224	233
West marsh	6	147	-	79	232
Wolds	46	8	-	56	110
Yarborough	54	104	-	131	289
<b>NEL</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>1114</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>3528</b>

- Childminders are the greatest numbers of providers (62), However the private sector, day nurseries and pre-schools deliver the most childcare places (1,882).
- Provider numbers has decreased slightly (1.5%) in North East Lincolnshire since last year.
- The number of places has decreased by approximately 1.4% 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 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 providers	of	% having some vacancies
Childminders		63	38%
Nursery classes in schools		32	84%
Maintained nursery schools		2	50%
Private, voluntary and independent providers		39	72%

It appears that there are more vacancies across almost sectors than last year. However, Childminders have reported less vacancies than the previous year.

### 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 are now less providers offering atypical hours than the previous year. Many providers have trialled opening earlier or staying open later but take up has been so low it is not sustainable to continue to provide the longer hours.

**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 <sup>26</sup>
Childminders	62	27	1	15
Nursery classes in schools	32	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	2	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	39	12	1	1

- The number of childminders now offering weekend care has dropped by 27% since last year.
- Some parents have reported that they find it hard to find atypical hours to meet their needs. In these cases, FFIS will work with local providers and parents to find a suitable solution

The 2023 parent survey asked when families required additional childcare. Of the respondents with early years aged children, 35% needed care before 8am, 15% required care after 6pm and 10% needed care at the weekend. This is marked reduction in need of a typical hours from the 2022 Parent survey.

### 3.4 Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 43 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, this is a 28% increase on last year. There are now 14 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays another increase on the previous year. There has been an increase in schools reporting their before and after school clubs as well as some PVI providers now offering wraparound for older children too. Many childminders also provide care for school age children as part of their wrap-around offer.

**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	-	-	-	4	1	-
East Marsh	-	-	-	3	-	-
Freshney	1	1	1	2	-	-
Haverstoe	-	1	1	1	1	-
Heneage	-	-	-	1	-	-
Humberston & New Waltham	-	-	-	3	2	-
Immingham	2	2	2	1	1	-
Park	1	2	1	1	-	-
Scartho	-	-	-	2	2	-
Sidney Sussex	1	1	1	2	-	-
South	1	1	2	3	-	-
Waltham	1	1	1	-	-	-

<sup>26</sup> This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

West Marsh	1	1	1	3	1	-
Wolds	1	1	1	-	-	-
Yarborough	2	2	2	2	-	-
<b>NEL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all provision is registered with Ofsted. 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 do encourage all providers to sign up to the directory, but many choose not to. FFIS do ensure that all holiday activities we are aware of are promoted through social media even if they choose not to join the directory. The service will continue to follow a Digital by Default approach to promoting holiday activities as well as formal childcare.

### 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. Most of this demand is met by local childminders. There are now double the number of breakfast clubs available before 8am than last year.

**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 <sup>27</sup>
Breakfast club	39	16	N/A	N/A
After-school club	21	N/A	-	N/A
Holiday club	13	3	-	-

The 2023 parent survey asked when families required additional childcare. Of the respondents with school aged children, 23% needed care before 8am, 8% required care after 6pm and 8% needed care at the weekend. This is marked reduction in need of a typical hours from the 2022 Parent survey.

<sup>27</sup> This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

## **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 school<sup>28</sup>
- 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.

A long-term government study<sup>29</sup> 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.

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 2023 census<sup>30</sup> in our local authority is:

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<sup>28</sup> 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

<sup>29</sup> [Effective pre-school, primary and secondary education \(EPPSE\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/publications/effective-pre-school-primary-and-secondary-education-eppse)

<sup>30</sup> [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/publications/provision-for-children-under-5-in-england-january-2023)

**Table 4.2 Take up of funded places**

Age	Accessing funding	% of all eligible children	2023 national % of all eligible children
Age 2	602	92%	74%
Age 3 and 4 (universal & extended offers)	3307	95%	94%

Source Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2023 Department of Education Jul 2023

### 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 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	47	7.4%	4.6%
Nursery classes in schools	32	6.4%	39.9%
Maintained nursery schools	2	0.0%	4.7%
Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries	40	86.2%	50.8%

### 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.<sup>31</sup>

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.

<sup>31</sup> [The early education pilot for 2-year-old children: age 5 follow up - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order, or adoption order.
- 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').
- 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, social media pages and with support from local providers and local family hubs.

In our local authority, **42%** of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education, equating to around 730 children per term in academic year 2022-23. There has been a small decrease (1%) to the percentage of potentially eligible children from the previous academic year.

**Table 4.4 - % of eligible cohort of two year olds accessing a place in summer 2023**

Wards	% of potentially eligible resident children	% of resident children taking a place
Croft Baker	34%	31%
East Marsh	68%	59%
Freshney	36%	36%
Haverstoe	13%	7%
Heneage	53%	44%
Humberston and New Waltham	17%	17%
Immingham	39%	34%
Park	28%	26%
Scartho	9%	9%
Sidney Sussex	52%	47%
South	57%	47%
Waltham	13%	4%
West Marsh	57%	45%
Wolds	13%	15%
Yarborough	36%	37%
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>36%</b>
NEL Summer 2022	42%	36%
NEL Summer 2021	43%	35%
NEL Summer 2020	43%	29%
NEL Summer 2019	46%	35%

- In summer 2023, it was projected that 41% of all resident children may meet the criteria for funding. The actual number of eligible children was 43% of all local 2-year-olds, equating to 104% of the projected cohort.

- Overall, 36% of all 2 year olds in North East Lincolnshire’s accessed an EYE place in summer 2023. This remains the same as last year.
- The take up rate of those eligible children who accessed a place in the summer term was 84%

#### 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 school<sup>32</sup>

**Table 4.5 Take-up of three- and four-year-old early education places: Summer term 2023**

Wards	Universal offer - take up %	Extended offer - take up %
Croft Baker	96%	46%
East Marsh	85%	19%
Freshney	97%	56%
Haverstoe	102%	66%
Heneage	103%	36%
Humberston and New Waltham	95%	70%
Immingham	90%	48%
Park	98%	56%
Scartho	95%	69%
Sidney Sussex	97%	43%
South	93%	36%
Waltham	93%	76%
West Marsh	96%	34%
Wolds	93%	71%
Yarborough	97%	52%
<b>NEL</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>48%</b>
NEL Summer 2022	95%	41%
NEL Summer 2021	94%	36%
NEL Summer 2020	93%	34%
NEL Summer 2019	96%	33%

\*Due to cohorts obtained separately percentages over 100 can occur

- In total 95% of 3- and 4-year-olds had accessed a universal early education place during of Summer term 2023. This remains the same as last year.
- Take up the extended offer (30 hours) has increased by 7% since summer 2022 and 15% over the last 5 years.

<sup>32</sup> 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

## 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 less than 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 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 2023**

Ward	Total number of 2,3 & 4 yr olds's	Projected Number of PTE places required	Total number of places (15hrs)	Penetration rate	Actual take up	% take up of places *
Croft Baker	255	280	385	1.51	259	67%
East Marsh	474	474	570	1.20	406	71%
Freshney	236	245	363	1.54	253	70%
Haverstoe	138	158	280	2.03	161	58%
Heneage	360	372	496	1.38	377	76%
Humberston and New Waltham	243	276	360	1.48	272	76%
Immingham	287	313	591	2.06	293	50%
Park	260	249	806	3.10	266	33%
Scartho	278	315	456	1.64	306	67%
Sidney Sussex	434	447	686	1.58	443	65%
South	420	433	706	1.68	410	58%
Waltham	113	122	504	4.46	113	22%
West Marsh	315	297	400	1.27	301	75%
Wolds	189	209	218	1.15	211	97%
Yarborough	307	333	638	2.08	333	52%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4309</b>	<b>4522</b>	<b>7459</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>4404</b>	<b>59%</b>
NEL Summer 2022	4506	7447	4548	1.64	4383	59%
NEL Summer 2021	4602	7773	4733	1.69	4381	56%
NEL Summer 2020	4713	7954	4989	1.59	4248	53%
NEL Summer 2019	4924	7612	5273	1.44	4625	61%

\*Due to cohorts obtained separately percentages over 100 can occur

- In summer 2022, there were 7,459 early education places available to two-three-and-four-year-olds. This is an increase of 12 places on the previous year. Some providers have made changes to their funded offer in response to changes in childcare needs.
- Most funded places were available through PVI providers (65.5%).



- The penetration rate of early education places available for every potentially eligible two-three-and-four-year-olds in NEL has increased slightly since 2022.
- Penetration rates at ward level show that Park and Waltham continue to have the most places available at 3.1 and 4.4 respectively.
- The penetration rates shows that there are more than enough places across the borough. Although, 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)
- 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 2023**

	3- and 4-year-olds
England	114,8367
Yorkshire and Humber	14,700
North East Lincolnshire	427

Source; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2023 Department of Education Jul 2023

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 get EYPP.

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

## **5 Costs of childcare**

The Childcare and Early Years Parents Survey 2022<sup>33</sup>, reported there has been little change in the use of childcare since 2021. Overall, in 2022, almost three in five (58%) children in England aged 0 to 14 had used some form of childcare, both formal (such as nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs, and after-school clubs) or informal (such as grandparents, friends or relatives, and older siblings) Formal childcare was used by just over two in five (47%) children. This was an increase from 44% in 2021.

Around two in five (39%) parents overall rated the affordability of local childcare as very or fairly good, a fall from 42% in 2021. Just over a third (36%) of parents rated the affordability of local childcare as very or fairly poor, a rise from 30% in 2021.

Just under half (48%) of parents who paid for childcare said it was easy or very easy to meet their childcare costs (Accompanying Table 4.3), a fall from 56% in 2021. Over one in five (23%) found it difficult or very difficult to meet their childcare costs, a rise from 19% in 2021.

Difficulty in meeting childcare costs varied by annual family income. Over two in five (42%) families earning under £10,000 per year found it difficult or very difficult to meet their childcare costs, falling to 17% of families earning £45,000 or more.

### **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	£6.51	£6.12	£5.91
School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	£N/A	£4.50	£4.48
Childminders	£5.06	£5.06	£5.06
Lowest	£4.25	£3.20	£2.90
Highest	£9.75	£9.75	£9.75

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

#### **Comments from the NELC Parent survey 2023**

*“Too expensive, would cost more than I earn”*

*“The cost needs to be brought down”*

*“I had no problem finding a nursery place from age one. My only issue is spending nearly £1000 a month on fees”*

<sup>33</sup> [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-reporting-year-2022)

## 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 age per hour	Holiday club per hour
<b>Average</b>	<b>£4.35</b>	<b>£5.25</b>	<b>£5.06</b>	<b>£3.49</b>
Lowest	£1.00	£2.30	£4.25	£2.50
Highest	£9.00	£9.00	£8.00	£5.00

### Comments from the NELC Parent survey 2023

*“Not enough affordable childcare/after-school clubs. Wish my children's schools had decent breakfast clubs that I could use the gov scheme for”*

*“I would increase my working hours from part time to full time but due to my hourly rate it would not worth increasing my hours to pay for after school clubs.”*

## 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, Over two-thirds (69%) of parents stated that the providers Ofsted rating influenced their decision to use them a great deal or fair amount. Whereas 13% said it didn’t influence their decision at all<sup>34</sup>

**Table 6.1a. Ofsted Rating as at January 2023 for 2-year-old children with EYE places<sup>35</sup>**  
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Percentage children with 2 year EYE 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	90	10	18	78	96	3	1
Yorkshire and Humber	91	9	18	79	97	2	1
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

- Locally, 99% of funded 2 year olds attending a setting that had been inspected by Ofsted were in a setting that was judged good or better - This is higher than the regional and national average.
- The percentage of children attending settings that have not had their first inspection are 2% of the total; this is a much lower percentage than regionally and nationally.

<sup>34</sup> [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics/service.gov.uk)

<sup>35</sup> [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/provision-for-children-under-5-in-england-january-2023)

**Table 6.1b Ofsted Rating January 2023 for 3 and 4 year old children with universal EYE places:<sup>36</sup>**  
**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	93	7	21	73	94	5	1
Yorkshire and Humber	95	5	18	73	91	7	2
<b>North East Lincolnshire</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

- Locally, 98% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing a funded place were attending a setting, which had received a judgement of good, or better - this is higher than nationally and the Yorkshire and Humber region.

<sup>36</sup> [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-in-england-january-2023)

## **Annex A- Parent survey 2023**

### **Introduction**

The 2023 parent survey was undertaken in NEL from late August to the end of September. The survey went out via the social media platforms and was also shared by our childcare providers. A total of 498 surveys were started with 430 being completed or partly completed.

### **Summary**

Most respondents had more than one child (63%) with 42% of all having 2 children. The most represented age group was the parents /carers of Primary aged children at 46% followed by the under 2's (16%) and 3- and 4-year-olds (14%)

Less than half (42%) of families already use formal childcare. This is a decrease from last year of 13% however 24% of respondents left the question and didn't answer. For those who do not use formal childcare, not needing any was the main reason at 51%, followed by not being able to afford it at 32%.

Most families currently use childcare to enable them to work (84%) with the majority (62%) using childcare all year round.

Over half of those responding (64%), could get the right amount of childcare required to enable them to work. This figure dropped to 52% for those who needed a funded childcare place. The main reason for not being able to access the childcare families required was that they cannot afford the hours that they need. Needing atypical hours, before 8am (56%) and after 6pm (24%) were also stated as a barrier to accessing the required hours.

Since June 2022, 38% of families have used more childcare than the previous year. A third of families (34%) had little or no change to their childcare needs whereas 28% stated they now use less: 20% stated that they can no longer afford to pay the childcare costs.

### **1. Childcare Preferences**

Most families prefer their childcare to be close to home (51%) and 64% need childcare in order work, study, or train. Sixty-five percent of respondents needed 15 or more hours per week.

### **2 General comments**

The main themes from the comments included

**2.1 Affordability-** Many families found childcare to be expensive with some paying out a high percentage of what they earn for childcare. Most feel more help is needed to support working parents, especially for those with under three years old. Some families stated that they rely on family and friends to help out as they cannot afford to use formal childcare for all the hours they need.

**2.2 Availability-** More families are finding the 8 to 6 childcare offers no longer meets their needs. This has increased by 7% since last year and is now 56% need an earlier start to meet their needs. Families with school age children would like more wraparound childcare to be available, ideally on or close to the school site.

**2.3 Access-** Some families have found it hard to find information about what is available locally. Others feel that there is not enough choice available especially for children with additional needs. The lack of funding to support children’s needs outside of education is a barrier to the using childcare services.

### **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.

The full Parent Survey 2023 report can be found at [Become a childcare provider - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/become-a-childcare-provider)

## Annex B- Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Sufficiency Risk	Actions to enhance sufficiency	Timeframe	Outcome
Dynamic Childcare Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor projections and take-up</li> <li>• Report on the results of the parent survey and encourage settings to consider the findings.</li> <li>• Continue to promote the EY's entitlements and raise the profile of all local childcare settings with partners and other agencies.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with Family Hubs and childcare settings to maximise take-up of funded childcare</li> </ul>	Termly reports Annual parent survey	Dynamic childcare market that meets the needs of families in North East Lincolnshire
Sustainability of childcare sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the highest possible base rate for early years entitlements.</li> <li>• Promote financial and business support available.</li> <li>• Promote existing business tools available on-line</li> <li>• Provide support to enable settings to review their offer and make changes if required to meet the needs of the community.</li> <li>• Ensure settings are claiming all EY's entitlements that their children are eligible for i.e. EYPP, DAF</li> </ul>	Termly- update projections and support settings who are claiming less than projected	The childcare sector is sustainable and able to meet the needs of families in NEL
Early Years Entitlements and help paying for childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor eligibility and take up across all EY's entitlements</li> <li>• Target areas where take up is low and provide marketing activities in those areas</li> <li>• Attend events to promote the childcare funding options</li> </ul>	Termly and academic year reports inform which areas to target	Enables families to access all childcare funding options and make using childcare more affordable
Information for parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the most up to date information to parents via a range of media i.e. website, leaflets, social media platforms</li> <li>• Schedule reminders of when families should apply for 2 year funding, 30 hours etc.</li> </ul>	Ongoing scheduled posts in line with termly deadlines	Ensures families and the community are aware of all childcare funding options available to them
SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the SEND Local Offer</li> <li>• Support parents to find suitable childcare that meets their Childs needs</li> </ul>	Ongoing As and when required	Ensures children with SEND can get support and access suitable childcare





### ***Sources of information***

Early Years Entitlement team  
Civic Offices,  
Knoll Street,  
Cleethorpes  
DN35 8LN

North East Lincolnshire Council [InstantAtlas NE Lincolnshire – Data Explorer \(nelincsdata.net\)](https://nelincsdata.net)

Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) [Ofsted - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Department of Education (DfE) [Department for Education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## North East Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023

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