

Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE	2 nd October 2025
REPORT OF	Lindsay Hudson – Acting Consultant in Public Health
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Diane Lee – Director of Public Health
SUBJECT	Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy Update
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	N/A

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

This Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will significantly contribute to our aims of increasing healthy life expectancy, tackling wider determinants of health, and reducing health inequality in North East Lincolnshire. By promoting coordinated efforts across various sectors, we can align resources and initiatives to address multiple health determinants effectively. This integrated approach helps in identifying and mitigating health risks early, promoting prevention, and healthier lifestyles. Additionally, it ensures that support is comprehensive and equitable, targeting systemic issues and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve better health outcomes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress of the North East Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and to seek the Board's formal agreement to endorse the strategy and refer it to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet, and Full Council for adoption, in line with constitutional requirements and the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Endorse the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
2. Agree to refer the Strategy to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet, and Full Council for adoption.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress, endorse the strategy and refer it to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet, and Full Council for adoption, as recommended by the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, this will ensuring democratic oversight and legitimacy.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Background:

The JHWS 2025–2030 has been developed through engagement with local residents, partners, and stakeholders, drawing on the findings of the 2024 ‘Our Place Our Future’ survey and the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey. The Strategy sets out a shared vision, aims, and priorities for improving health and wellbeing across the borough, with a focus on reducing inequalities and supporting all residents to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

The draft Strategy has been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Population Health Executive Management Group.

Governance and Next Steps

In accordance with the Council’s Policy Framework and the advice of the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, the JHWS must be formally adopted by Full Council to ensure democratic oversight and constitutional legitimacy. The recommended governance route is as follows

Health and Wellbeing Board: Endorse the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and refer to Scrutiny.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel: Consider the Strategy as a consultee, in line with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Cabinet: Review and support the Strategy.

Full Council: Approve and adopt the Strategy as part of the Council’s Policy Framework.

This process will ensure that the Strategy benefits from robust member engagement at each stage, and that its adoption is constitutionally sound.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 Risks

Without a joint health and wellbeing strategy, the lack of a coordinated approach can lead to fragmented efforts, resulting in inefficiencies and missed opportunities for early intervention. This can negatively impact healthy life expectancy by failing to address wider determinants of health, ultimately widening health disparities and leaving vulnerable populations without adequate support.

2.2 Opportunities

By promoting collaboration among various stakeholders, such as healthcare providers, employers, and community organisations, this strategy will enhance the effectiveness of interventions and promote a unified effort towards common goals to improve health and wellbeing.

A joint strategy promotes equity by ensuring fair distribution of resources and addressing health inequalities, linking with our Marmot Place ambitions. It targets systemic issues and provides support to vulnerable populations, ensuring everyone has access to the support they need to improve their health. Additionally, this approach streamlines efforts, reducing duplication and optimising resource use, ultimately leading to better health outcomes and more efficient use of resources.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

None

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The report does not require a spend update.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Children and young people are a vital group included within the strategy. One of the foundational stones has been shaped to ensure impacts on key population groups are taken into account when shaping the action plan.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND NATURE RECOVERY

Another foundational stone within the strategy is environment, to ensure impacts on the environment are taken into account when shaping the action plan.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

No consultation with Scrutiny has taken place yet, this is a recommendation of this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Health and wellbeing boards were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to act as a forum in which key leaders from the local health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population. They have a statutory duty, with integrated care boards (ICBs), to produce a joint strategic needs assessment and a joint health and wellbeing strategy for their local population.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no HR implications.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

No ward implications. This is a North East Lincolnshire strategy.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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North East Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy



2025-2035



North East Lincolnshire
Health and Care
Working in Partnership

Contents

Foreword	4
Executive Summary	6
Introduction	8
Data and Intelligence	10
Vision	12
Aims	13
Foundational Principles	14
7.1 Children And Young People	16
7.2 Environment	18
7.3 Inclusion Health	20
Themes	22
8.1 Good work	24
8.2 Money and resources	28
8.3 Housing	30
8.4 Education and skill	34
8.5 The food we eat	38
8.6 Transport	40
8.7 Friends, family, communities and belongin	44
8.8 Our surroundings	46
Resident Voice	50
Governance	51
Measuring Success	52
References	52
Appendix 1: Foundation Stones and Reflective Guidance for Partners	54



1. Foreword



By Councillor Stanley Shreeve, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, North East Lincolnshire Council

As the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, I am proud to present this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a bold and necessary roadmap for improving the lives of everyone in North East Lincolnshire.

This strategy is a shared commitment to fairness, opportunity, and resilience. It recognises that health is shaped not only by the care we receive, but by the homes we live in, the work we do, and the communities we belong to. It is a strategy that puts people first, especially our children, our older residents, and those who are too often left behind.

We are a borough of proud heritage and great potential. From the regeneration of Grimsby to the growth of our green economy, we are building a future that is both ambitious and inclusive. But we must ensure that this progress reaches every street, every household, and every individual. That is why this strategy focuses on the wider determinants of health, on good work, safe housing, education, transport, and strong communities.

I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis on partnership. No single organisation can deliver this vision alone. It will take collaboration across the council, the NHS, schools, businesses, and the voluntary sector. And it will take the voices and actions of our residents, because real change happens when people are empowered to shape their own futures.

This strategy is a call to action. It asks us to think differently, to work together, and to lead with compassion and courage. I am confident that, with this shared vision and our collective determination, we can create a healthier, fairer North East Lincolnshire for generations to come.



By Diane Lee, Director of Public Health, North East Lincolnshire

Health is not created in hospitals or clinics, it is shaped in our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. It is shaped by the air we breathe, the food we eat, the connections we have, and the opportunities we're given. In North East Lincolnshire, we are proud of our resilience, our sense of place, and our ambition. But we also recognise that too many people are living shorter, less healthy lives simply because of the circumstances they were born into.

This strategy is our collective response to that challenge. It is rooted in the voices of our residents, the evidence from our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and the principles of fairness, inclusion, and sustainability. It sets out a bold vision for a healthier, more equitable borough, one where every child has the best start in life, where communities are safe and connected, and where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

We know that no single organisation can deliver this alone. That's why this strategy is built on partnership, across health, local government, education, business, and the voluntary and community sector. But it also calls on each of us, as individuals, to play our part. Whether it's supporting a neighbour, making healthy choices, or getting involved in local initiatives, we all have a role in building a healthier North East Lincolnshire.

This is more than a strategy, it's a shared commitment to put the public back in public health. I invite you to read it, challenge it, and most importantly, act on it. Together, we can create a future where health and wellbeing are not a privilege for the few, but a foundation for all.



2. Executive Summary

North East Lincolnshire is a place of opportunity, resilience, and ambition. While the borough has seen economic regeneration and investment, particularly through the growth of the renewable energy sector and the Grimsby Town Deal, significant health challenges remain. Healthy life expectancy has declined over the past decade¹, and inequalities between our most and least advantaged communities continue to widen.

This strategy sets out a bold, place-based vision to improve health and wellbeing for everyone in North East Lincolnshire. It is grounded in the belief that health is shaped not just by access to healthcare, but by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These wider determinants, such as housing, education, employment, transport, and social connection, form the eight building blocks of health that underpin this strategy.

Our approach is guided by three foundational principles:

- Children and young people: Giving every child the best start in life to break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage.
- Environment: Creating sustainable, healthy places through green transport, energy-efficient homes, and climate resilience.
- Inclusion health: Ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable groups are not left behind.

The strategy sets out six strategic aims:

1. Increase healthy life expectancy
2. Reduce health inequalities
3. Improve mental wellbeing
4. Make public health everyone's business
5. Embed prevention and early intervention
6. Create a fairer, greener, and more inclusive borough

Each of the eight building blocks, Good Work, Money and Resources, Housing, Education and Skills, The Food We Eat, Transport, Friends, Family and Communities, and Our Surroundings, is explored in depth, with evidence, resident voice, and clear actions for change. These actions will be localised and embedded within a place-focused action plan, co-developed with partners across North East Lincolnshire to ensure they reflect the borough's unique context, strengths, and needs.

We are committed to measuring success, using both quantitative indicators and qualitative insights such as ripple effects mapping. Progress will be reported annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This is an ambitious strategy because North East Lincolnshire needs ambition. It is a call to action for all partners, across health, local government, education, business, and the voluntary sector, to work together to create a healthier, fairer future for everyone who lives, works, studies, and visits here.

But this is also a call to action for individuals. Everyone has a role to play in building a healthier North East Lincolnshire, whether it's supporting a neighbour, making active travel choices, getting involved in local initiatives, or simply looking after your own wellbeing. Together, we can put the "public" back in public health and create a borough where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Our overarching vision is:

"To create a borough where health and wellbeing are built into everyday life, through good work, safe homes, strong communities, and a healthy environment, so that every resident can live a longer, happier life."

This vision is beautifully captured in the artwork entitled 'A healthy Grimsby, through a child's eyes' (Image 1, below). Created from the ideas of Faith, a young attendee at a community wellbeing event, the image reflects her hopes for a healthier environment. Faith imagined a Grimsby filled with play parks, climbing frames, and open spaces for movement, places where children can thrive. She emphasised the importance of bins to keep the area clean, flowers to brighten the surroundings, and sunshine to support good mental health.

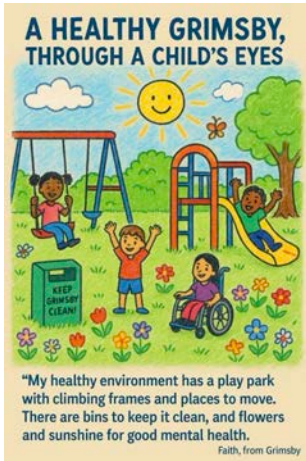


Image 1: A healthy Grimsby, through a child's eyes

Her vision, brought to life through AI, reminds us of the importance of designing our communities through the eyes of our youngest residents and ensuring that every child grows up in a place that nurtures their health, happiness, and potential.



3. Introduction

North East Lincolnshire is well placed to leverage its unique strengths and opportunities to address its health challenges. Historically rooted in the fishing industry, the region is now embracing new growth sectors, particularly in offshore renewable energy and the low carbon economy. This transition is unlocking significant private sector investment and economic regeneration.

Grimsby, as the first town to secure a Town Deal in 2018, has been at the forefront of this transformation. The support has catalysed numerous projects, driving growth and innovation across the region. These developments are creating new job opportunities and attracting diverse industries, positioning North East Lincolnshire as a hub for sustainable growth.

However, we recognise that challenges persist. Despite economic progress, healthy life expectancy in North East Lincolnshire has declined over the past decade, (Figure 1) with widening inequalities between our most and least deprived communities. This trend highlights the urgent need to address the wider determinants of health particularly the quality of housing stock, access to education, skills and employment, and transport especially for those living in our rural areas.

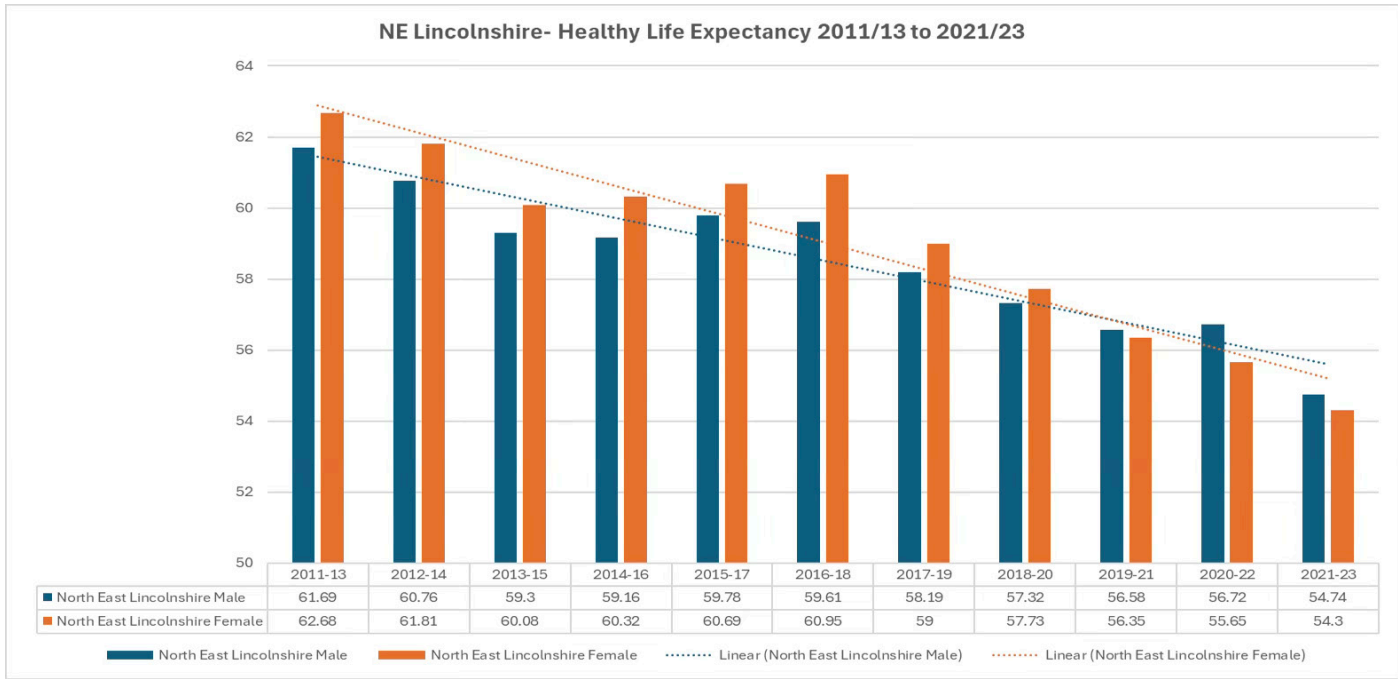


Figure 1: Healthy Life Expectancy in North East Lincolnshire (2011/13 to 2021/23)

To ensure that all residents benefit from these opportunities, a long-term, collaborative approach is essential. The Health Foundation's eight building blocks of health and wellbeing, as set out in the 2024 North East Lincolnshire Director of Public Health Annual Report, provide a locally grounded framework for action. By focusing on these interconnected themes, we can create a solid foundation for a healthier, fairer future for everyone in our communities.

- **Good work:** Employment provides financial stability, purpose, and social connections, all of which are essential for mental and physical health.
- **Money and resources:** Adequate financial resources enable access to necessities such as food, healthcare, and education, reducing stress and improving quality of life.
- **Housing:** Safe, affordable, and quality housing is fundamental to health, providing a stable environment that supports physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Education and skills:** Education empowers individuals with knowledge and skills, opening up opportunities for better jobs and healthier lifestyles.

- **The food we eat:** Access to nutritious food is crucial for maintaining good health and preventing chronic diseases.
- **Transport:** Reliable and accessible transportation connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, and social activities, enhancing overall wellbeing.
- **Our surroundings:** Clean, safe, and vibrant environments promote physical activity, reduce stress, and improve community connections.
- **Friends, family and communities:** Strong social networks provide emotional support, reduce isolation, and contribute to a sense of belonging and purpose.

These building blocks will be supported by three foundational principles:

- **Children and young people:** Investing in the health and wellbeing of children and young people sets the stage for a healthier future, breaking down intergenerational barriers and improving life expectancy.
- **Environment:** Addressing environmental impacts through sustainable housing, green transport, and local food systems creates healthier communities and a cleaner future.
- **Inclusion health:** Ensuring equality and inclusion health guarantees that everyone in North East Lincolnshire has equitable access to opportunities and resources.

Recognising the importance of these areas, we aim to create an environment where children and young people can thrive. By addressing environmental impacts and ensuring equality and inclusion, we can build healthier communities and a cleaner future.

Through cross-sector collaboration between health providers, the council, educational institutions, businesses, community organisations and individuals we are creating an environment that empowers individuals and communities to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

We know we cannot do this alone, this is an ambitious strategy. **North East Lincolnshire needs an ambitious strategy.** One that tackles all the underlying issues affecting the health of the people who live, work, study and visit here. Together, we can build a more resilient, equitable, and healthy North East Lincolnshire. Our ambition is to make public health everyone's business and to enable and empower everyone to be a public health leader.

Progress Since the DPH Annual Report

Since the publication of last year's Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report, North East Lincolnshire has made meaningful progress across several key areas. Access to healthy food has improved through community partnerships, and efforts to reduce food insecurity are ongoing. Financial wellbeing has been supported by increasing benefit uptake and employment support. The "Make Every Contact Count" initiative has strengthened housing-related guidance for those facing health inequalities, while Active Travel has been promoted to improve air quality and physical activity. Schools and agencies have collaborated to build health literacy and resilience among young people. Workplaces have been supported to prioritise mental health and suicide prevention, and we have contributed to safer communities through awareness campaigns, including support for the White Ribbon initiative to end male violence against women. These actions reflect a shared commitment to embedding health and wellbeing into the everyday lives of residents. The next DPH Annual Report will focus on Inclusion Health.

North East Lincolnshire as a Marmot Place

North East Lincolnshire is proud to be working towards becoming a Marmot Place, committed to reducing health inequalities through action on the social determinants of health. This means embedding fairness, inclusion, and sustainability into every policy and partnership, from housing and education to employment and community wellbeing. Our strategy aligns with the Marmot principles by focusing on the wider determinants of health and placing equity at the heart of decision-making. By adopting a whole-system, place-based approach, we aim to create the conditions for everyone in our borough to live longer, healthier lives regardless of their background or postcode.



4. Data and Intelligence

North East Lincolnshire (NEL) has a resident population of just under 157,000 people and just under 70,000 households. The 2021 Census² highlighted an ageing population with 20.9% of the local population being aged 65 years and over, an increase from 17.7% of the population in 2011, and is a higher proportion than the 18.6% of the national population that is aged over 65 years.

North East Lincolnshire is not expected to see significant overall population growth over the next decade. However, as highlighted in the Future of Adult Social Care in North East Lincolnshire report, the borough is undergoing a major demographic shift. The number of residents aged 65 and over is projected to rise by 23% by 2035. This ageing trend is expected to drive a substantial rise in demand for health and social care services, particularly due to the growing prevalence of long-term conditions, multimorbidity, and frailty. Notably, over 3,250 residents are projected to be living with dementia by 2035, and more than 11,700 are expected to experience a fall annually. These projections underscore the urgency of embedding prevention, early intervention, and age-friendly design into our strategic planning to ensure that older adults can live independently and with dignity for as long as possible.

The latest population figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)³, estimated there were 33,257 children aged 0-17 years resident in North East Lincolnshire, which equated to 21% of the total resident North East Lincolnshire population. This includes 9,816 children aged 0-5 years, and 3,736 young people aged 16-17 years. Figures from the latest DfE School Census, show there were 11,357 pupils registered at North East Lincolnshire primary schools (years 1-6), and 9,148 pupils registered at North East Lincolnshire secondary schools (years 7-11).

Healthy life expectancy in the borough has been steadily declining since 2017-19, with recent data indicating a figure of 54.5 years for males. Alarming, since 2019-21, the healthy life expectancy for females has dipped below that of males, highlighting a significant decline in women's health in the area (Figure 1).

North East Lincolnshire faces substantial and persistent health inequalities, many of which are influenced by its coastal location, industrial heritage, and socio-economic profile.

Deprivation and Demographics

NEL is the **29th most deprived** local authority in England (out of 317) according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation³.

Two wards — **East Marsh** and **West Marsh** — are in the most deprived 1% nationally, with five wards in the **most deprived 10%** (East Marsh, West Marsh, South, Sidney Sussex, and Heneage).

The most deprived areas are concentrated around the historic docklands in Grimsby, characterised by dense, early 20th-century terraced housing, much of which is now in poor condition and within the private rental sector.

Health Outcomes

NEL has **worse-than-average outcomes** across a range of indicators including:

- Life expectancy
- Obesity
- Alcohol-related conditions
- Self-harm
- Premature mortality

Life expectancy in NEL is consistently below the national average⁴:

- In 2021-23, female life expectancy was **4.1 years lower** than the England average.
- The gender gap in life expectancy has narrowed from **5.8 years (2001-03) to 3.4 years (2021-23)**, but this reflects a **greater decline in female life expectancy**, which fell by 0.7 years over the last decade, a steeper drop than the national trend.



Structural and Geographic Barriers

NEL's coastal location and historical reliance on fishing and tourism have contributed to economic decline and population churn.

The area experiences:

- **Outmigration of younger people** seeking education and employment elsewhere.
- **In-migration of older adults**, increasing demand for health and care services.
- **Poor transport connectivity**, limiting access to employment and services for those without private vehicles.

A local survey found that **9 in 10 residents work within the borough**, highlighting limited economic mobility.

In March 2024 NELC produced the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**. The evidence from the JSNA⁵ is used to inform commissioning to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population, this data has been used to inform the development of this strategy.



5. Vision

"To create a borough where health and wellbeing are built into everyday life, through good work, safe homes, strong communities, and a healthy environment, so that every resident can live a longer, happier life."



6. Aims

Our strategy is grounded in the ambition to improve health outcomes for all residents of North East Lincolnshire by addressing the wider determinants of health. These aims are informed by health equity principles and aligned with our three foundational principles: supporting children and young people, protecting the environment, and advancing inclusion health.

Our strategic aims are to:

1. Increase healthy life expectancy

Reverse the decline in healthy life expectancy by tackling the root causes of ill health and ensuring that everyone has access to the building blocks of good health regardless of where they live or their background.

2. Reduce health inequalities

Narrow the gap in health outcomes between our most and least advantaged communities by focusing on place-based, data-informed action and targeted support for those most at risk.

3. Improve mental wellbeing

Promote positive mental health across the life course by strengthening social connections, reducing isolation, and embedding mental wellbeing into all aspects of local policy and service delivery.

4. Make public health everyone's business

Empower individuals, communities, and organisations to take shared responsibility for health and wellbeing. We will build capacity across sectors and support residents to become public health leaders in their own lives and communities.

5. Embed prevention and early intervention

Shift the focus from reactive care to proactive prevention by investing in early years, education, housing, and employment, reducing long-term demand on health and care services.

6. Create a fairer, greener, and more inclusive borough

Ensure that our environment, economy, and services are designed to support sustainable health outcomes, reduce exposure to harm, and promote equity for all.



7. Foundational Principles

Our three principles, Children and Young People, Environment, and Inclusion Health, are the foundation on which all our actions must be developed. They are not standalone priorities but essential cross-cutting themes that underpin every aspect of this strategy. Whether we are shaping housing policy, designing transport systems, or investing in education, we must ask:

- **How will this impact our children and young people?**
- **What are the environmental consequences?**
- **Are we reaching those most at risk of exclusion?**

The reflective questions included under each principle are designed to guide decision-making across all sectors, ensuring that every intervention considers its broader implications and contributes to a fairer, greener, and more inclusive North East Lincolnshire. Appendix 1 has been developed to support partners in applying the three foundation stones in their work.



7.1 Children And Young People

In North East Lincolnshire, we recognise the importance of a life course approach in all our initiatives. However, we need to place additional focus on children and young people. This principle acknowledges that experiences and exposures at different life stages can have cumulative effects on a child's health. By concentrating on critical periods such as early childhood and adolescence, and ensuring every child has the best start in life, we can implement interventions that promote healthy development, prevent adverse childhood experiences, and improve outcomes for our children and young people.

A key part of this healthy development is play. As highlighted in the Play Commission report Everything to Play For, play is not a luxury, it is a fundamental right and a vital contributor to physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development. Play supports resilience, creativity, and wellbeing, and provides children with opportunities to explore, connect, and thrive. We must ensure that all children and young people have access to safe, inclusive, and stimulating spaces to play, both indoors and outdoors, as part of our commitment to a healthier, fairer borough.

Moreover, this approach aims to tackle intergenerational issues by creating environments that encourage educational attainment, career opportunities, personal growth, and playful exploration, and helping children and young people to achieve their full potential. This ensures that the building blocks for health, such as education, housing, social connections, and play, are strengthened throughout a person's life, leading to better health outcomes and reduced inequalities.

1. Are we prioritising early intervention and support during critical developmental stages, particularly the first 1,001 days and adolescence?

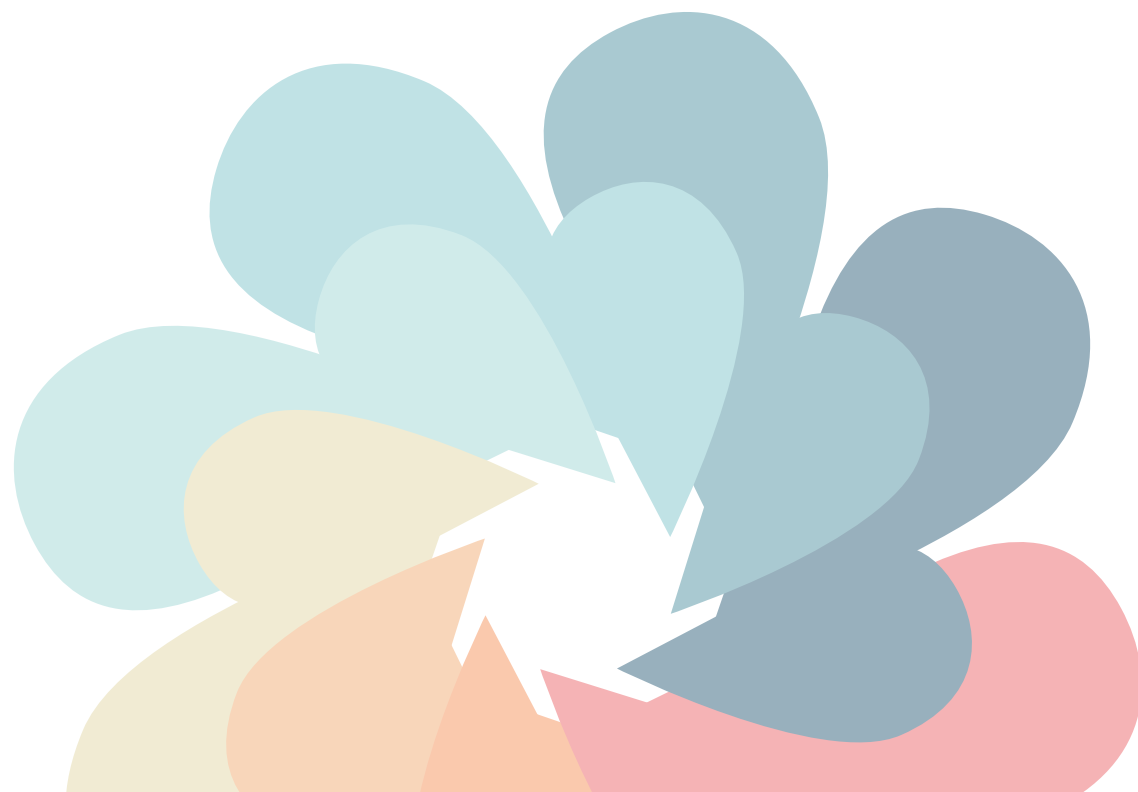
This aligns with the strategy's life course approach and focus on breaking intergenerational cycles of disadvantage.

2. How are we ensuring that children and young people's voices shape the policies and services that affect them?

This reinforces the importance of co-production and youth engagement, as highlighted in the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey.

3. Are we addressing the social and structural barriers, such as poverty, housing, and access to education, that limit opportunities for children and young people to thrive?

This question ensures a holistic view of child wellbeing, beyond education and health services alone.



7.2 Environment

Environmental sustainability is a critical factor in shaping health and wellbeing. This principle emphasises the need to create and maintain sustainable environments that support all aspects of life. Key areas of focus include promoting green travel options, ensuring warm and energy-efficient homes, and reducing carbon emissions. By addressing these environmental factors, we can mitigate the adverse health effects of climate change and reduce exposure to pollutants and hazards. In addition to mitigation, we must adapt to the health impacts of climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, and air pollution by strengthening community resilience and emergency preparedness.

Sustainable practices, such as green transport and local food systems, contribute to healthier lifestyles and communities. Ensuring that our surroundings are conducive to health supports the other building blocks, such as good work and education, by providing a safe and nurturing context for individuals and families to live and work. By promoting environmental sustainability, we can create healthier communities and a cleaner, more resilient future for all.

1. Are we designing and maintaining our built and natural environments in ways that promote health, equity, and climate resilience for all communities?

This ensures that environmental interventions are not only sustainable but also inclusive, especially for those in deprived or high-risk areas.

2. How are we supporting residents, particularly those most affected by climate change, to adapt to environmental risks such as flooding, air pollution, and extreme heat?

This question encourages proactive adaptation planning and community resilience-building.

3. Are we embedding environmental sustainability into all local policies and services, including housing, transport, and food systems?

This helps ensure that environmental health is not siloed but integrated across the wider determinants of health.



7.3 Inclusion Health

Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. Inclusion health focuses on ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable groups have equitable access to health and wellbeing resources. This principle is vital for addressing health inequalities, promoting social justice, and tackling racism and discrimination.

By prioritising inclusion, we can identify and remove barriers that prevent certain populations from accessing essential services and opportunities. This includes addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness, migrants, and those with disabilities. Additionally, by actively combating racism and discrimination, we can mitigate their detrimental impacts on health and wellbeing.

Ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can benefit from fair access to the building blocks for health, such as housing, education, and social connections, creates a more equitable and cohesive society. Inclusion health ensures that no one is left behind in our efforts to improve overall health and wellbeing.

1. Have we meaningfully involved people with lived experience from inclusion health groups in shaping this work?

This question ensures that our approach is not only informed by data but also by the voices of those most affected. Inclusion health groups often face systemic barriers and stigma. Co-production and participatory design are essential to avoid reinforcing exclusion.

2. Does our approach address the intersecting barriers these groups face in accessing services, such as stigma, digital exclusion, and fragmented care pathways?

Inclusion health groups often experience multiple overlapping disadvantages, including poor access to primary care, digital poverty, and discrimination. This question helps ensure that our interventions are holistic and responsive to the real-world complexity of people's lives, rather than siloed or overly clinical.

3. Are we using data and insight effectively to identify, monitor, and respond to the needs of inclusion health groups, without reinforcing invisibility or stigma?

Many inclusion health populations are underrepresented or misrepresented in routine datasets. This question prompts reflection on how data is collected, interpreted, and acted upon, encouraging the use of tools like the Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) and local health needs assessments.



8. Themes

The eight themes outlined in this section referred to as the building blocks for health are drawn directly from the 2024 North East Lincolnshire Director of Public Health Annual Report⁷.

That report highlighted the critical role these social determinants play in shaping health outcomes across our communities. By embedding these themes into this strategy, we are ensuring continuity, building on local evidence, and reinforcing our commitment to tackling the root causes of health inequalities in a place-based, data-informed way.

Each of the eight building blocks is explored in depth, with evidence, resident voice, and clear actions for change. These actions will be localised and embedded within a place-focused action plan, co-developed with partners across North East Lincolnshire to ensure they reflect the borough's unique context, strengths, and needs.



8.1 Good work

Building Health and Stability Through Employment

Good work is a gateway for everyone to be able to afford basic living standards; participate in community and social life; support lifelong healthy habits; and feel a sense of identity, self-esteem, purpose, and reward. Additionally, offering protection against the harmful effects of unemployment and insecure jobs, which can damage long-term health and well-being.

Work is fundamental to mental well-being, providing structure, purpose, and social connection. A secure job promotes a sense of achievement and self-worth, encouraging individuals to engage with their communities. Positive workplace relationships and supportive environments contribute to social fulfilment and reduce feelings of isolation which are key factors in mental health.

In North East Lincolnshire, economic insecurity and workforce instability are key challenges. Higher rates of insecure, low-paid, or temporary work can contribute to stress, anxiety, and poor health outcomes. Supporting good-quality employment is vital for creating stability and reducing financial uncertainty, which, in turn, builds resilience, increases confidence, and establishes healthy daily routines.

While these challenges remain significant, the borough's strategic location and collaborative approach have also unlocked promising opportunities for economic growth and skilled employment. North East Lincolnshire's unique position on the South Humber Bank has enabled the development of close partnerships across sectors, leading to significant investment in green energy, ports and logistics, and food processing. These strategic collaborations have not only strengthened the local economy but also enhanced employment prospects across the borough.

Recent data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that North and North East Lincolnshire are now 7% more productive than the national average. Furthermore, with a local median annual earning of £34,614,⁸ North East Lincolnshire now boasts the highest median earning rate in the region, just below the national average. This reflects the continuing growth in skilled employment and the borough's emergence as a hub for sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Employment also plays a significant role in physical health. Jobs that provide structure and regular activity promote healthier lifestyles and reduce the risk of conditions like obesity and cardiovascular disease. However, North East Lincolnshire has higher rates of health-related work absences and lower workforce participation due to long-term illness. This highlights the need for workplaces to actively support employee well-being. Good work; offering fair pay, job security, and a positive environment, can significantly improve access to healthcare, preventive screenings, and mental health support.

Just under one fifth (18.6%) of households are workless in North East Lincolnshire.

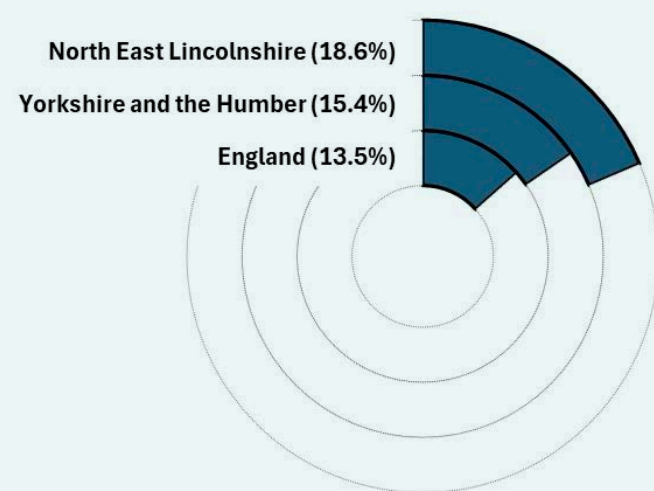


Figure 2 shows that household worklessness is higher locally compared to the region and nation.



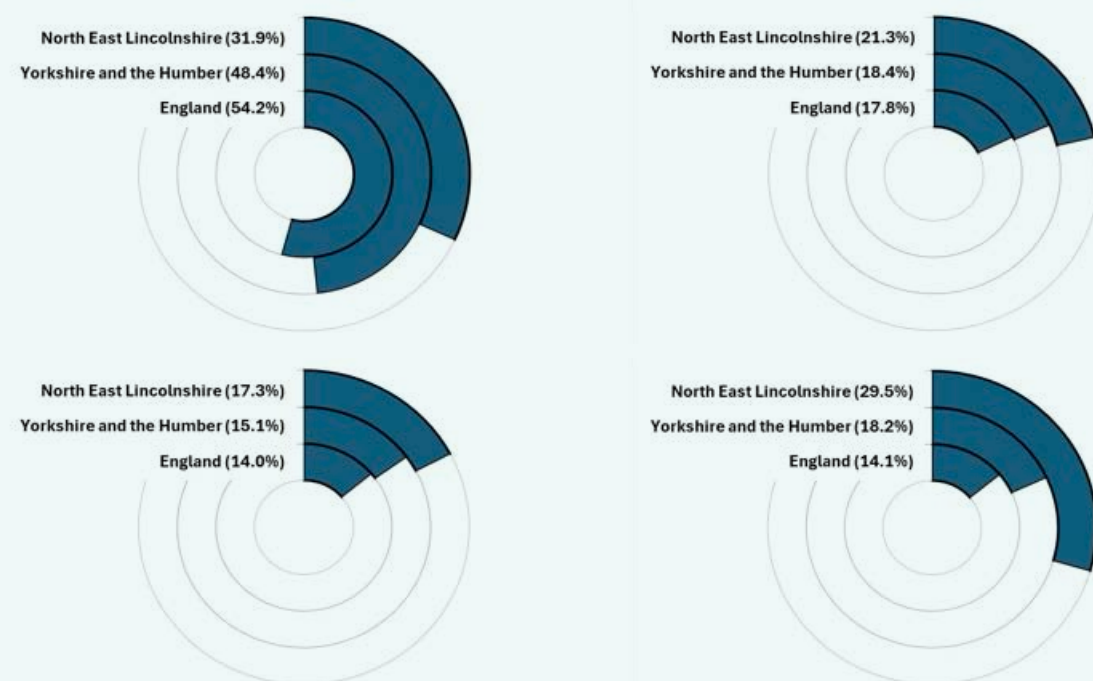


Figure 3 Employment by occupation 2024. Top left – Managerial and professional, Top right – Administrative and skilled trade, Bottom left – Service, Bottom right – Process plant and elementary

There are considerable variations in the pattern of occupations when comparing North East Lincolnshire to the region and nation and these are shown in Figure 3.

Key Actions to Promote Good Work in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Job Creation in Emerging Industries:** Partner with local businesses, especially in green energy, digital, and healthcare sectors, to create new, sustainable job opportunities that match residents' skills and build economic resilience.
2. **Skills Training and Retraining Programs:** Offer tailored vocational training and reskilling for both employed and unemployed individuals, focusing on sectors with growth potential in North East Lincolnshire.
3. **Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs:** Provide resources, grants, and mentorship for small business owners and start-ups, promoting local entrepreneurship as a pathway to employment and economic growth.
4. **Inclusive Employment Practices:** Encourage employers to adopt inclusive hiring practices, flexible work options, and mental and physical health support for employees, making workplaces accessible and supportive for diverse community members.
5. **Youth Employment and Apprenticeship Programs:** Develop pathways for young people through apprenticeships and mentorships, reducing unemployment among younger residents and addressing local skill gaps.
6. **Community-Based Employment Initiatives:** Promote community projects that offer part-time work or volunteering, supporting individuals with barriers to full-time employment while enhancing community assets, like green spaces or public services.

In areas like North East Lincolnshire, where higher unemployment and job insecurity contribute to health inequalities, increasing access to stable, good-quality jobs can improve both mental and physical well-being. By investing in sustainable employment, workforce health initiatives, and skills development, the borough can create a healthier, more resilient workforce and reduce the long-term impact of economic instability on public health.

The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us

The biggest worry for young people in North East Lincolnshire is their future, with 71% worrying a little or a lot about this, additionally 61% worried about getting a job. Only 20% of young people think they will be living in North East Lincolnshire in 10 years time.

What residents have told us

Survey responses revealed that while a majority of residents are satisfied with their current employment, a significant portion are either not working or seeking change. Aspirations for the next five years varied, with many aiming for retirement, promotion, or better-paid roles. However, residents identified key barriers to achieving these goals, including limited opportunities, lack of confidence, qualifications, and childcare challenges. These insights highlight the need for targeted support to improve access to good work and career progression across North East Lincolnshire.



8.2 Money and resources

Strengthening Financial Stability for Health

Money provides people with freedom, security, and opportunity, allowing them to choose how they live, support their families, and invest in their future. Financial stability is a cornerstone of well-being, giving individuals the means to access education, healthcare, and safe housing, while also offering a safety net for unexpected hardships.

In North East Lincolnshire, financial insecurity remains a significant challenge due to the decline of the fishing industry, a reliance on low-paid work, and the seasonal nature of tourism in Cleethorpes. Many families face unstable employment, low wages, and rising living costs, leading to increased stress, poorer health outcomes, and limited access to essential resources. Addressing these economic challenges is key to improving health, stability, and long-term opportunities for residents.

The stress of financial insecurity has a direct impact on health, increasing the risk of mental health conditions like anxiety and depression, as well as long-term physical health issues such as high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. Children growing up in poverty are more likely to experience poorer educational outcomes, reduced life expectancy, and long-term health problems.

Just over three quarters (75.4%) of the North East Lincolnshire population aged 16 to 64 years is economically active. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 4.

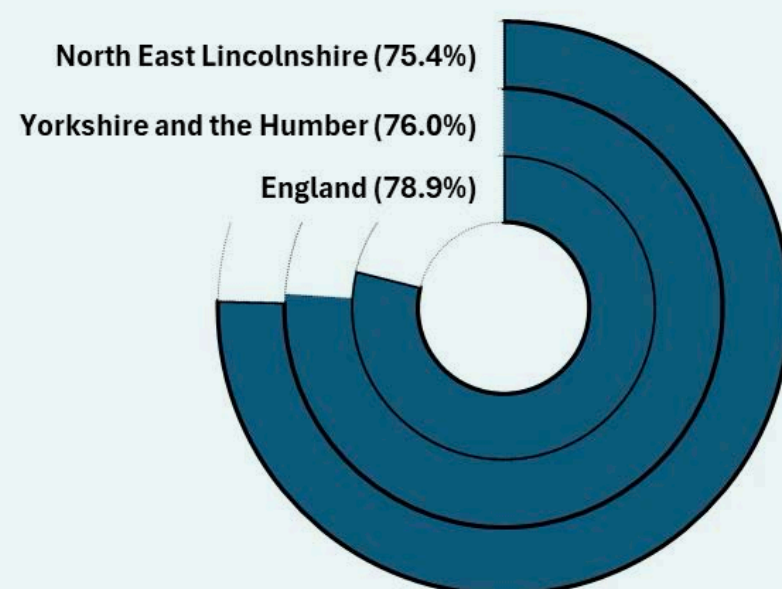


Figure 4 Percentage of the 16-64 population who are economically active 2024

One quarter of children (25.2%) aged under 16 years in North East Lincolnshire live in relative low income families. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 5.

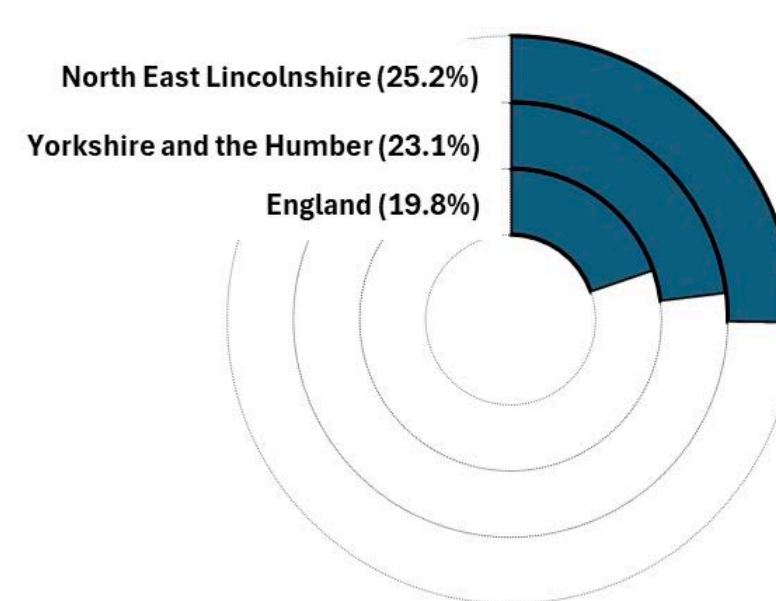


Figure 5 Percentage of children (<16) in relative low income families 2022/23



Key Actions to Improve Financial Well-being in North East Lincolnshire:

- Financial Literacy Programs:** Equip residents with budgeting and financial planning skills to help manage income fluctuations, reduce debt, and build savings.
- Income Support and Access Programs:** Advocate for improved access to benefits and resources, ensuring residents have financial support during off-seasons or unemployment spells. This will have the knock on effect of increasing food security in the Borough.
- Community Partnerships for Employment:** Collaborate with local businesses, especially within the tourism sector, to create stable jobs that extend beyond seasonal work.
- Affordable Living:** Address the lack of affordable housing to ease financial burdens and promote stable, long-term living conditions.
- Supportive Services:** Develop partnerships with local banks, credit unions, and financial counselling services to offer low-cost, accessible financial resources to individuals and families.

Addressing economic challenges and improving financial stability will enable North East Lincolnshire residents to reduce stress, afford healthier lifestyles, and access the resources they need for better overall well-being. By addressing child poverty, in-work financial hardship, and affordable living, the community can build long-term resilience and create opportunities for upward mobility.

The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us:

Half of young people worry about the cost of living and 13% of girls have experienced period poverty in the last year (an increase from 8% in 2019).

What residents have told us

The Our Place Our Futures Survey gathered data on money and resources, with 21% of people reporting debt or financial worries as having a negative impact on themselves, or their immediate family in the last year.

8.3 Housing

The Foundation for Health and Well-being

Stable, high-quality housing is critical to health and well-being. In North East Lincolnshire, challenges such as a shortage of social housing, long waiting lists, and limited access to affordable homes, often linked to wider issues like unemployment make secure housing inaccessible for many. Families are frequently placed in temporary accommodation, and homelessness remains a pressing issue. Additionally, with rising energy costs, there is a growing need to address fuel poverty by improving home energy efficiency.

A further concern is the condition of the private rented sector. Many residents live in privately rented homes that are poorly maintained, cold, damp or unsafe, conditions that can significantly impact physical and mental health. Poor-quality housing is associated with increased risks of respiratory illness, injury, and stress, and often affects those already facing disadvantage, compounding existing health inequalities.

The link between housing and health is undeniable. Secure, high-quality housing reduces stress and anxiety, lowers the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and provides a foundation for social and economic stability. Home ownership, in particular, increases community pride and long-term well-being, yet many residents struggle to access the property market due to high deposits and rising costs.

However, there are promising developments underway. A new Strategic Housing Board has been established to drive forward coordinated action on housing quality, affordability, and access. The borough's Local Plan now incorporates public health priorities, including the promotion of active travel, sustainable design, and inclusive neighbourhoods, and this will be further enhanced in the local plan review. Work is also underway to embed Health Impact Assessments into planning applications, ensuring that new developments actively support the health and wellbeing of residents from the outset.

These initiatives reflect a growing commitment to making housing not just a shelter, but a cornerstone of a healthier, fairer North East Lincolnshire.

Just under one fifth of households in North East Lincolnshire are living in fuel poverty. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 6.

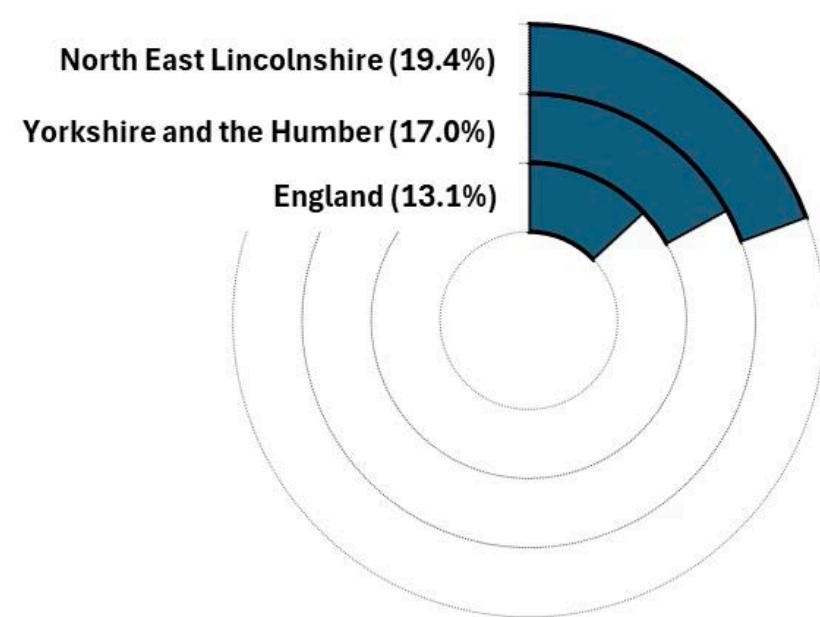


Figure 6 Percentage of households in fuel poverty 2022



Key Actions to Improve Housing in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Promote Affordable Home Ownership:** Collaborate locally with relevant partners including; housing providers, and financial institutions to increase affordable home ownership options, particularly for first-time buyers, care leavers and young families.
2. **Expand Social Housing Availability:** Work with government and housing organisations to build new social housing and reduce waiting lists, ensuring that individuals and families in need can access affordable, permanent homes.
3. **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Provide resources and outreach for homeless individuals and families in temporary accommodation, creating clear pathways to permanent housing and reducing long-term reliance on temporary solutions.
4. **Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Reduction:** Support energy efficiency improvements in existing housing stock, such as insulation, double glazing, and renewable energy installations, to lower energy costs and reduce fuel poverty. Educational programs on energy reduction can also help residents save on utilities.
5. **Tenant Support and Rights Education:** Improve resources for renters, including information on tenant rights and energy-saving advice.

By increasing access to secure, high-quality, and affordable housing, North East Lincolnshire can reduce health inequalities, improve mental and physical well-being, and build stronger, more stable communities. Addressing homelessness, fuel poverty, and poor housing conditions is essential to ensuring that all residents have a safe, warm, and stable place to call home.

What residents have told us

Residents value the affordability of housing in North East Lincolnshire, with many seeing it as a key reason for choosing to live in the area. While preferences for future home purchases varied, detached and semi-detached houses were the most sought after. Some residents shared positive experiences of receiving support to live independently, while others called for regeneration of existing housing stock and more diverse housing options. These insights highlight the importance of maintaining affordability, supporting independent living, and investing in the quality and variety of local housing.



8.4 Education and skills

Building a Stronger Future

Education provides the foundation to lift people out of poverty and reduce inequalities. Increases in educational attainment are strongly associated with longer healthy life expectancy. In the UK, individuals with the highest levels of education live, on average, four years longer than those with the lowest levels¹.

Crucially, the foundations for educational success and lifelong health and wellbeing are laid in the earliest years of life. A child's earliest experiences, particularly during the first 1,001 days from conception to age two, shape brain development, emotional resilience, and future learning. These early years influence later outcomes in education, employment, and health. However, there are well-recognised inequalities in early child development, both nationally and locally, which often widen as children progress through school. Addressing these disparities is essential to breaking cycles of disadvantage and improving long-term outcomes.

To ensure these early gains are sustained, it is vital that support continues throughout the life course, through inclusive education, accessible skills training, and opportunities for digital inclusion that empower individuals to thrive in a changing world.

Education and skills development are key drivers of health, economic stability, and well-being. In North East Lincolnshire, educational attainment remains a challenge, with lower-than-average qualifications among adults and high levels of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). Limited access to skills training and further education creates barriers to securing stable, well-paid employment, reinforcing cycles of poverty and poor health outcomes, and widening health inequalities.

The link between education, employment, and health is well established. Higher levels of education lead to better job opportunities, financial security, and improved health outcomes. A skilled workforce also attracts investment and economic growth, creating more opportunities for local residents.

Around two thirds (66.0%) of children in North East Lincolnshire achieve a good level of development at the end of reception. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 7.

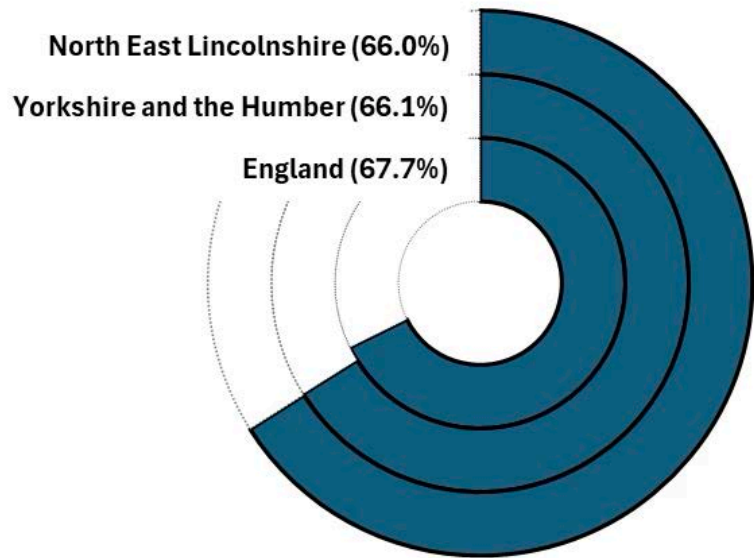


Figure 7 Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception 2022

Approximately 10% of the 16 to 64 year old population in North East Lincolnshire have no qualifications. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 8.

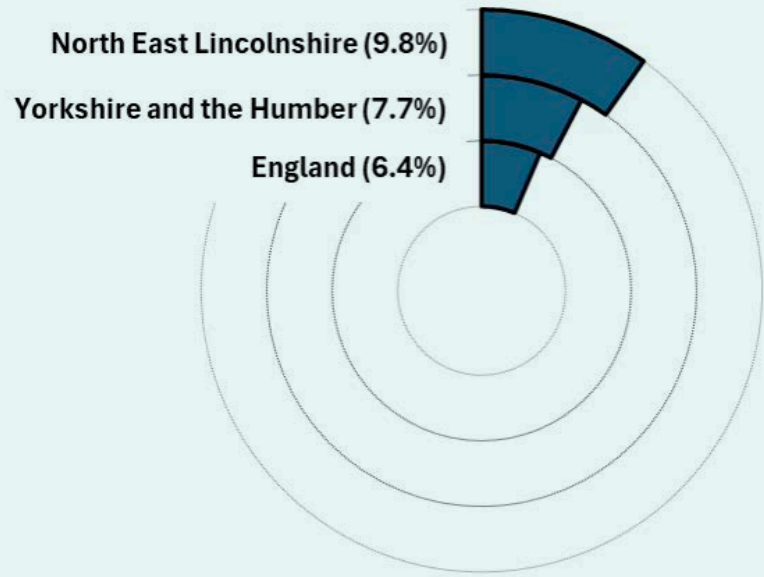


Figure 8 Percentage of the 16 to 64 year old population with no qualifications 2024



Key Actions to Improve Education and Skills in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Early Childhood Development Programs:** Expand access to early childhood education, focusing on language, social skills, and basic health literacy to set a strong foundation for lifelong well-being.
2. **Early Identification of SEND:** Early identification of support needs to ensure children and young people are supported appropriately to achieve their full potential.
3. **Adult Education and Skills Training:** Partner with local colleges and businesses to provide vocational training, skill-building workshops, and upskilling opportunities that align with local job market demands, helping adults enter or advance within the workforce.
4. **Digital Literacy and Access:** Ensure that all residents, especially in under-served areas, have access to digital literacy programs and resources, which are essential for modern job-seeking, remote learning, and personal development.
5. **Support for Students and Young People:** Develop after-school programs, mentorships, and career readiness initiatives to support students, especially in areas where access to higher education and career opportunities is limited.
6. **Community Lifelong Learning Initiatives:** Encourage a culture of continuous learning through workshops, community classes, and partnerships with local libraries, offering accessible options for residents to expand skills and knowledge.

Improving education and skills will empower North East Lincolnshire residents with tools to build stable careers, achieve financial independence, and reduce the health inequalities associated with limited education and employment options. This strategy seeks to create a community where all individuals, regardless of background, can pursue fulfilling careers and healthy lives.

The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us:

76% of young people said it is important or very important to get good results at school. 48% of girls said they wanted to go onto study at college and/ or university and 7% would like to do an apprenticeship, 28% of boys said they wanted to go to college/ university and 20% would like to gain an apprenticeship. School work/exams was the second biggest worry for young people with two thirds worrying a little or a lot about this

What residents have told us

Residents highlighted the importance of school attendance, with most considering 95% to be an appropriate target. However, 60% said they would permit absences for family holidays, indicating a need to balance attendance expectations with family needs. Around 10% of respondents reported having a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), and 83% felt able to track their child's progress at school. Feedback also pointed to the need for better promotion of school and college careers events, and concerns were raised about children having to travel long distances due to limited local school places.



8.5 The food we eat

Improving Access to Nutritious Choices

Access to nutritious food is fundamental to health and well-being, but North East Lincolnshire faces significant challenges related to healthy food deserts and unhealthy food swamps. Many low-income neighbourhoods have limited access to fresh, affordable food, while fast food and highly processed options dominate the local food environment. These factors contribute to high rates of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, reinforcing existing health inequalities.

Improving access to nutritious food is key to tackling diet-related health issues and ensuring that all residents, regardless of income, can make healthier choices.

North East Lincolnshire is home to the UK's largest seafood processing cluster, with Grimsby recognised nationally as a major hub for seafood manufacturing and distribution. This presents a unique opportunity to connect locally sourced, healthy seafood to our communities—particularly through schools, community food hubs, and retail partnerships. Strengthening these links can help improve access to fresh, nutritious food while supporting local industry and employment.

In addition, the borough's rural areas offer untapped potential for community-supported agriculture, local farming initiatives, and fresh produce markets. By investing in rural food networks and supporting small-scale growers, we can diversify the local food system and improve access to seasonal, healthy options—especially in areas currently underserved.

Over 3 in 10 adults are obese in North East Lincolnshire. This along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 9. Overall, 70% of adults in North East Lincolnshire are overweight or obese.

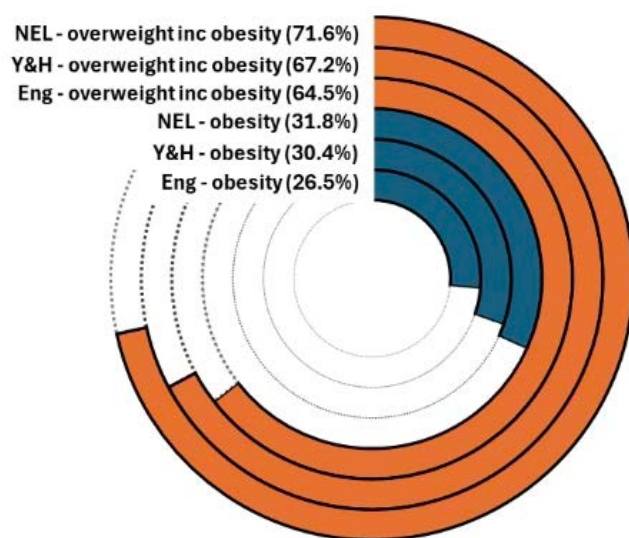


Figure 9 Prevalence of adult overweight and obesity 2023/24

A higher percentage of children are eligible for free school meals in North East Lincolnshire than regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 10

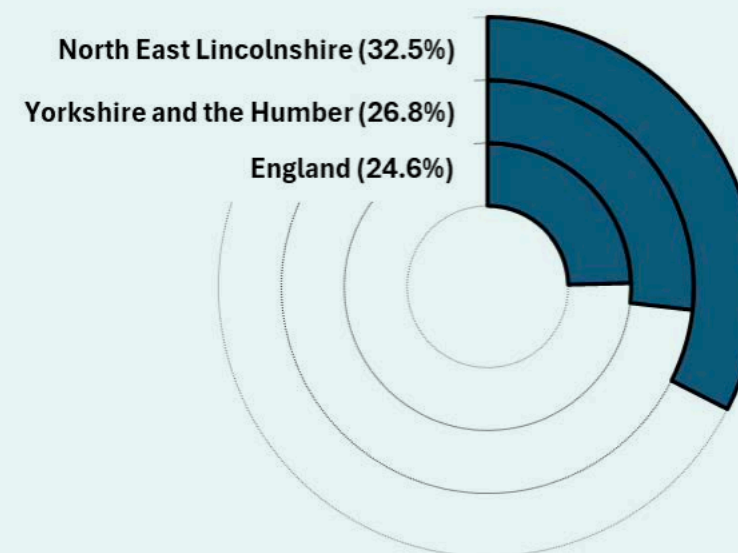


Figure 10 Prevalence of pupils eligible for free school meals 2023/24

Key Initiatives to Improve Food Access in North East Lincolnshire:

- Expanding Access to Fresh Food:** Support local initiatives that bring fresh produce to under-served areas through mobile markets, community allotments, farmers' markets, and rural food networks.
- Seafood and Local Farming Partnerships:** Collaborate with seafood manufacturers and local farmers to supply healthy, locally sourced food to schools, food hubs, and community organisations.
- Work with Community Food Providers:** Partner with food banks and support agencies to increase access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food, while promoting financial resilience and reducing long-term reliance on emergency provision.
- Community Food Hubs and Food Banks:** Focus on fresh and whole foods rather than processed goods, and increase awareness and access to these resources as a short-term measure for residents facing food insecurity.
- Local Partnerships to Combat Food Deserts:** Work with retailers to encourage the availability of affordable, fresh foods in local convenience stores, particularly in rural or low-access areas.
- Nutrition Education Programmes:** Teach residents how to make healthy, budget-friendly meals through schools, community centres, and food banks.
- Policy Advocacy for Food Environment Improvements:** Advocate for policies that limit the proliferation of fast-food outlets in low-income areas and support incentives for retailers offering healthy foods.

By reshaping the local food environment, improving access to fresh food, including seafood and locally grown produce, and promoting nutrition education, North East Lincolnshire can reduce diet-related health inequalities, support healthier lifestyles, and improve long-term well-being. Ensuring that healthy food is accessible and affordable will empower residents to make better food choices and lead healthier lives.

The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us:

Only 10% of young people eat the recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day and a quarter eat one portion or less. 42% said they don't eat breakfast every day, mostly because they are not hungry or don't have enough time, most young people do eat lunch at school though, with only 10% skipping lunch. 47% of young people would like to eat more healthily and 45% think they already do eat healthily.

8.6 Transport

Transport and Well-being in North East Lincolnshire

A well-designed and considered transport system is essential for maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and plays a fundamental role in enabling our local communities to flourish, thrive and prosper.

Healthy and sustainable transport systems contribute to safe, well-designed streets and public spaces, improve the efficiency and accessibility of transport services for everyone, reduce harmful impacts such as air and noise pollution, and make it easier for people to choose active travel options like walking, cycling, or wheeling.

Encouraging and facilitating active modes of transport in cycling, wheeling, walking, particularly for short journeys in urban environments, not only offers improvements to individuals' health and wellbeing, but offers opportunity to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, reduce traffic noise and congestion in highly populated areas, and in-turn can reduce potential for collisions / road traffic casualties.

Transport and the infra-structure surrounding it has the capacity to help people maintain connection to the support networks, resources and amenities that help to keep us safe and well, such as; social connection with family, friends, work colleagues and the wider community.

Reliable and accessible transport is essential for health and well-being, enabling residents to reach healthcare, employment, education, and social opportunities. However, North East Lincolnshire faces significant transport challenges, particularly in rural areas, where limited public transport can leave residents isolated and unable to access essential services. An aging population and financial barriers further impact mobility, increasing the risk of poor health outcomes and social exclusion.

The North East Lincolnshire rate of people killed or seriously injured on the roads is higher than both the regional and national rates and this is shown in Figure 11.

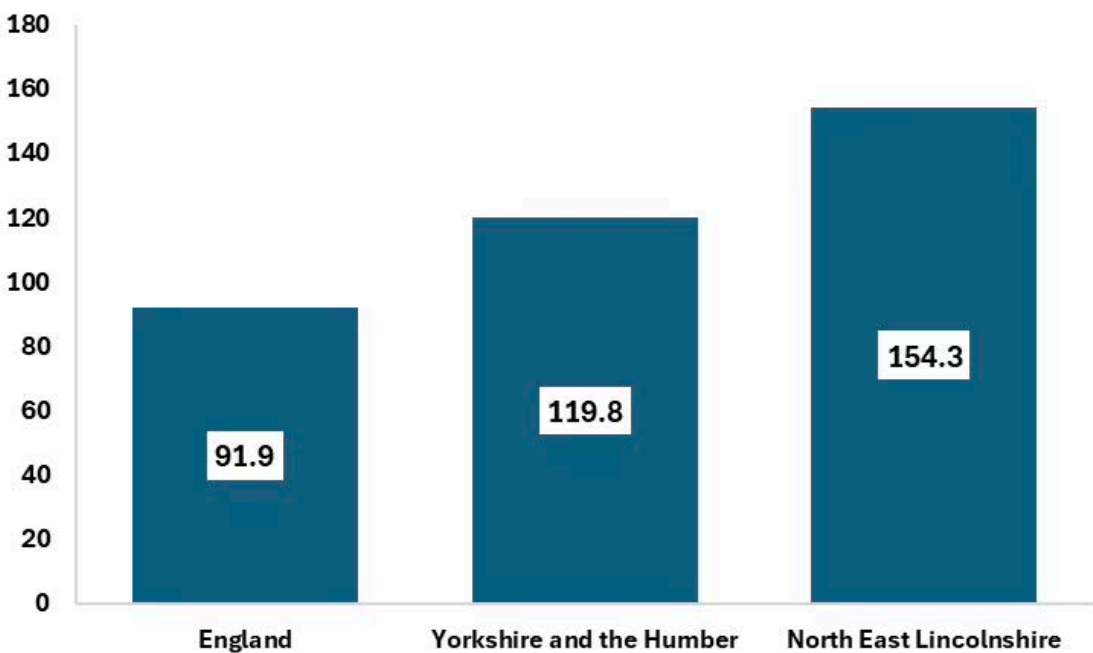


Figure 11 People killed or seriously injured on the roads per 1 billion vehicle miles 2023



Approximately 27% of households in North East Lincolnshire do not have access to a car or van. This along with regional and national comparators are shown Figure 12.

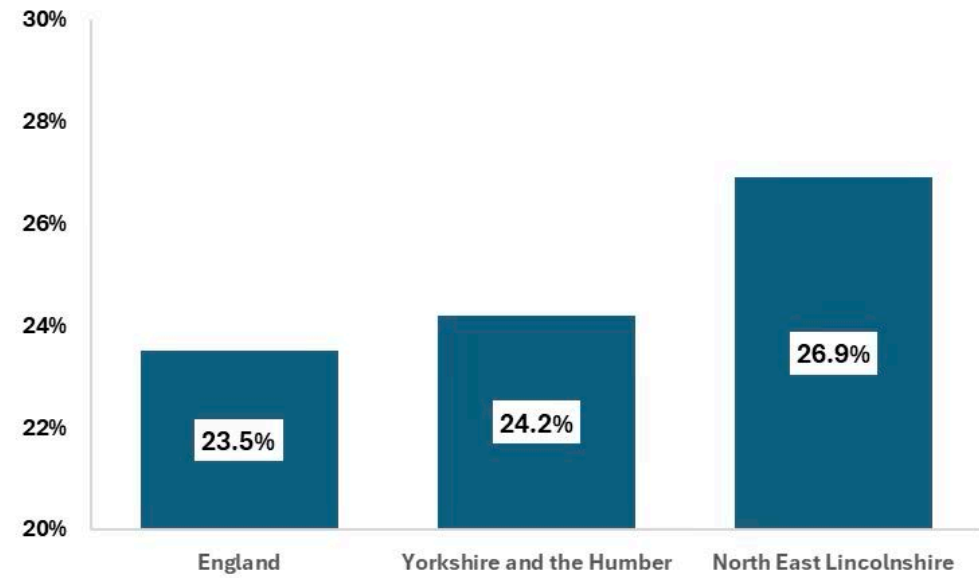
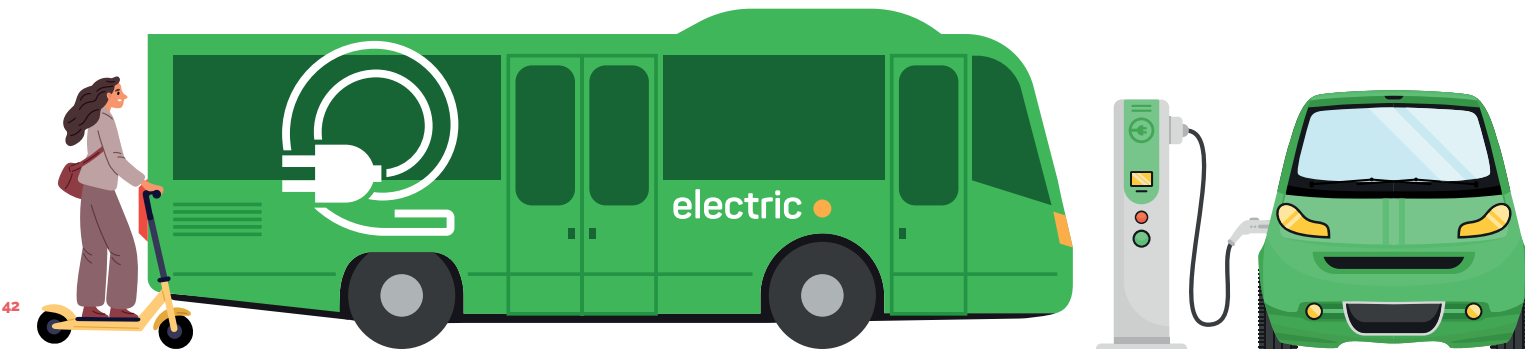


Figure 12 Percentage of households with no car or van 2021

Key Initiatives to Improve Transport in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Healthcare Access:** Collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure transport services align with healthcare needs, offering options for older adults and individuals in rural areas who require consistent, reliable access to medical services.
2. **Improved Public Transport Services:** Work with local transport companies to expand public transport routes and schedules to meet the needs of both rural and urban communities. Emphasise access to employment centres, schools, and community hubs, ensuring affordable options that promote equitable access.
3. **Community Transport Solutions:** Develop community-based transport options such as shared services or subsidised taxis for residents with limited access to public transit, especially in rural areas where options are often limited.
4. **Active Transport and Infrastructure:** Enable and encourage walking, cycling, and wheeling by providing safe, accessible, and enjoyable routes that connect key destinations, supporting physical activity for all and reducing dependence on cars.
5. **Digital and Mobile Resources:** Implement accessible information tools, like mobile apps, to improve route planning, schedule updates, and service availability, making transport easier to navigate for all age groups.

By improving transport access, affordability, and active travel infrastructure, North East Lincolnshire can enhance social inclusion, support healthier lifestyles, and reduce inequalities tied to mobility barriers, creating a more connected, resilient community.



The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us

Making public transport cheaper was one of the top 10 priorities for young people in North East Lincolnshire.

What residents have told us

Residents expressed significant concerns about the effectiveness and accessibility of local transport. Many felt current networks do not adequately reduce congestion, with strong calls for improved bus routes, better rail services, and safer infrastructure for walking and cycling. A lack of reliable public transport was seen as a barrier to accessing employment, healthcare, and social opportunities—particularly in rural areas. Road safety was a recurring concern, with residents highlighting the need for more pedestrianised areas and safer cycling routes. While nearly half of respondents use active travel daily, barriers such as poor road conditions, personal safety, and inadequate facilities persist. Interest in electric vehicles remains low, largely due to cost and limited charging infrastructure.

Road Safety Audit

As part of our commitment to creating a safer and more accessible transport environment, a comprehensive road safety audit has been undertaken across North East Lincolnshire. This audit identified key hotspots for collisions, particularly in urban centres and along high-speed corridors, and highlighted the need for targeted interventions to reduce the rate of people killed or seriously injured on our roads currently higher than both regional and national averages.



8.7 Friends, family, communities and belonging

Strengthening Social Connections for Well-being

People who are more socially connected to family, friends or their communities are happier, and live longer, healthier lives with fewer physical and mental health problems than people who are less connected. Research shows that nearly 1 in 4 adults aged 65 and older are socially isolated, and that social isolation and loneliness are associated with an increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

A positive family life provides a child with opportunities for a healthy life by creating the early life foundations for them to feel loved and valued; build supportive relationships; develop intellectual, social and emotional skills; and establish lifelong healthy habits. However, it is equally important to recognise that living in a difficult or unsafe family environment, such as one affected by conflict, neglect, or domestic abuse, can have a profound and lasting impact on health and wellbeing.

Coercive and controlling behaviour, a form of domestic abuse that includes psychological manipulation, isolation, intimidation, and restriction of autonomy, is particularly harmful. It often goes unseen but can deeply erode a person's confidence, independence, and mental health. In North East Lincolnshire, a significant proportion of residents report either experiencing or knowing someone affected by coercive control, highlighting the need for trauma-informed services and community awareness.

In response, North East Lincolnshire has undertaken a comprehensive Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and is now developing a new Domestic Abuse Strategy, co-produced with partners and informed by lived experience. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Board has been relaunched to drive this work forward, ensuring a coordinated, whole-system approach to prevention, early intervention, and support for victims, children, and perpetrators.

The effects of domestic abuse are not limited to those directly targeted. Children who witness coercive control or other forms of abuse are at increased risk of experiencing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which can disrupt emotional development, impair educational attainment, and increase the likelihood of poor health outcomes in adulthood. Critically, many children who grow up in homes where coercive control is present go on to experience or perpetrate similar patterns of abuse in their own relationships, perpetuating a cycle of harm across generations. Breaking this cycle requires early intervention, safe and supportive environments, and services that are equipped to respond to the complex needs of both survivors and children affected by domestic abuse.

During adulthood, a positive family life, including strong relationships at home, can continue to support good health by providing emotional security and encouraging healthy behaviours. Conversely, loneliness or strained relationships can reduce motivation for self-care, increase stress, and negatively affect both mental and physical health.

Taking part in community life, such as youth clubs, volunteering, or local events, can be empowering and create a sense of purpose, while also protecting health and wellbeing. National initiatives like the Jo Cox Foundation's Great Get Together have shown the power of community connection in tackling loneliness and building social capital. These kinds of inclusive, grassroots events can help build a sense of belonging, reduce isolation, and strengthen the social fabric of our borough.



Key Initiatives for Improving Social Connections in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Community Events and Social Spaces:** Develop accessible spaces and regular events to encourage social interaction, celebrate local culture, and bring together residents of all ages.
2. **Family Support Services:** Strengthen support networks through resources such as parenting classes, support for older people, and mental health resources for families, empowering residents to support one another.
3. **Volunteer and Engagement Programs:** Promote volunteer opportunities that enable residents to connect with others while giving back, helping to build a sense of purpose and belonging.
4. **Social Prescribing and Peer Support Networks:** Work with healthcare providers to expand social prescribing, connecting residents to peer support groups, clubs, and activities that encourage social involvement.
5. **Building Community Safety and Trust:** Collaborate with local organisations to create a safer, more cohesive community, reducing isolation and encouraging trust through neighbourhood watch programs and community-led initiatives. This includes raising awareness of coercive control, ensuring access to domestic abuse support services, and providing early help for children and families affected by abuse to prevent intergenerational harm.

Strong social connections with family, friends, and the wider community are essential for mental and physical wellbeing. Supportive relationships support a sense of belonging, reduce isolation, and help individuals cope with life's challenges. In North East Lincolnshire, high levels of social isolation, particularly among older adults and disadvantaged communities, contribute to poor mental health and lower quality of life. Strengthening community connections and ensuring safe, supportive environments is key to reducing loneliness, improving resilience, and enhancing wellbeing across all age groups.

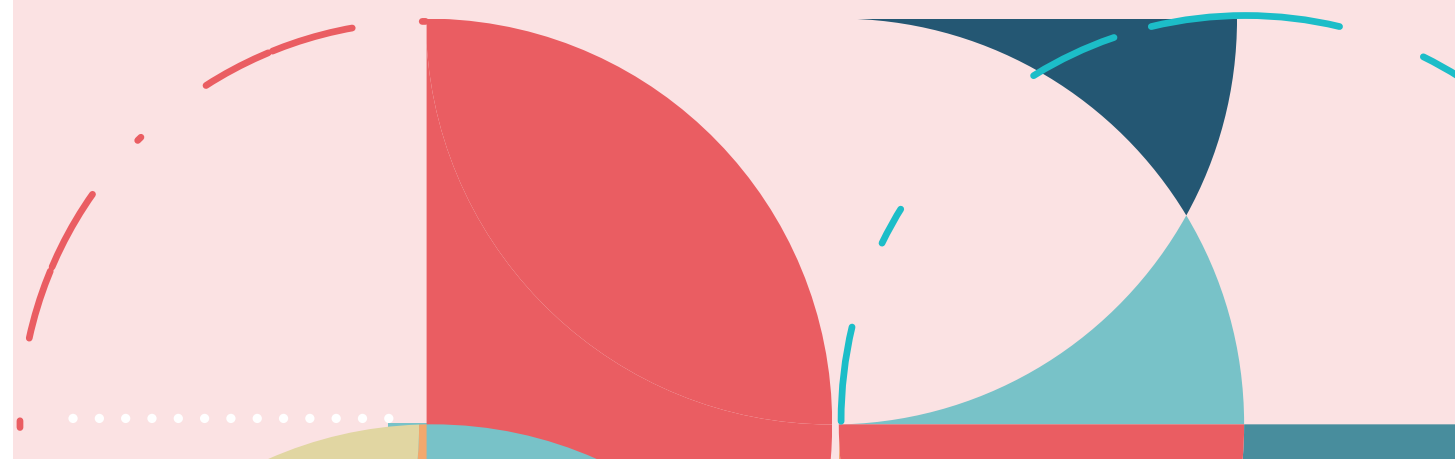
The Adolescent Lifestyle Survey told us:

Most (95%) young people have a parent that looks out for them but for those who don't, they are significantly more likely to have worse emotional wellbeing. Only 23% had something to be proud of compared to 69% of those who have someone to look out for them and 39% said they usually feel happy about life compared to 83% who do have a parent or family who look out for them.

Most (96%) young people have at least one good friend. One of the best things about our area for young people is having places to meet up with their friends. Socialising and being with friends is one of the most common ways young people deal with their problems and stress.

What residents have told us

Residents shared a mixed picture of community life in North East Lincolnshire. While many expressed pride in their local area and appreciation for mental health and wellbeing support services, others highlighted concerns around social isolation and safety. A significant number reported knowing someone affected by domestic abuse, with coercive control, physical, and verbal abuse being the most common. Just over half felt confident in accessing support. Families reported being impacted by a range of challenges including poor physical and mental health, bereavement, financial stress, and antisocial behaviour. While some residents described strong community spirit, others noted a lack of connection with neighbours, suggesting that experiences of belonging vary across neighbourhoods.



8.8 Our surroundings

Creating Safe, Clean, and Inviting Spaces for Well-being

The area that we live in shapes the resources that are readily available, and in turn, the choices that we make. Whether it's determining the food we eat, the quality of air we breathe, or how easily we can access basic services and infrastructure, our surroundings have a profound impact on our health.

The places where people live, work, and socialise influence health and quality of life in powerful ways. In North East Lincolnshire, challenges such as crime, vandalism, fly-tipping, and poorly maintained public spaces can contribute to stress, reduce community pride, and discourage people from being active outdoors. A lack of access to clean, safe environments disproportionately affects more deprived areas, reinforcing health inequalities.

At the same time, North East Lincolnshire is rich in green and blue spaces that offer significant physical and mental health benefits. From the sweeping coastline of Cleethorpes Beach to the tranquil waters of the Humber Estuary and the network of local waterways, our blue spaces are among the borough's greatest assets. These environments support active lifestyles, social connection, and emotional well-being, while also improving air quality, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Whether it's walking along the promenade, birdwatching in estuary reserves, or enjoying water-based activities, these spaces provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature and each other.

However, not all residents have equal access to high-quality public spaces, and ensuring safe, inclusive, and accessible environments remains a key priority. By investing in the protection and enhancement of our green and blue spaces, we can strengthen community pride, promote healthier lifestyles, and reduce inequalities across the borough.

Air pollution (fine particulate matter) concentration figures for North East Lincolnshire along with regional and national comparators are shown in Figure 13.

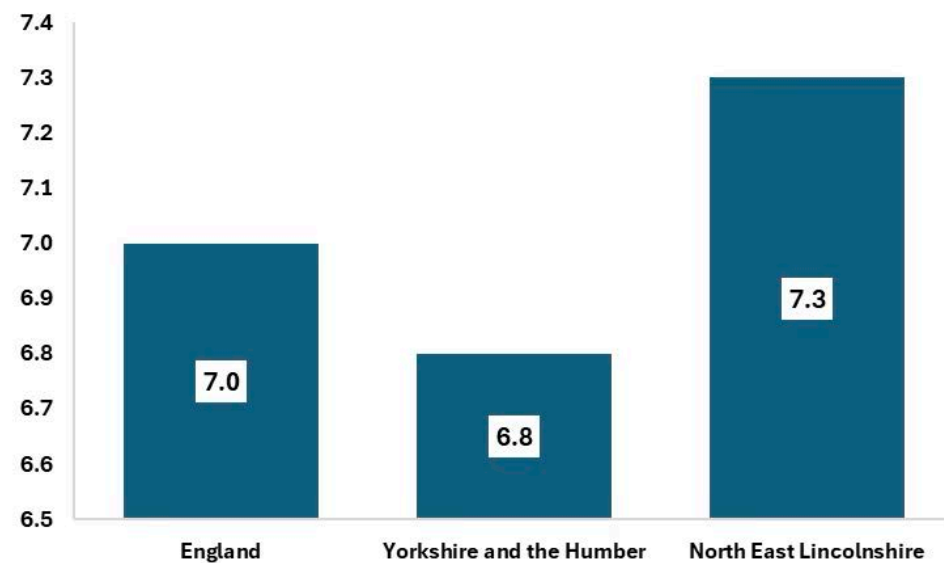


Figure 13 Mean concentration (ug/m3) of fine particulate matter 2023



Key Initiatives for Improving Our Surroundings in North East Lincolnshire:

1. **Green and Blue Space Development:** Improve access to and maintenance of parks, beaches, and nature reserves, encouraging outdoor activity and providing calming spaces for residents of all ages. Including development of community gardens and greening initiatives.
2. **Community Clean-Up Programs:** Organise regular clean-up and beautification initiatives, partnering with local groups to reduce fly-tipping, litter, and vandalism, strengthening community pride and safer, cleaner neighbourhoods.
3. **Crime Prevention and Safety Enhancements:** Collaborate with law enforcement and community organisations to reduce crime, address vandalism, and improve lighting and surveillance in public areas, making spaces safer for recreation and reducing stress related to safety concerns.
4. **Leisure and Wellness Facilities:** Develop accessible leisure centres, walking and cycling trails, and family-friendly recreational areas, creating opportunities for physical activity and socialisation that are vital for both physical and mental health.
5. **Environmental Education:** Promote awareness around environmental care through local programs, encouraging residents to take an active role in maintaining and protecting their surroundings.

By making North East Lincolnshire's surroundings cleaner, greener, and safer, we can enhance community pride, reduce health inequalities, and create an environment where all residents can live healthier, happier lives.

What residents have told us

Residents frequently visit local green and blue spaces such as Cleethorpes Beach, Weelsby Woods, and Peoples Park, with most living within a 15-minute walk of a greenspace. However, barriers such as lack of facilities, personal safety concerns, and intimidation by groups limit more frequent use. Suggestions included local greening campaigns and improvements to safety and accessibility.

Community safety remains a key concern, particularly in areas like Immingham and Grimsby, where residents have expressed that limited visibility and engagement from local policing, combined with negative media coverage, have contributed to a sense of insecurity. There is also concern that children and young people may be growing up without a clear understanding of the role of local policing, potentially weakening community trust and cohesion.



9. Resident Voice

With thanks to residents who shared their views through the 2024 **'Our Place Our Future'** survey. Comments and themes have been used to aid our understanding of local assets and opportunities and shape this strategy.

Nearly 6,000 secondary school age children and young people recently took part in the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey⁶ in NEL, their views have helped shape the development of this strategy.



10. Governance

Progress on the North East Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be reported to the North East Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board with a full annual report provided yearly to the board on the anniversary of the strategy being published. Updates on key areas within the strategy will be provided at every meeting, in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board forward plan, and in line with identified key areas of focus for the board.



11. Measuring Success

To ensure accountability and track progress, we will align our outcomes with the Marmot Framework's key indicators of health equity. These include measures such as healthy life expectancy, child development, employment, housing quality, and access to education and services. By embedding these indicators into our local monitoring system, we can evaluate the impact of our actions on the wider determinants of health and reduce inequalities across North East Lincolnshire.

We will draw on the approach used by Coventry, which provides a practical and transparent framework for tracking progress against Marmot principles. This includes both quantitative metrics and qualitative insights, enabling us to understand not only where change is happening, but also how and why. The Coventry model has been recognised nationally for its clarity and adaptability, and we will use it as a baseline to shape our own local dashboard.

In addition, we will explore the use of ripple effects mapping and other participatory evaluation methods to capture the broader, less easily measured impacts of our work such as shifts in community confidence, partnership working, and lived experience. This will ensure that our evaluation framework reflects both statistical trends and the voices of our residents.

Our success will be measured not only by improvements in health outcomes, but also by how well we embed equity, inclusion, and sustainability into the systems and structures that shape daily life. Progress will be reported annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with regular updates on priority areas and emerging challenges.

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Appendix 1: Foundation Stones and Reflective Guidance for Partners

This appendix is designed to support partners in applying the three foundation stones, Children and Young People, Environment, and Inclusion Health, across their work. Each section includes a purpose, guidance on how to use the principle, reflective questions, and prompts to help translate the strategy into action.

Children and Young People

Purpose

To ensure that every child and young person in North East Lincolnshire has the best start in life and the opportunity to thrive. This principle encourages partners to take a life course approach, focusing on early intervention, youth voice, and tackling intergenerational disadvantage.

How to Use

When designing, reviewing, or implementing a policy, service, or initiative, use the following questions to assess its impact on children and young people. These prompts help ensure that your work supports healthy development, listens to youth perspectives, and removes barriers to opportunity.

Reflective Questions and Prompts

1. **Are we prioritising early intervention and support during critical developmental stages, particularly the first 1,001 days and adolescence?**
 - Does this work support families during pregnancy and early childhood?
 - Are services accessible and timely for children and young people at risk?
 - Are there mechanisms to identify and respond to developmental delays or adverse experiences early?
 - Are transitions (e.g. primary to secondary school, adolescence to adulthood) supported?
2. **How are we ensuring that children and young people's voices shape the policies and services that affect them?**
 - Have children and young people been consulted or involved in co-design?
 - Are there feedback mechanisms that are age-appropriate and inclusive?
 - Does the work reflect what young people say matters to them (e.g. safety, mental health, future opportunities)?
 - Are youth advisory groups or surveys (like the Adolescent Lifestyle Survey) informing decisions?
3. **Are we addressing the social and structural barriers, such as poverty, housing, and access to education, that limit opportunities for children and young people to thrive?**
 - Does this work reduce child poverty or improve financial resilience for families?
 - Are housing conditions for families with children being considered?
 - Is access to education, extracurricular activities, and digital resources equitable?
 - Are SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) needs being identified and supported?



Environment

Purpose

To ensure that the places where people live, work, learn, and play are clean, safe, and sustainable. This principle encourages partners to consider how their work contributes to climate resilience, reduces environmental harm, and promotes access to green and blue spaces.

How to Use

Use this principle to assess how your work supports environmental wellbeing. Consider both the direct and indirect impacts of your decisions on the natural and built environment, and how these in turn affect health, equity, and community resilience.

Reflective Questions and Prompts

1. Are we designing and maintaining our built and natural environments in ways that promote health, equity, and climate resilience for all communities?

Does this work improve access to green or blue spaces (e.g. parks, beaches, waterways)?

Are public spaces safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all ages and abilities?

Are we addressing environmental inequalities, such as areas with poor air quality, limited access to green space, or a high concentration of hot food takeaways and other unhealthy outlets, through our planning policies and decisions?

Are we designing for climate resilience (e.g. flood prevention, heat adaptation)?

2. How are we supporting residents, particularly those most affected by climate change, to adapt to environmental risks such as flooding, air pollution, and extreme heat?

Are vulnerable groups (e.g. older adults, low-income households) supported to prepare for and respond to environmental risks?

Are we using data to identify areas most at risk from climate impacts?

Are we building community resilience through education, emergency planning, or local networks?

Are we reducing exposure to environmental hazards (e.g. improving air quality, reducing noise pollution)?

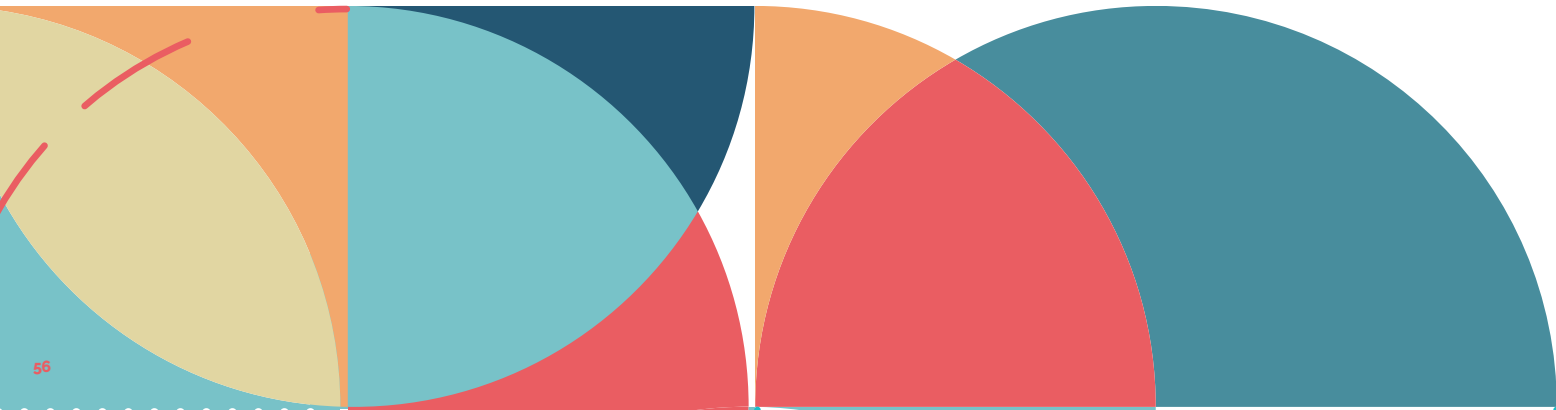
3. Are we embedding environmental sustainability into all local policies and services, including housing, transport, and food systems?

Does this work reduce carbon emissions or promote energy efficiency?

Are we encouraging active travel (walking, cycling) and reducing car dependency?

Are we supporting local food systems or reducing food waste?

- Are sustainability goals aligned across departments and sectors?



Inclusion Health

Purpose

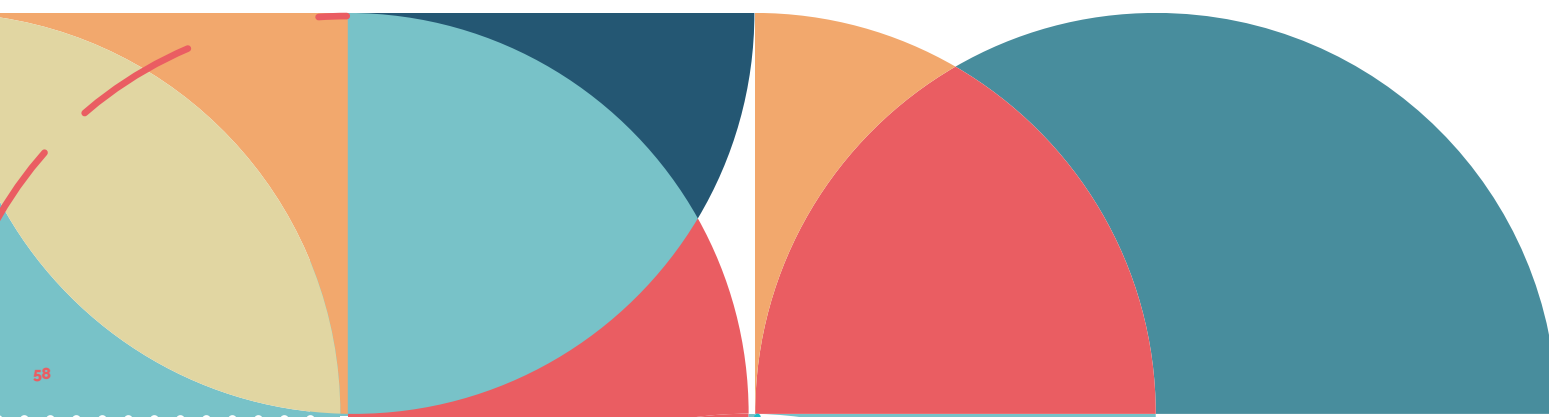
To ensure that no one is left behind. This principle focuses on addressing the needs of people who are socially excluded or marginalised—such as those experiencing homelessness, poverty, discrimination, or complex trauma. It promotes equity, dignity, and access to the building blocks of health for all.

How to Use

Use this principle to reflect on whether your work is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of those who face the greatest barriers. Consider how your service or policy might unintentionally exclude or disadvantage certain groups, and how you can actively remove those barriers.

Reflective Questions and Prompts

1. **Have we meaningfully involved people with lived experience from inclusion health groups in shaping this work?**
 - Have we engaged people with lived experience in co-design or consultation?
 - Are we using trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approaches?
 - Are we compensating people for their time and expertise?
 - Are we creating safe spaces for people to share their views?
2. **Does our approach address the intersecting barriers these groups face in accessing services, such as stigma, digital exclusion, and fragmented care pathways?**
 - Are services accessible to people without digital access or ID?
 - Are we addressing language, literacy, or cultural barriers?
 - Are we working across sectors to provide joined-up support?
 - Are we training staff to recognise and challenge stigma and discrimination?
3. **Are we using data and insight effectively to identify, monitor, and respond to the needs of inclusion health groups, without reinforcing invisibility or stigma?**
 - Are we collecting and using data ethically and inclusively?
 - Are we using tools like the Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT)?
 - Are we identifying gaps in data or representation?
 - Are we using qualitative insights (e.g. lived experience, community voice) alongside quantitative data?





North East Lincolnshire
Health and Care
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