



North East Lincolnshire Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2024

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

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

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

Overall Assessment, Summary and Gap Analysis

Like many local authorities, North East Lincolnshire Council uses data from Families Information Service (FIS) 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 area, in which they reside. In summer 2024 there was an average of 55% of 2-year-olds accessing a place in the ward, in which they live. This increases to 66% for 3- and 4-year-olds. 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 and potential gaps

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 570 hours of funded childcare per year. 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.

The supply, demand and take up data suggest that there are sufficient places across North East Lincolnshire across the full age range. However, not all of these are in the right place or age range to meet the needs of local families. There is a need for approximately a further 278 PTE for the under twos across the borough.

Potential gaps for 3&4-year EYE places

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 2024, there were 5,568 EYE places available and an eligible population of 3,826 children which equates to 1.46 places per child within NEL.

It is projected that 48% of 3& 4-year-olds across NEL will be eligible for 30 hours in the academic year 2024-25. At ward level projections range from just 18% in East Marsh up to 81% 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.

Potential gaps for 2-year funded places

The national target for take up of the disadvantaged 2-year funding offer is 80%. To meet this target, there is a need for at least 80 places for every 100 potentially eligible children. Currently (summer 2024) there are 163 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 85% in NEL during the academic year 2023-24. This is a decrease of 2% on the previous year.

The number of families who are potentially eligible for the disadvantaged 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 2024 suggest that an average of 38% of children will be eligible. This is a drop of 4% on the previous year.

In April 2024 a new cohort of 2-year-olds with working parents became eligible for a funded place. The majority of the first terms cohort were families who were already using paid for childcare hours and in summer term began to access some funded hours alongside their paid for ones. Projections suggest that there could be as many as 85% of all local 2-year-olds that could be eligible for a funded place across the borough. At ward level projections range across both 2 year offers range from 71% in East Marsh and 99% in Sidney Sussex and Waltham wards. Current data points to there being enough places for this age range across the borough but when this is drilled down to ward level, additional places are required to meet projected demand in Heneage ward

Potential gaps for under 2's funded places

From September 2024, it is projected that up to 47% of children from 9 months to 2 years across NEL could be eligible for a funded place in the academic year 2024-25. At ward level projections range from just 15% in East Marsh up to 80% in Waltham. Based on the projections, there are sufficient places available across the borough however there will be a need to develop additional places within at least 8 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.

0-14-year-old Paid for Childcare

The returns from FIS enquiries report, feedback and the parental survey do not show any unmet demand for 0-14-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. As the new funded offers roll out and demand increases across the age range, it is expected that there will be some families who may not be able to secure the place/s they require. 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 Information service Directory and via the social media pages. The LA has recruited a Childcare Champion for Parents who is available to support families who are unable to find a suitable place. They will liaise with providers and parents to understand their needs and work towards ensuring all children who require a place are able to access one.

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 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.

During 2023-24, NELC became part of the governments Financial Incentive scheme. This provided the LA with funding to offer a £1,000 tax free lump sum for eligible new recruits who join the early years workforce. At the time of writing, eight applications have been received for the scheme. Of those four new practitioners have now received their financial incentive.

NELC was also provided with grant funding to support the development of more childcare places for both the early years and wrap around childcare. This equates to

	Early Years	Wraparound
Capital Grant	£246,396	£61,600
Revenue Grant	£0	£708,952

1 Demographic Profile: North East Lincolnshire

1.1 Geography

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

The percentage of people living in an urban environment based on the Rural-Urban Classification is 90.1% of the population of North East Lincolnshire³; 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 Lincolnshire⁴

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

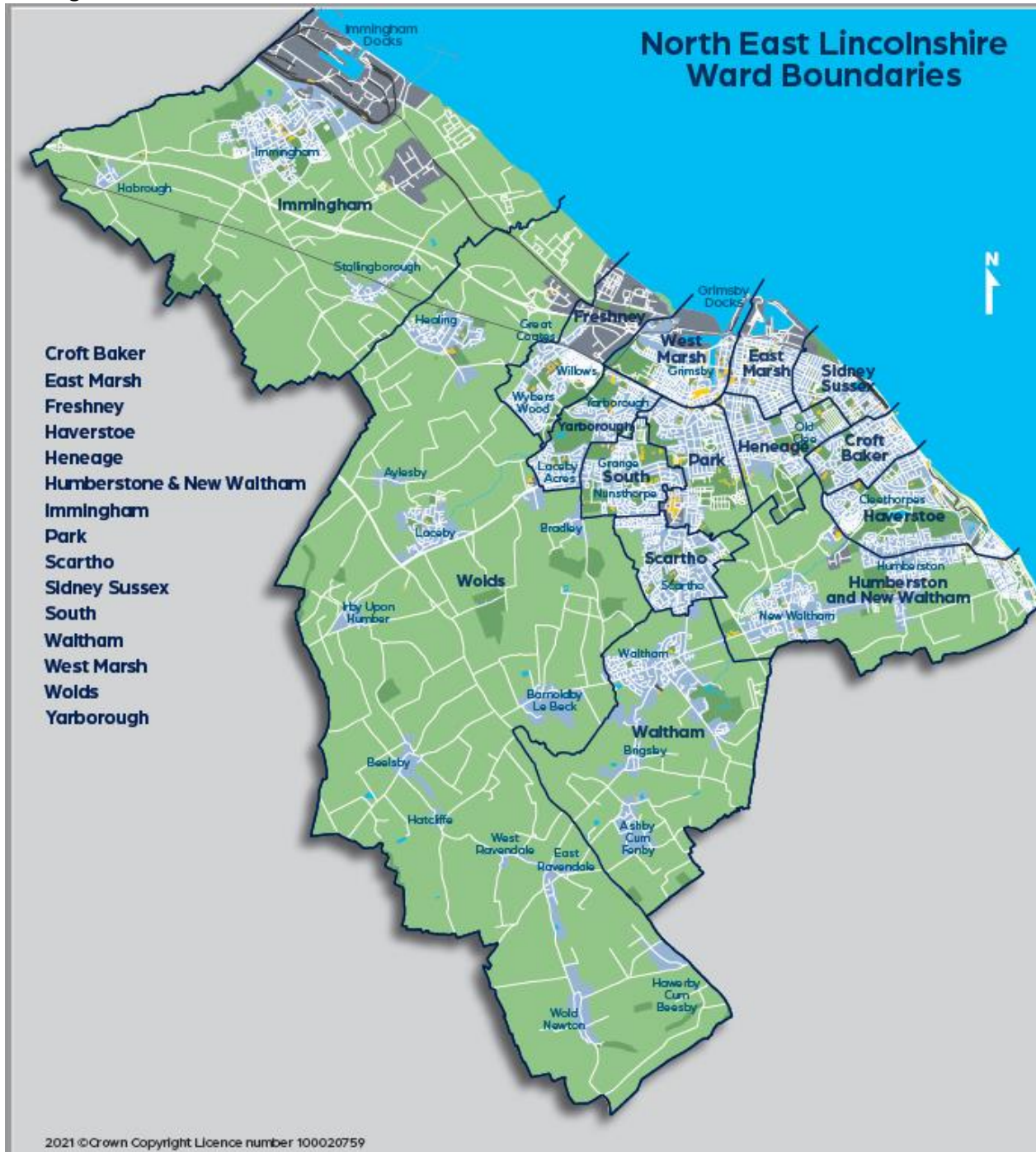
² ONS, census 2021 first results. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

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

⁴ [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 Wards⁵



⁵ [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 Lincolnshire⁶. This is a decrease of 1.7% from around 159,600 in 2011⁷. By comparison, the total population of England grew by 6.6%⁸ 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 years⁹.

1.2a Population of early years children

In 2024, there are 7,828 children under the age of five living in within North East Lincolnshire. These children may require early years childcare.

Table 1.2a Early Years numbers by age¹⁰:

Wards	0	1	2	3	4	Grand Total
Croft Baker	82	77	92	88	98	437
East Marsh	158	141	149	169	185	802
Freshney	74	63	74	88	77	376
Haverstoe	51	51	57	51	46	256
Heneage	117	134	122	135	163	671
Humberston and New Waltham	98	99	99	74	111	481
Immingham	96	102	98	110	108	514
Park	109	100	104	115	93	521
Scartho	91	117	107	96	114	525
Sidney Sussex	132	129	147	162	150	720
South	145	153	158	155	170	781
Waltham	35	53	47	49	53	237
West Marsh	107	113	128	124	112	584
Wolds	56	72	75	60	87	350
Yarborough	112	109	134	106	112	573
Grand Total	1463	1513	1591	1582	1679	7828

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

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

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

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

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

¹⁰ ONS, population estimates 2020. [nelincsdata.net data explorer](https://nelincsdata.net/data-explorer/).

1.2b Population of school age children

In total in 2024, there are 13,145 children aged 5-11, and 5577 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 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	104	112	111	126	143	130	109	130	119	112	1196
East Marsh	179	164	171	173	171	164	182	134	163	146	1647
Freshney	98	112	98	96	127	103	138	109	122	107	1110
Haverstoe	60	86	73	61	77	68	80	83	74	72	734
Heneage	117	150	158	153	173	160	168	157	165	167	1568
Humberston and New Waltham	109	104	104	129	125	129	157	148	146	119	1270
Immingham	130	117	111	126	144	156	127	142	142	130	1325
Park	114	107	132	123	142	130	134	149	138	130	1299
Scartho	119	111	145	120	132	131	116	127	130	121	1252
Sidney Sussex	156	155	166	126	185	162	186	154	167	161	1618
South	166	173	186	220	199	174	195	184	191	176	1864
Waltham	40	61	75	60	59	58	62	51	49	38	553
West Marsh	121	100	129	105	122	113	120	92	109	90	1101
Wolds	71	87	83	74	86	90	75	85	81	88	820
Yarborough	122	129	150	145	151	148	141	122	132	125	1365
NELC	1706	1768	1892	1837	2036	1916	1990	1867	1928	1782	18722

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; however, the school census suggests that there is more diversity in the younger age groups.

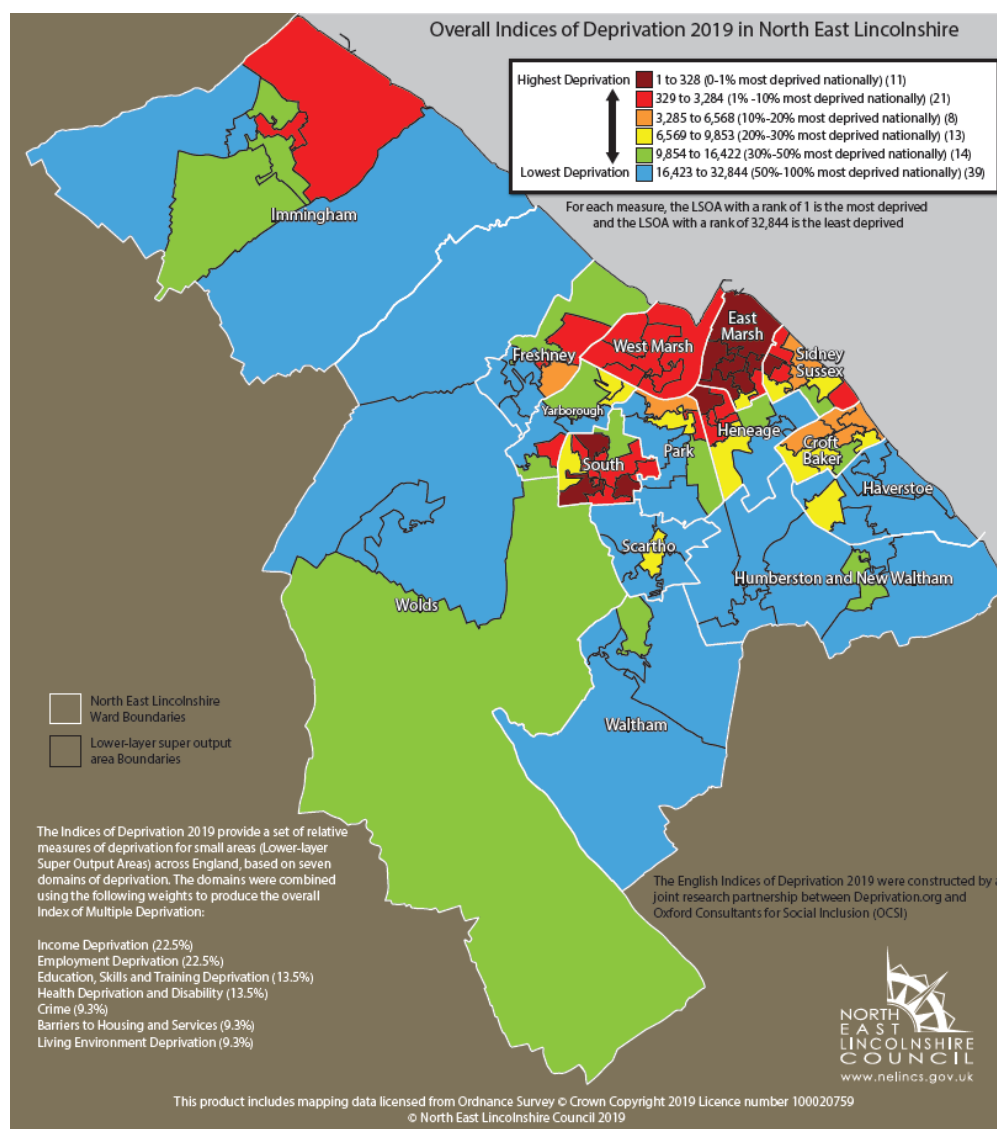
North East Lincolnshire school pupils as of January 2024 were predominantly White British (85.4%) with a small proportion from a Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

*Please note 1.95% of North East Lincolnshire school pupils ethnicities were not obtained or were refused upon request.

1.3 Deprivation

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

Fig 1.3a North East Lincolnshire with Deprivation¹²



Overall North East Lincolnshire is ranked the 29th most deprived local authority in the country 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).

¹¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

¹² nelincsdata.net/indices-of-deprivation-map

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

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

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

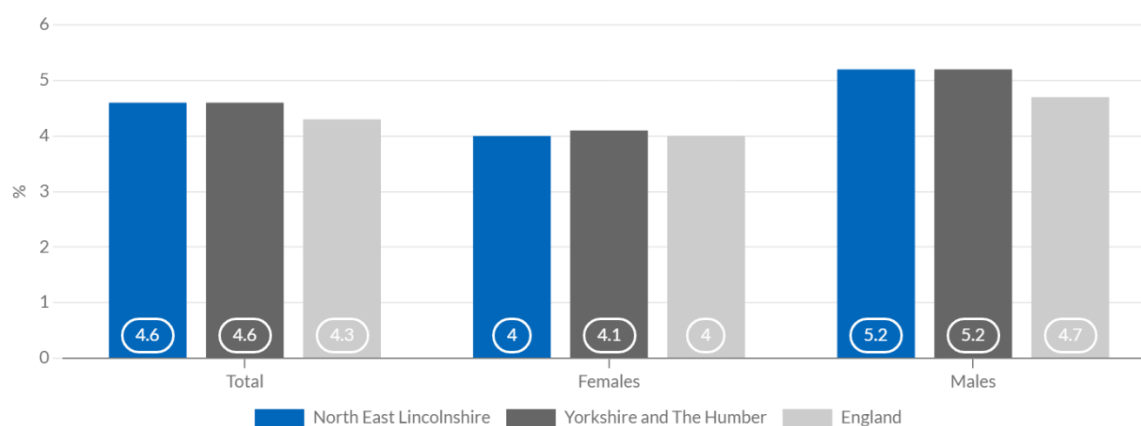
1.4 Labour Market

Table 1.4a Economic Activity, Economic Inactivity, Employment Rates and Unemployment Rates in North East Lincolnshire

Jul 23 – Jun 24	Economic Activity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Economic Inactivity Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Employment Rate, (aged 16-64) %	Unemployment Rate, (aged 16-64) %
North East Lincolnshire	75.9	24.1	71.1	3.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	75.4	24.6	73.1	3.0
England	78.4	21.6	75.5	3.7

The unemployment rate is 3.4% in North East Lincolnshire. The unemployment rate in North East Lincolnshire is higher than the Yorkshire and The Humber rate (3.0%) and the lower than the rate for Great Britain (3.7%).

Fig 1.4b: Claimant Counts (October 2024)



1.5 Children in low income families

Absolute low-income families

Absolute low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

Fig 1.5a: Absolute low income for North East Lincolnshire - trend

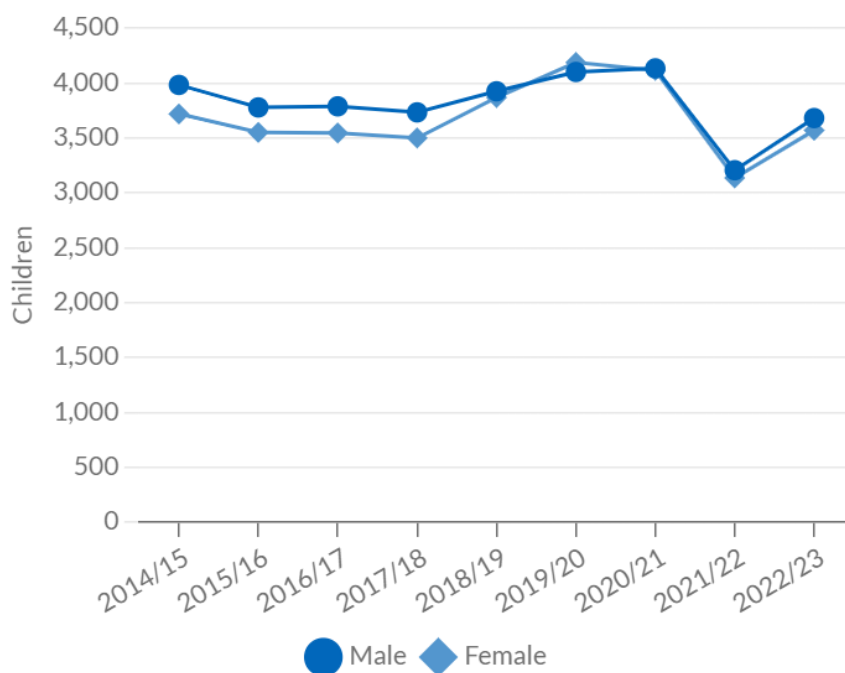
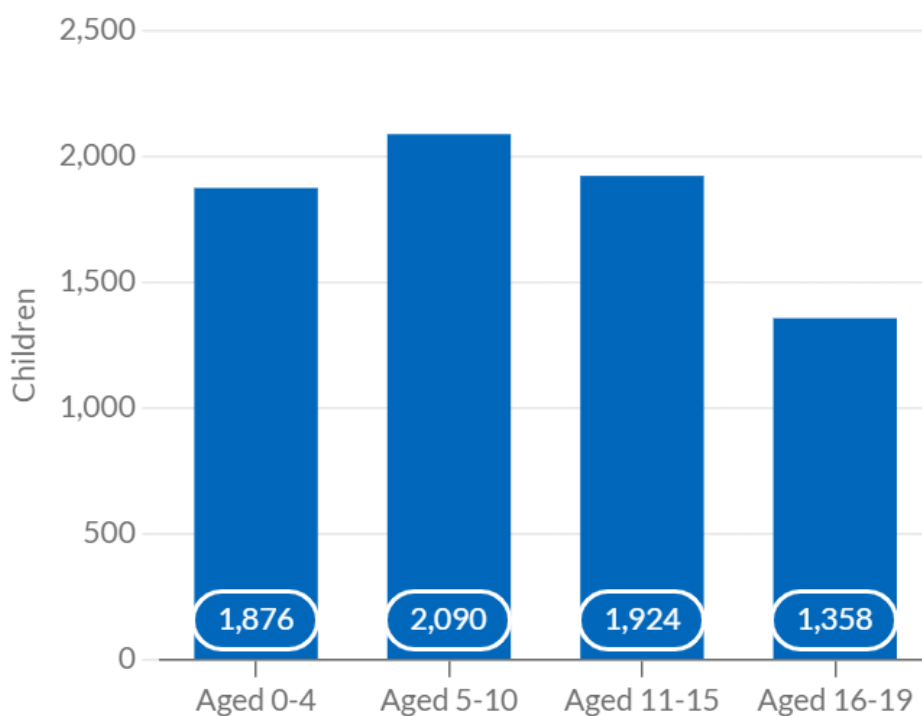


Fig 1.5b: Absolute low income by age group for North East Lincolnshire (2022/23)



Relative low-income families

Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

Fig 1.5c: Relative low income for North East Lincolnshire – trend

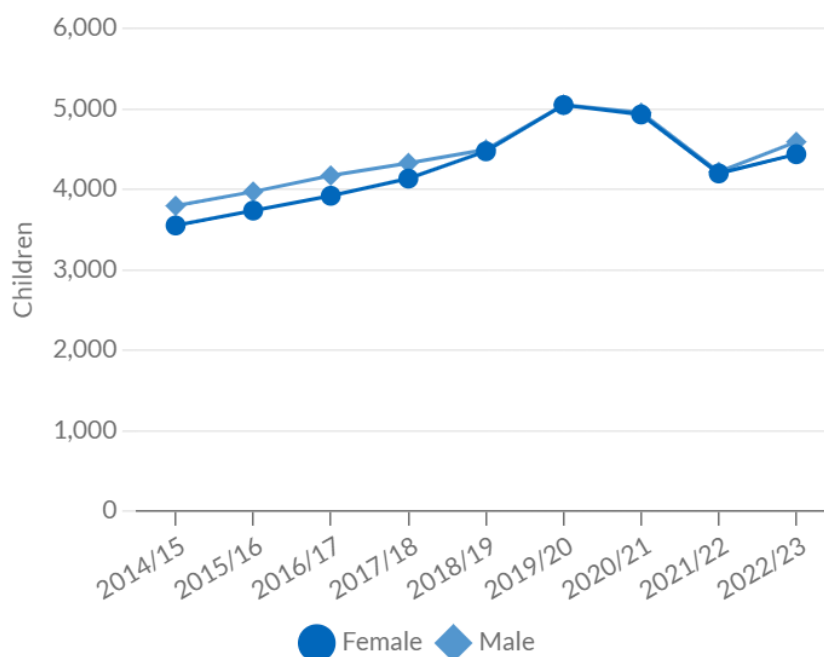
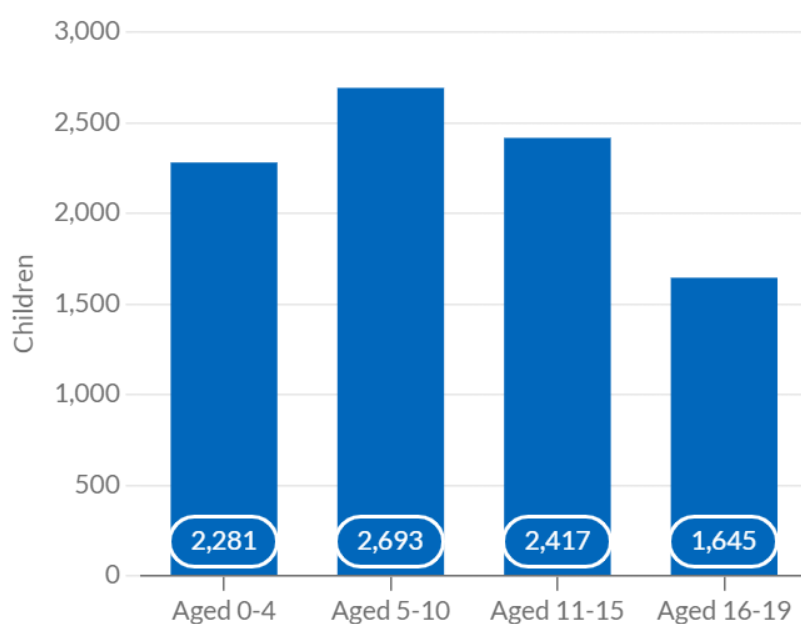


Fig 1.5d: Relative low income by age group for North East Lincolnshire (2022/23)



2 Demand for childcare

2.1 Population of early year's children*

In total, there are 7,828 children under the age of five living in our local authority. This is approximately a 5.8% 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 2024
Age 0	1463
Age 1	1513
Age 2	1591
Age 3	1582
Age 4*	1679

* Residents report from SystemOne February 2024

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

2.2 Population of school age children*

In total there are 13,145 children aged 5-11, and 5,577 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. This down 0.9% and 3.4% respectively on the previous year. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2.2 Numbers of children by age

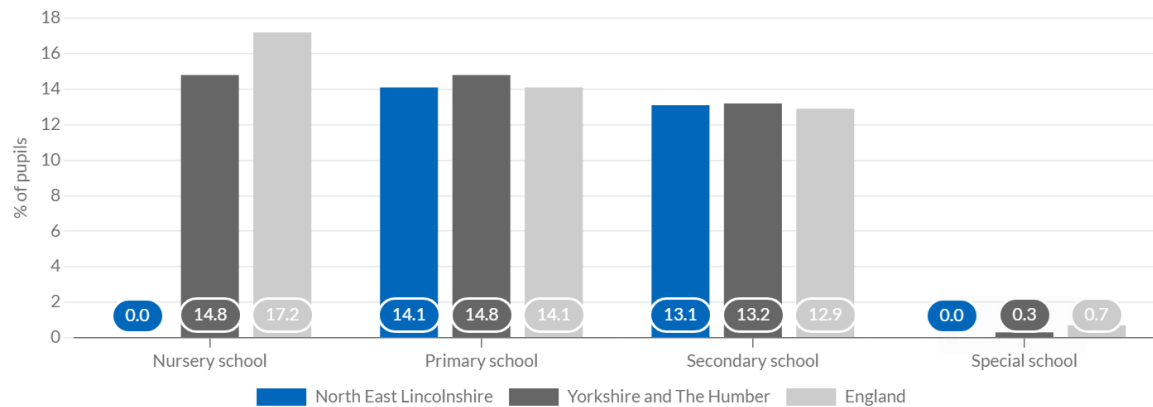
Age	Number of children
Age 5	1706
Age 6	1768
Age 7	1892
Age 8	1837
Age 9	2036
Age 10	1916
Age 11	1990
Age 12	1867
Age 13	1928
Age 14	1782

* Residents report from School Census January 2024

2.3 Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. An Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan details the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child or young person who has Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability.

Fig 2: - Percentage of pupils getting SEN Support (2024)



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 2023 Childcare Survey¹³, covering England, reported that there has been little change in the use of childcare since 2021. Overall, in 2023, almost two thirds (68%) children in England aged 0 to 14 had used some form of formal childcare, such as nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs, and after-school clubs. Over a quarter (26%) of families used informal childcare such as grandparents, friends or relatives, and older siblings.

- 72% of families with children aged 0-4 years used childcare each week. This is in line with 2022 (71%)
- The proportion of families with children ages 0-14 using formal childcare was 68% in 2023, down from 70% in 2022
- Around two in five parents overall (38%) felt the number of local childcare places was 'about right' (a fall from 41% in 2022)

3.1 Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 130 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 3,494 (full time equivalent) early years childcare places: The number of providers has dropped since last year, with an overall loss of two PVI providers and four childminders, and five new Childminders have opened and an academy has taken over one of the PVI providers. There has been an overall decrease of 34 places across the borough. The majority of these are due to the closure of one of the PVI providers.

Table 3.1a Numbers of early years settings, by type: July 2024

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	3	3	-	2	8
East Marsh	1	3	-	4	8
Freshney	2	3	1	1	7
Haverstoe	6	1	-	2	9
Heneage	5	3	-	1	9
Humberston & New Waltham	2	3	-	3	8
Immingham	9	4	-	3	16
Park	4	1	-	4	9
Scartho	4	3	1	1	9
Sidney Sussex	5	3	-	3	11
South	2	3	-	5	10
Waltham	-	-	-	2	2
West Marsh	-	3	-	2	5
Wolds	3	1	-	2	6
Yarborough	8	2	-	3	13
NEL	54	36	2	38	130

¹³ [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Table 3.1b Numbers of FTE places offered by early years settings, by type: July 2024

Wards	Childminders	Nursery classes in schools inc. academies	Maintained nursery schools	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Totals
Croft Baker	31	85	-	107	205
East Marsh	5	78	-	173	256
Freshney	14	52	65	72	203
Haverstoe	30	36	-	90	156
Heneage	22	128	-	16	166
Humberston & New Waltham	10	87	-	91	188
Immingham	43	91	-	186	320
Park	29	30	-	265	324
Scartho	16	65	65	66	212
Sidney Sussex	25	156	-	137	318
South	10	117	-	223	350
Waltham	0	-	-	224	224
West marsh	6	125	-	93	224
Wolds	20	8	-	68	96
Yarborough	41	81	-	130	252
NEL	31	1139	130	1941	3494

- Childminders are the greatest numbers of providers (53), However the private sector, day nurseries and pre-schools deliver the most childcare places (1,941).
- Provider numbers has decreased (4%) in North East Lincolnshire since last year.
- The number of places has decreased by approximately 1.1% 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 of providers	% having some vacancies
Childminders	54	20%
Nursery classes in schools	38	36%
Maintained nursery schools	2	100%
Private, voluntary and independent providers	38	37%

It appears that there are far less vacancies across all sectors than last year. However, only 62% of settings provided data on their vacancies this 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 ¹⁴
Childminders	54	36	2	0
Nursery classes in schools	38	2	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	2	17	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	38	19	1	0

- No childminders now offer weekend care but many will consider it.
- Some parents have reported that they find it hard to find atypical hours to meet their needs. In these cases, FIS will work with local providers and parents to find a suitable solution

The 2024 parent survey asked when families required additional childcare. Of the respondents with early years aged children, 32% needed care before 8am, 15% required care after 6pm and 7% needed care at the weekend. This is in line with finding from the 2023 Parent survey.

3.4 Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 44 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, this is a slight increase on last year. There are now 11 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. This is down from 14 for the previous year. The government's commitment to all schools having a wraparound offer by September 2026 has seen more sites considering developing before and after school clubs either by themselves or by working in partnership with another provider. 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	2	-
East Marsh	-	-	-	2	1	-
Freshney	1	1	1	3	-	-
Haverstoe	-	1	1	2	1	-
Heneage	-	-	-	2	1	-
Humberston & New Waltham	-	-	-	3	2	-
Immingham	1	2	1	2	1	-
Park	1	2	1	1	-	-
Scartho	-	-	-	3	2	-
Sidney Sussex	1	1	1	2	-	-

¹⁴ This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

South	-	1	1	2	1	-
Waltham	1	1	1	-	-	-
West Marsh	1	1	1	3	2	-
Wolds	1	1	1	1	2	-
Yarborough	2	2	2	2	1	-
NEL	9	13	11	32	16	-

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 Information Service do encourage all providers to sign up to the directory, but many choose not to. FIS 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. During the last year a further 10 breakfast clubs are now open before 8am.

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 ¹⁵
Breakfast club	44	26	N/A	N/A
After-school club	28	N/A	-	N/A
Holiday club	11	5	-	-

The 2024 parent survey asked when families required additional childcare. Of the respondents with school aged children, 20% needed care before 8am, 12% required care after 6pm and 7% needed care at the weekend. There has been an increase (4%) in demand for care after 6pm but the early morning and weekends remains the same as the 2023 survey.

¹⁵ 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 two decades, 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. Since then, the funded entitlement has been expanded to include disadvantaged 2-year-olds (low or no earned income families) in 2011. Working families with 3- and 4-year-olds were able to double their funded hours to 30 in 2017 and in 2024 the working family's entitlement was extended to 2 year olds. From September 2024 working families with children from the age of 9 months to school age will be able to claim funded childcare hours.

The current early years entitlements (EYE) are for 570 hours per year or 15 hours during term time and include,

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to up 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 an additional 15 hours bringing the total to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school¹⁶
- 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.
- In April 2 year olds with working parents are entitled to up to 15 hours per week

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 they become eligible for the funding that they wish to claim e.g. 2 or 3 years old.

A long-term government study¹⁷ 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 SEND 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.

¹⁶ 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 www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

¹⁷ [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)

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 2024 census¹⁸ in our local authority is:

Table 4.2 Take up of funded places

Age	Accessing funding	% of all eligible children	2025 national % of all eligible children
Age 2	526	87.5%	75%
Age 3 and 4 (universal & extended offers)	3214	97%	95%

Source Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2024 Department of Education Jul 2024

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	52	9.8%	4.1%
Nursery classes in schools	38	6.6%	38.8%
Maintained nursery schools	2	0.0%	4.3%
Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries	38	83.6%	52.8%

- There has been an increase in the market share of places for 2-year-olds in schools and childminder settings
- The PVI providers have increased the market share of places for 3- & 4-year-olds since last yearare

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.¹⁹

Families with 2-year-old children can get one of two funded early education and childcare offers. These are the disadvantaged 2 year offer and the working families offers.

¹⁸ [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provision-for-children-under-5-in-england-january-2024)

¹⁹ [The early education pilot for 2-year-old children: age 5 follow up - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-early-education-pilot-for-2-year-old-children-age-5-follow-up)

Disadvantaged- families in receipt of some benefits including:

- Universal Credit, including income support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act

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

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

A full list of all eligibility criteria is available at [Help paying for childcare: Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds if you claim certain benefits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/help-paying-for-childcare-free-education-and-childcare-for-2-year-olds-if-you-claim-certain-benefits)

NEL's Families Information Service (FIS) regularly market potentially eligible families who could be eligible for the disadvantaged offer. FIS use the data provided by the DFE and DWP to make direct contact and encourage families to apply and access a funded place. FIS also 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, **39%** of 2-year-olds were potentially eligible for the disadvantaged offer in summer 2024. This equated to around 621 children per term in academic year 2023-24. There has been a decrease (3%) to the percentage of potentially eligible children from the previous academic year.

Working families offer- for parents and carers earning between £183 per week up to £100,000 per year each. In two parent households both must be employed and meet the earnings thresholds.

Although it is difficult to project accurately how many families could be eligible for the new working offer, the take up of the 30 hours was used as a baseline in the first instance. It is acknowledged that as summer 2024 is the very first term of the new entitlement rolling out, take up is not expected to reach the same levels as the 3- & 4-year working offers. There is also the potential that some two-year-olds could be eligible for both offers.

Table 4.4 - % of eligible cohort of two year olds accessing a place in summer 2024

Wards	Disadvantaged Offer		Working Families Offer		Both Offers
	% of potentially eligible children	% of children taking a place	% of potentially eligible children	% of children taking a place	% of children taking a place
Croft Baker	34%	40%	48%	32%	72%
East Marsh	65%	59%	19%	5%	63%
Freshney	31%	38%	56%	42%	80%
Haverstoe	8%	10%	65%	69%	79%
Heneage	73%	45%	37%	21%	66%
Humberston & New Waltham	11%	12%	65%	54%	67%

Immingham	35%	34%	49%	34%	67%
Park	32%	27%	55%	43%	70%
Scartho	14%	9%	67%	50%	59%
Sidney Sussex	58%	50%	41%	15%	64%
South	45%	41%	36%	17%	58%
Waltham	17%	12%	75%	71%	83%
West Marsh	50%	40%	34%	15%	55%
Wolds	13%	12%	68%	54%	66%
Yarborough	30%	36%	50%	37%	73%
North East Lincolnshire	39%	36%	46%	31%	66%
NEL Summer 2023	41%	36%	N/A		
NEL Summer 2022	42%	36%			
NEL Summer 2021	43%	35%			
NEL Summer 2020	43%	29%			
NEL Summer 2019	46%	35%			

- In summer 2024, it was projected that 39% of all resident children may meet the criteria for funding. The actual number of eligible children was 41% of all local 2-year-olds, equating to 107% of the projected cohort.
- Overall, 66% of all 2-year-olds in North East Lincolnshire's accessed a funded EYE 2 year place in summer 2024.
- The take up rate of those children eligible for the disadvantaged offer was 85% and 67% of those projected to be eligible for a working family's place accessed a funded place.

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 school²⁰

Table 4.5 Take-up of three- and four-year-old early education places: Summer term 2024

Wards	Universal offer - % take up	Extended offer - % take up
Croft Baker	102%	58%
East Marsh	91%	16%
Freshney	102%	54%
Haverstoe	106%	66%
Heneage	99%	36%
Humberston and New Waltham	94%	66%
Immingham	95%	51%

²⁰ 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

Park	103%	53%
Scartho	103%	69%
Sidney Sussex	97%	40%
South	100%	30%
Waltham	84%	77%
West Marsh	90%	31%
Wolds	96%	76%
Yarborough	97%	57%
NEL	97%	47%
NEL Summer 2023	95%	48%
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 97% of 3- and 4-year-olds had accessed a universal early education place during of Summer term 2024. This is an increase on the previous year.
- Take up the extended offer (30 hours) decreased slightly by 1% since summer

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 2024

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	234	251	364	1.56	299	82%
East Marsh	444	438	552	1.24	397	72%
Freshney	202	229	450	2.23	262	114%
Haverstoe	129	133	390	3.02	177	133%

Heneage	373	414	328	0.88	416	127%
Humberston and New Waltham	236	254	376	1.59	287	76%
Immingham	268	278	619	2.31	300	48%
Park	274	281	771	2.81	327	42%
Scartho	268	293	449	1.68	348	78%
Sidney Sussex	398	452	695	1.75	442	64%
South	416	427	850	2.04	426	50%
Waltham	120	147	589	4.91	151	26%
West Marsh	316	319	404	1.28	291	72%
Wolds	186	210	205	1.10	244	119%
Yarborough	284	306	695	2.45	352	51%
Grand Total	4148	4432	7737	1.87	4719	61%
NEL Summer 2023	4309	4522	7459	1.73	4404	59%
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 2024, there were 7,737 early education places available to two-three-and-four-year-olds. This is an increase of 278 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 (63.6%).
- The penetration rate of early education places available for every potentially eligible two-three-and-four-year-olds in NEL has increased since 2023.
- Penetration rates at ward level show that Waltham continues to have the most places with almost 5 places per eligible child available. Haverstoe ward has the second highest with over 3 places per eligible child.
- The penetration rates shows that there are more than enough places across the borough. Following the closure of Central Day Care, there are now insufficient places in Heneage ward to meet demand. Despite this, there have been no reports of families not being able to access a place locally.
- 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 children. Prior to summer 2024 EYPP was only available to 3- and 4-year-olds. From April 2024 the age range for EYPP expanded to include all funded offers. From summer 2024 all eligible 2, 3-and 4-year-olds in a funded early education place will attract EYPP funding and from September 2024 this will also include all eligible children from 9months to school age. The eligibility criteria includes:

- 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 in the care of 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 2024

	3- and 4-year-olds
England	108,328
Yorkshire and Humber	13,790
North East Lincolnshire	432

Source; Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2024 Department of Education Jul 2024

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 the relevant age.

5 Costs of childcare

The Childcare and Early Years Parents Survey 2023²¹, reported there has been a small drop in the use of childcare since the previous survey in 2022. Overall, in 2023, half (50%) children in England aged 0 to 14 had used some form of formal childcare, such as nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs, and after-school clubs. Just over a quarter (26%) have used informal childcare such as grandparents, friends or relatives, and older siblings. Over a third (32%) of families report using no childcare at all. This is an increase of 2% on the previous year.

There has been an increase of 1%, in the number of families finding difficult/very difficult to pay for childcare. Almost half (49%) of families report that they find it easy or very easy to pay for childcare. This has increased by 2% on last year.

Difficulty in meeting childcare costs varied by annual family income. Over half of families (52%) earning under £10,000 per year found it difficult or very difficult to meet their childcare costs, falling to just 18% 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	£7.10	£6.74	£6.63
School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	£N/A	£6.86	£5.07
Childminders	£5.41	£5.41	£5.41
Lowest	£4.50	£4.38	£4.00
Highest	£10.92	£10.92	£12.32

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

Comments from the NELC Parent survey 2024

"I don't use child care because I can't afford it"

"People that work still struggle to be able to afford the childcare"

"It is expensive so you feel what is the point in working to put all your salary into childcare"

²¹ [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

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
Average	£3.11	£4.59	£5.41	£4.79
Lowest	£0.50	£1.00	£4.25	£2.67
Highest	£9.79	£9.79	£9.00	£9.79

- The average costs of breakfast and after school clubs has dropped over the last year. This may be due to the increase in supported places being developed by the wraparound programme.

Comments from the NELC Parent survey 2024

"The cost of childcare is ridiculous, we fall into debt every holiday"

"There is the provision for breakfast and afterschool clubs at the nursery, it's just not affordable for us"

"The breakfast club/afterschool club at my children's school is excellent and they love to go"

"Wrap around care in formal settings such as schools is too expensive even as two full time working parents"

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' rated quality.

- Nationally, over three quarters (81%) of parents stated that the providers Ofsted rating influenced their decision to use them a great deal or fair amount. Whereas 7% said it didn't influence their decision at all²²

Table 6.1a. Ofsted Rating as at January 2024 for 2-year-old children with EYE places²³
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Outstanding	Good	Percentage attending Good or Outstanding Providers	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	17.3%	79.5%	96.8%	2.7%	0.6%
Yorkshire and Humber	18.7%	78.8%	97.5%	2.1%	0.5%
North East Lincolnshire	12.7%	83.2%	95.9%	1.9%	2.1%

Table 6.1b Ofsted Rating January 2024 for 3 and 4 year old children with universal EYE places:²⁴
Of those in setting with judgement - Ofsted inspection rating

	Outstanding	Good	Percentage attending Good or Outstanding Providers	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
England	19.4%	79.5%	98.9%	2.7%	0.6%
Yorkshire and Humber	18.7%	78.8%	97.5%	2.1%	0.5%
North East Lincolnshire	12.7%	83.2%	95.9%	1.9%	0.2%

²² [Childcare and early years survey of parents, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

²³ [Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2024 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

²⁴ [Provision for children under 5 in England: January 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Annex A- Parent survey 2024

Introduction

The 2024 parent survey was undertaken in NEL during July and August. The survey went out via all social media platforms and was also shared by our childcare providers. Most responses were received early in the survey despite it being advertised regularly throughout the time it was open. This is likely to be due to the school and family holidays.

Summary

Most respondents had more than one child (64%) with 42% of all having 2 children. The most represented age group was the parents /carers of Primary aged children at 47%, followed by secondary school age (18%) 3- and 4-year-olds (16%) and under 2's at 10%

Over half (54%) of families already use formal childcare. This is an increase from last year of 12%. There were 22% 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 42%, followed by not being able to afford it at 33%.

Most families currently use childcare to enable them to work (61%) with the majority (61%) using childcare all year round.

Over half of those responding (67%), could get the right amount of childcare required to enable them to work, train or access education. This figure has increased slightly (3%) since the previous survey in 2023. The main reason for not being able to access the childcare families required was that they cannot afford the hours that they need (51%). Needing atypical hours, before 8am (55%) and after 6pm (28%) were also stated as a barrier to accessing the required hours.

Over the last year, 42% of families use about the same number of hours that they did in summer 2023. A quarter of families reported using more childcare and 18% used less than the previous year.

1. Childcare Preferences

Most families prefer their childcare to be close to home (48%) and 65% need childcare to work, study, or train. Almost half (47%) of respondents needed 15 to 30 hours childcare per week.

There main themes from the comments included

- a. **Affordability-** Many families found childcare to be expensive with some stating they pay out the majority they earn on childcare fees. Most feel more is help is needed to support working parents, especially for those with under three years old. The availability of funding for this age group is being expanded from April 2024 and the number of funded hours will double from September 2025. This will ease the burden on families and enable more to access childcare. Some families rely on a mix of formal and informal childcare to meet all the hours they need.
- b. **Availability-** The number of families finding the 8 to 6 childcare offers no longer meets their needs remains largely the same as the previous year. There has been a slight drop in the number requiring an earlier start but a 4% increase in those who now need a later finish to meet their needs. Families with school age children have reported they need more wraparound childcare. There are more places for wraparound childcare being developed across NEL. However, those new places do not include any provision during the school holidays

- c. **Access-** Families with children with additional needs have found it difficult to access childcare places as they feel that cannot meet their child's needs. The lack of funding to support children's needs outside of education is also a barrier to the using childcare services.

2. 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 Families Information service will undertake a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the childcare funding offers including what is available, who is eligible and how to access. The FIS web 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 2024 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	- Monitor projections and take-up - Report on the results of the parent survey and encourage settings to consider the findings. - Continue to promote the EY's entitlements and raise the profile of all local childcare settings with partners and other agencies. - Work in partnership with Family Hubs and childcare settings to maximise take-up of funded childcare	Termly reports Annual parent survey	Dynamic childcare market that meets the needs of families in North East Lincolnshire
Sustainability of childcare sector	- Provide the highest possible base rate for early years entitlements. - Promote financial and business support available. - Promote existing business tools available on-line - Provide support to enable settings to review their offer and make changes if required to meet the needs of the community. - Ensure settings are claiming all EY's entitlements that their children are eligible for i.e. EYPP, DAF	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	- Monitor eligibility and take up across all EY's entitlements - Target areas where take up is low and provide marketing activities in those areas - Attend events to promote the childcare funding options	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	- Provide the most up to date information to parents via a range of media i.e. website, leaflets, social media platforms - Schedule reminders of when, where and how families should apply for their childcare funding and places etc.	Ongoing scheduled posts in line with termly deadlines	Ensures families and the community are aware of all childcare funding options available to them
SEND	- Promote the SEND Local Offer - Support parents to find suitable childcare that meets their Childs needs - Provide a 1:1 brokerage service to those who are unable to source a suitable place	Ongoing As and when required	Ensures children with SEND can get support and access suitable childcare

Sources of information

Early Years Entitlement team
New Oxford House,
George Street,
Grimsby
DN31 1HB

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

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

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

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