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Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) requires North East Lincolnshire (NEL) Council, like all other local authorities in England, to ensure there is sufficient childcare for parents and carers who are working, studying or training. It also highlights the need for local authorities to pay particular attention to the childcare needs of specific target groups, for instance:

- *Low-income families;*
- *Black and minority ethnic families;*
- *Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities;*
- *Families with disabled children or disabled parents;*
- *Families living in rural or inaccessible areas;*
- *Armed Forces families.*

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.

The council also has a duty to undertake a refresh of the full detailed Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) on an annual basis; however Section 75 of the Childcare and Families Bill 2012-13 recommends that Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 (duty of local authority in England to assess sufficiency of childcare provision) is repealed. This Bill is currently awaiting Royal Assent, on approval from the House of Commons and House of Lords¹.

The duty to carry out three-year assessment research of the sufficiency of childcare in each local authority was repealed in 2014, but this was replaced by a duty to carry out an audit of the availability of childcare annually and this information should be shared with local stakeholders. The audit is required to support the development of sufficient childcare, assess the availability of childcare across the local authority looking into the dynamics of demand and supply in the childcare market; and identifying gaps which to influence future developments.

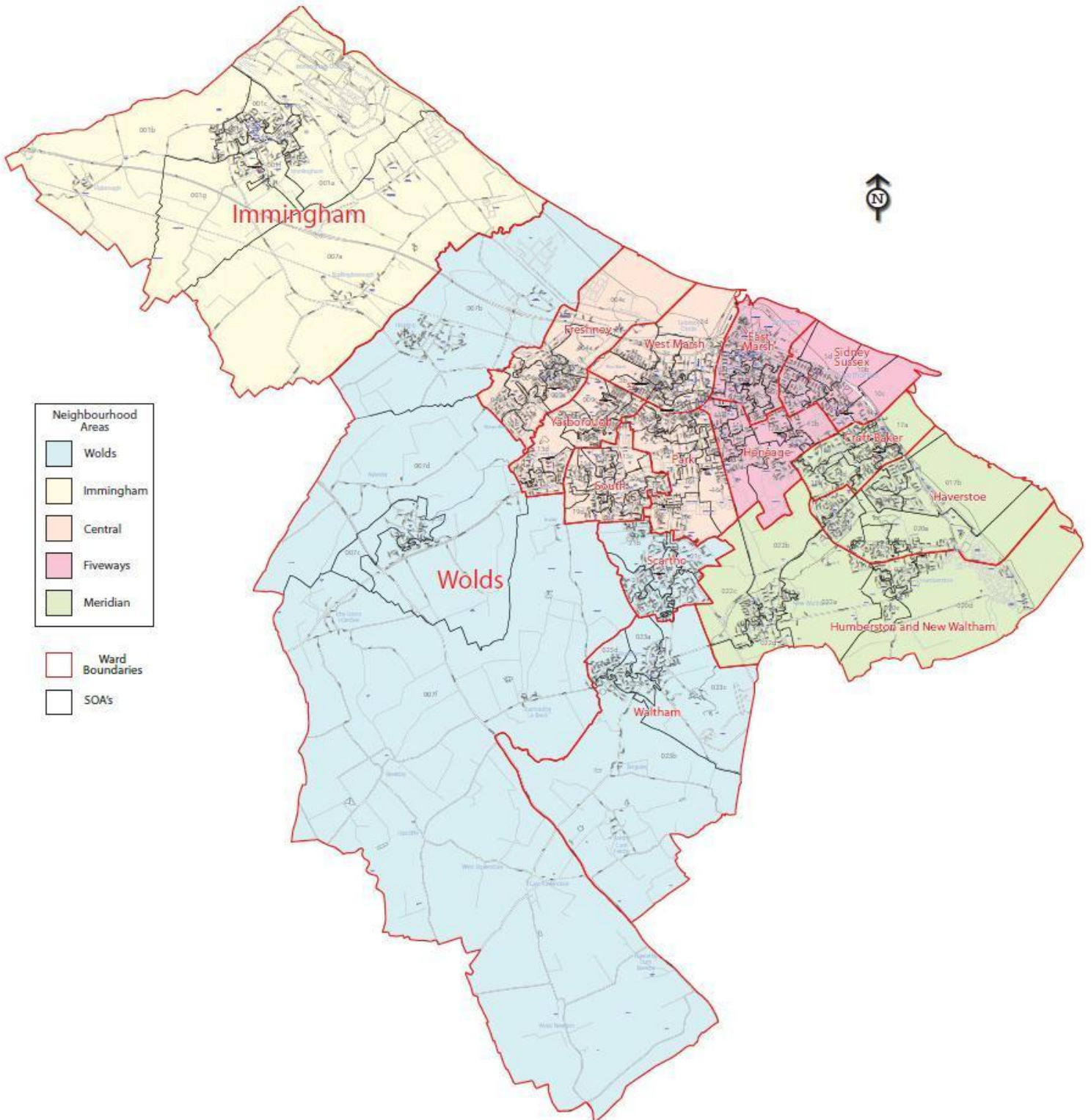
¹ Source: Childcare and Families Bill 2012/13, Parliament, <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/childrenandfamilies.html>

In 2004, the Government published a '10-year Strategy for Childcare'², 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 (17 for disabled children) who need an 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.*

² Source: DfE, *Choice for parents, the best start for children: A ten-year strategy for childcare*, December 2004

A map of NEL³, by its neighbourhood areas and ward boundaries, is represented below:



³ Source: North East Lincolnshire Council ICT department – MapInfo excerpt. This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2007 Licence number 100020759

Key findings

Choice and flexibility

- NEL has 148 registered childcare settings, offering 3,096 childcare places across four sectors of care.
- Park ward has the highest proportion of places available (463) whilst Scartho has the least (140)
- Day nurseries offer the highest number of places (1,277) across the age range. Provision in pre-schools is also high (703).
- Of the four sectors, childminders have the lowest (448) number of places available.
- Availability of funded early education places for two, three and four year olds is highest in South (678) and Park (535) wards.
- The estimated take up of early education places for three and four year olds is highest in Humberston and New Waltham and Haverstoe.
- East and West Marsh wards have the highest estimated take up for two year olds. Both area areas with significant levels of socio-economic deprivation
- The number of available places per three and four year old (penetration rate) has decreased since Spring 2014 from 1.73 places per child to 1.31 in Spring 2015. This could be in part due to the PVI providers changing how they allocate their places across the age range i.e. offering more places to two year olds.
- The penetration rate is below one place per child in Croft Baker (0.73) and East Marsh (0.94). This would suggest a sufficiency issue in these areas. However not all children choose to access a place in the area in which they reside.
- In NEL 96.1% of three and four year olds have taken up a funded place, which is a decrease from Spring 2014 figure of 98.3%
- Of all two, three and four year olds recorded on the Spring 2015 headcount, 87.4% have taken up their full entitlement of 15 hours. This can be broken down to 91.5% of all eligible two year olds and 86.6% of three and four year olds accessing a full time place.

Availability

- As of February 2015, 10 out of 15 wards have at least one immediate vacancy within all available childcare settings.
- 79% of Day Nurseries immediate vacancies, as did 60% of Pre-Schools and 64% of Out of School clubs
- 522 children were stated as being on a waiting list for a childcare place, which is slightly higher than the number reported last year. Of these, 341 (65%) children were on waiting lists at pre-schools.
- The average waiting time for the over 2's is a term. This is consistent with children waiting to access a funded place.
- Haverstoe ward has the highest number of children reported to be on a waiting list at 97. There are no children on a waiting list in the Scartho ward.
- 83% of children on waiting lists are 2 or under, which is consistent with Pre-School admission ages, and is likely correlated to availability of 2 and 3 year old funding, and attending settings near primary schools.

Quality

- In September 2012 Ofsted changed the way they inspect and rate effectiveness in both Schools and Early Years settings. As of 31st March 2015, 62 settings have been judged under the new criteria.
- Of the 62 inspected, 4 were judged to be outstanding, 35 deemed good, 15 were satisfactory/requires improvement and one setting was judged inadequate. A further 7 childminders were inspected whilst they had no children on roll. These inspections can only result in a judgement of either met or unmet. 2 of the 7 met the criteria required whilst 5 did not.

- Taking into account all current standing judgements, 7% of settings are currently judged as 'Outstanding', and 67% 'Good'. This means in North East Lincolnshire 74% of settings are currently judged as good or outstanding. This is lower than the national average⁴ of 82%.
- There is currently one inadequate setting in NEL.
- In Non-domestic childcare settings, (Pre-Schools, Day Nurseries, Out of School Clubs) the number judged '*Outstanding*' or '*Good*' is 82%.
- 70% of Childminders are currently judged to be Good or better.

Affordability

- Average weekly costs within day nurseries in North East Lincolnshire are £103.70 for under 2's and 102.01 for over 2's.
- Average weekly costs for childminders in North East Lincolnshire are £98.93. The vast majority of North East Lincolnshire childminders make no pricing differentiation between under 2's and over 2's.
- The average weekly cost within after school clubs in North East Lincolnshire is £44.29 for a 15 hour week.
- Average setting costs continue to be more than the regional average for day nurseries, childminders and after school clubs, day nurseries and childminders were less than the England average.
- Most local pre-schools now offer extended hours and are able to provide in excess of 25 hours early education and childcare per week. There are a few exceptions to this where providers are limited by other activities or the use of the buildings they operate from ie unable to open one or 2 sessions per week.
- Pre-schools that can offer 25 plus hours have been included in the costs table for the first time this year.

⁴Source: Ofsted –

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417242/Early_years_and_childcare_inspection_and_outcomes_September_2014_to_December_2014.pdf (ratings as of 31/12/14)

1. **Supply of childcare**

1.1 **Flexible funding entitlement for two, three and four year olds**

Poverty has a real impact upon a child's chances of progressing well in the early years and beyond. Only one in five young people from the poorest families achieve five good GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared with three quarters of those from the richest families⁵. Good quality early education, especially from age two upwards, has positive benefits on children's all-round development; however, fewer children from more deprived backgrounds have the opportunity to experience early education at age two⁶.

1.1a **Two year old funding**

As a family, you must be claiming one or more of the following benefits to be eligible for the 2 year old funding⁷:

- Income Support;
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance;
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under section VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guarantee element of state pension credit;
- Child tax credit, providing you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) or that does not exceed £16,190;
- The parent(s) get Working Tax Credits and earn no more than £16,190 a year;

Or

- If your child is looked after by the Local Authority;
- The child has left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
- If your child is accessing the Early Years Support Pathway.
- The child has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan;
- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance;

⁵ Source: Gregg P and Goodman A, *Poorer Children's educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviours?*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2010).

⁶ Source: Smith, R., Purdon, S., Schneider, V., La Valle, I., Wollny, I., Owen, R. and Bryson, C. (2009) 'Early Education Pilot for Two Year Old Children Evaluation'

⁷ Source: Gov.UK, Free Early Education, <https://www.gov.uk/free-early-education>

If a 2 year old child is eligible they can access 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year. The childcare can be taken over a minimum of two days and no session can be longer than ten hours a day or shorter than two and a half hours a day. No sessions to be before 7am or after 7pm, funding can be split between a maximum of two providers and a child is eligible to start the term after their second birthday until the term after their third birthday.

The Department for Education (DfE) had predicted that approximately 1,150 two year olds will be eligible in NEL, based on current eligibility criteria. There were 965 children listed as eligible for a funded place in the Spring term. This is 84% of the predicated number of potentially eligible children. Spring headcount data shows that 776 two year olds are accessing a funded place (68%) NEL's Family Information Service (FIS) regularly market potentially eligible families based on the data provided by the DFE and DWP and continually promote the offer of free places for eligible two year olds on their website, Facebook and twitter pages and with support from local providers and children's centres.

1.1b Free Flexible Entitlement (FFE) for 3 and 4 year olds

The term after a child's third birthday they are entitled to 15 hours of free early years provision per week during term time.

Provision is available from a registered provider which can be either:

- Group based childcare;
- Independent school;
- Children's Centre where day care is available;
- Accredited home based childcare such as an accredited childminder;
- Nursery unit/class in school/school nursery.

You may claim your child's early years provision from a maximum of two providers. Not every provider in North East Lincolnshire is registered to offer the flexible free entitlement. To be eligible, providers of childcare must register with North East Lincolnshire Council's Early Years and Childcare service and be registered with Ofsted.

From 2012 a stretched availability will come into place, whereby parents, if they wish to, should be able to access FFE for 12 hours a week over 47 weeks. When asked, 63% of providers within NEL

indicated in the full CSA⁸ that they will be able to provide this. Those that indicated that they could not provide a stretched availability were mainly those settings that opened during term time only.

1.1c FFE data pre-requisites

- Ward level analysis of child headcount data is taken from the child's home postcode, not the postcode of the provision where they are attending childcare.
- Take-up is estimated due to the limitations of the datasets. Within the headcount data, a number of postcodes could not be validated and therefore these children were omitted from this analysis.
- There may be some variance in pupil numbers due to the time between the collection of child population (September 2014) and headcount (Spring 2015).
- Whilst a child's entitlement can be taken across more than one provider, any duplicate entries have been removed. This is to show the actual number of children on the headcount, and provides an accurate reflection of attendance at more than one provision.
- Child population (ages 2 to 4) has been taken from SystemOne (Primary NHS clinical computer system), rather than from GP registration data (Exeter system), as in previous years.

1.1d Take-up of early education places

Table 1.1a summarises the take-up of early education places, where a full time place is equal to 15 hours. Where a child has taken their entitlement across more than one setting, the total time taken has been used.

The total number of FFE places available is also shown, where places are taken from the number of Ofsted registered places for all FFE registered Early Years settings, and from a nursery provision list, which provides the number of early admission, reception and nursery places within FFE registered primary schools, academies, independent schools and special schools.

Ofsted registered settings now have more flexibility as to how they allocated 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.

⁸ Source: North East Lincolnshire Council, <http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/resident/family-information-and-children-s-centres/looking-for-childcare-/childcare-sufficiency-assessment/>, 2011

Table 1.1a: Availability and take up of two, three and four year old early education places: Spring term 2015

Ward	Total Take up	Total FFE places 3 & 4 years
Croft Baker	365	297
East Marsh	445	428
Freshney	254	367
Haverstoe	189	252
Heneage	420	496
Humberston and New Waltham	173	430
Immingham	320	459
Park	280	535
Scartho	256	348
Sidney Sussex	473	466
South	498	678
Waltham	124	180
West Marsh	317	467
Wolds	138	214
Yarborough	362	438
Grand Total	4614	6055

- In Spring 2015, there were 6,055 early education places available to two, three and four year olds, which marks a 6.1% decrease on the 6,870 available in Spring 2014. Please note some under 2's places were included in previous calculations.
- At ward level, South, Park and Heneage wards have the largest number of places available, with 678, 535 and 496 respectively.
- Of the 6,055 available places, 4,614 fully funded places were taken up throughout NEL. Take-up has increased by 4.3% on the 4,420 places reported in Spring 2014.
- Further analysis highlights that 53.8% of available places for 3 and 4 year olds were provided by Schools, while the remainder were offered within PVI (Private, voluntary and independent) settings. In Spring 2014 the majority (51.7%) of places were available within the PVI settings. This change is consistent with the PVI providers allocating their places more flexibly to meet the demands of across the age range.
- Places for 2 year olds account for 12.6% of all available places.

1.1e Penetration rate of early education places

Table 1.1b gives the population of three and four year olds, taken in September 2014 from SystemOne and the number of available FFE places. The penetration rate is defined as the number of available early education places per child (aged three and four years).

Table 1.1b: Penetration rate of three and four year old early education places: Spring term 2015

Ward	Population 3 & 4 years	Total FFE places 3 & 4 years	Penetration Rate
Croft Baker	325	237	0.73
East Marsh	375	353	0.94
Freshney	243	344	1.42
Haverstoe	168	219	1.30
Heneage	381	433	1.14
Humberston and New Waltham	143	397	2.78
Immingham	291	381	1.31
Park	274	428	1.56
Scartho	229	319	1.39
Sidney Sussex	378	437	1.16
South	417	577	1.38
Waltham	109	156	1.43
West Marsh	266	418	1.57
Wolds	126	192	1.52
Yarborough	329	403	1.22
Grand Total	4054	5294	1.31

- From Spring term 2015, the penetration rate of early education places available for every three and four year old in NEL was 1.31 places per child. This is a decrease on the 1.73 rate reported in Spring 2014.
- Many PVI providers have changed their allocation of places across the 2 and 3 year olds to meet the demand for funded places for 2 year olds resulting in less places being available for funded 3 and 4 year olds
- Penetration rates at ward level range between 2.78 in Humberston and New Waltham and 0.73 in Croft Baker.
- Compared to Spring 2014, there has been a decrease in FFE availability for 3 and 4 year olds in all wards with the exception of East Marsh and Wolds. East Marsh has increased from 0.93 to 0.94 and Wolds from 1.37 to 1.52.
- The penetration rate of 0.73 in Croft Baker and 0.94 in East Marsh highlights under provision of available FFE for three and four year olds.

1.1f Headcount

In Spring each year the Local Authority undertakes an Early Years Census whereby all children taking up an early education place are counted, this is called the headcount. The following tables use this data to estimate take-up of places against population and also looks at the percentage of children on the headcount that are taking up their full 15 hour entitlement.

Table 1.1c estimates the percentage of the three and four year old population taking up an early education placement in NEL, based on the known population and the number of children who are registered for a funded early education place.

Table 1.1c: Estimated take-up of three and four year old early education places: Spring term 2015

Ward	Population 2 Year olds	Children on Headcount (2 years olds)	Estimates takeup 2 Year olds	Population 3 & 4 Years	Children on Headcount (3&4 years)	Estimates takeup 3 & 4 year olds
Croft Baker	155	55	35.5%	325	310	95.4%
East Marsh	189	113	59.8%	375	332	88.5%
Freshney	119	28	23.5%	243	226	93.0%
Haverstoe	68	11	16.2%	168	178	106.0%
Heneage	182	77	42.3%	381	343	90.0%
Humberston and New Waltham	62	16	25.8%	143	157	109.8%
Immingham	150	49	32.7%	291	271	93.1%
Park	128	36	28.1%	274	244	89.1%
Scartho	124	17	13.7%	229	239	104.4%
Sidney Sussex	201	80	39.8%	378	393	104.0%
South	209	81	38.8%	417	417	100.0%
Waltham	53	12	22.6%	109	112	102.8%
West Marsh	139	78	56.1%	266	239	89.8%
Wolds	65	8	12.3%	126	130	103.2%
Yarborough	164	58	35.4%	329	304	92.4%
Grand Total	2008	719	35.8%	4054	3895	96.1%

- In total 76.1% of all two, three and four year olds have taken up an early education place as of Spring term 2015. This can be broken down as an estimated take up of 35.8% of all 2 year olds. This is an increase from Spring 14 estimate of 22.6%
- The 96.08% estimated take-up seen for three and four year olds marks a 2.2% decrease on the 98.3% reported last year.
- Ward level estimates range from 88.5 % in East Marsh and 109.8% in Humberston and New Waltham for 3 and 4 year olds.
- 7 of the 15 wards have an estimated take up for 3 and 4 year olds in excess of 100%

- Two year old estimated take-up varies significantly from a high of 59.8% in East Marsh to a low of 12.3% in Wolds. Due to eligibility criteria required for two year old funding, the number of eligible children from the headcount appear to live in more socio-economically deprived areas.

Table 1.1d looks at the proportion of children aged two, three and four, taken from the Spring 2015 headcount data who are taking up their full 15 hour entitlement to free early years provision.

Table 1.1d: Summary of two, three and four year olds taking up their full FFE entitlement: Spring term 2015

Ward	Total 2 year olds on Headcount	Total number of 2 year olds taking up a full time place	Total % of 2 year olds taking up a full time place.	Total 3 & 4 years on Headcount	Total number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up a full time place	Total % of 3 & 4 years taking up a place
Croft Baker	55	47	85.5	310	268	86.5
East Marsh	113	109	96.5	332	309	93.1
Freshney	28	26	92.9	226	213	94.2
Haverstoe	11	8	72.7	178	123	69.1
Heneage	77	66	85.7	343	314	91.5
Humberston and New Waltham	16	13	81.3	157	137	87.3
Immingham	49	48	98.0	271	263	97.0
Park	36	30	83.3	244	224	91.8
Scartho	17	16	94.1	239	227	95.0
Sidney Sussex	80	74	92.5	393	377	95.9
South	81	80	98.8	417	302	72.4
Waltham	12	7	58.3	112	105	93.8
West Marsh	78	75	96.2	239	167	69.9
Wolds	8	7	87.5	130	95	73.1
Yarborough	58	52	89.7	304	250	82.2
Grand Total	719	658	91.5	3895	3374	86.6

In total, 87.4% of all two, three and four year olds in NEL are taking up the full 15 hour entitlement to FFE. This is a decrease on last year when 99% of children accessed a full time place. Further interrogation of the data highlights that 91.5% of 2 year olds in NEL are taking their full entitlement, and 86.6% of three and four year olds are taking the full 15 hours. The decrease in full time take up for 3 and 4 year olds may be due to one school only offering 12.5 hours per week rather than the full 15.

- Immingham ward has the highest take-up of the full 15 hours of FFE (97.2%) from all children on the headcount residing in these areas.
- Haverstoe ward reports the lowest take-up, with 69.3% followed by Wolds, West Marsh and South reporting a full time take up of 73.9, 76.3 and 76.7% respectively.

1.2 Stocks of registered childcare

The maximum number of childcare places that can be made available in all childcare settings across NEL provides additional insight into provision that will enable parents to work, study or take up training. All figures within this section have been taken from the latest childcare stock figures, and are accurate as of 31st March 2015. The stock of childcare is taken directly from the figures given by providers in the annual FIS update or collated through direct contact.

Table 1.2a: Numbers of childcare settings, by carescheme type: March 2015

Ward	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-school	Out of School Club	Total
Croft Baker	11	1	2	0	14
East Marsh	1	2	2	1	6
Freshney	10	1	0	1	12
Haverstoe	5	1	2	1	9
Heneage	10	1	2	0	13
Humberston and New Waltham	3	1	5	3	12
Immingham	7	3	0	1	11
Park	3	4	2	3	12
Scartho	3	1	0	2	6
Sidney Sussex	10	1	1	1	13
South	7	3	0	1	11
Waltham	1	0	1	2	4
West Marsh	3	1	2	2	8
Wolds	4	1	1	2	8
Yarborough	4	2	1	2	9
Grand Total	82	23	21	22	148

- There are several proposed settings being developed across the authority. These include pre-school places in Scartho, Croft Baker, East Marsh, South and Yarborough ward

Table 1.2b: Numbers of registered childcare places, by carescheme type: March 2015

Ward	Childminder	Day Nursery	Pre-school	Out of School Club	Total
Croft Baker	59	69	44	0	172
East Marsh	6	73	85	30	194
Freshney	51	42	0	24	117
Haverstoe	29	41	52	26	148
Heneage	54	88	48	0	190
Humberston and New Waltham	17	27	148	72	264
Immingham	36	200	0	16	252
Park	17	222	100	124	463
Scartho	16	76	0	48	140
Sidney Sussex	54	56	16	46	172
South	38	188	0	26	252
Waltham	6	0	94	106	206
West Marsh	16	66	48	48	178
Wolds	20	30	38	54	142
Yarborough	29	99	30	48	206
Grand Total	448	1277	703	668	3096

- NEL currently has 148 operating childcare settings, offering 3,096 registered childcare places across four different sectors of care.
- Day nurseries offer the largest number of places and the highest place to setting ratio with an average of 55.5 places per setting across NEL.
- The childminding sector has the largest number of settings in NEL at 82 with 448 registered childcare places on offer. There has been a net loss of 9 childminding settings between April 2014 and March 2015, which joins a general picture of decline, as seen between 2006-2011 in the *2011 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey*⁹.
- Currently there is no out-of school club provision in Croft Baker and Heneage wards, or day nursery provision in Waltham ward. There is no pre-school provision in Freshney, Immingham, Scartho or South wards
- Park ward has the highest availability of places (463) followed by Humberston and New Waltham (264) and Freshney ward has the lowest number of places (117) available.

⁹ Source: Department for Education, Richard Brind et al. *Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2011*, September 2012.

1.3 Special educational needs (SEN)

In addition to providing FFE availability, the headcount also gives some insight into the special educational needs of children aged two, three and four years old on roll, as summarised in Table 1.3a. Please note the Summer 2015 headcount data has been used rather than the Census data that has previously been used for this purpose due to reliability issues. Those children who live out of area or whose address is not known, have been omitted from this analysis

School action (SA) is used when there is evidence that a child is not making progress at school and there is a need for action to be taken to meet learning difficulties. School action plus (SA+) is used where SA has not been able to help the child make adequate progress. At SA+ the school will seek external advice from the LEA's support services, the local Health Authority or from Social Services¹⁰.

A Statement is a document which sets out a child's SEN and any additional help that the child should receive. The aim of the Statement is to make sure that the child gets the right support to enable them to make progress in school¹¹.

Table 1.3a: Summary of children on headcount with special educational needs: Summer 2015

Ward	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement of SEN
Croft Baker	0.3%	2.3%	0.8%
East Marsh	2.8%	0.6%	0.0%
Freshney	4.3%	2.1%	0.0%
Haverstoe	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Heneage	5.7%	1.4%	1.2%
Humberston and New Waltham	2.8%	0.0%	0.6%
Immingham	1.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Park	1.7%	1.7%	0.7%
Scartho	1.1%	0.7%	1.8%
Sidney Sussex	2.6%	0.8%	0.4%
South	3.0%	0.6%	1.2%
Waltham	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
West Marsh	3.8%	3.2%	0.3%
Wolds	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%
Yarborough	4.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Grand Total	2.7%	1.1%	0.6%

¹⁰ Source: <http://www.specialeducationalneeds.co.uk/UsefullInformation/SEN-EducationInfo/SchoolAction.html>

¹¹ Source: <http://www.specialeducationalneeds.co.uk/UsefullInformation/SEN-EducationInfo/statementofSEN.html>

- Based on the Summer 2015 Headcount, 4.4% of children were reported to be receiving some level of SEN support, 2.7% of which have been identified at the SA stage.
- At ward level, Heneage has the highest proportion of children with SEN, at 8.3%, which is less than half of the 19.1% reported in Sidney Sussex last year.
- Previously there had been a year on year proportional increase in children with a statement of SEN, rising from a reported 0.2% in NEL in Spring 2013 to 1.6% in Spring 2014.
- However this year has seen a decrease of 1%. In summer 2015 06% of children in NEL are reported as having a statement of SEN

1.4 Cost of childcare

The tables in this section detail the latest available childcare costs, taken from the FIS Tribal database. Average costs for Yorkshire & Humber and England have been taken from the 2015 Childcare Costs Survey. Local authorities were asked to provide costs for 25 hours and 50 hours of childcare, provided by nurseries or childminders. The former figure – 25 hours – is the typical amount of childcare that a parent who works part-time might purchase, or a parent in full-time employment who purchases an extra 25 hours childcare on top of the 15 free hours of early years' provision available in England. We are also asked for the average price for 15 hours childcare in an after-school club and for childminders who pick up children from school¹².

All local costs are taken from the 2014 FIS Update and have been calculated using the same methodology used by the Family and Childcare Trust, to enable a consistent comparison. Please note that where sessional or weekly costs are the only available, these values have been disaggregated into the smallest possible unit (hourly), so that it is easier to calculate a 25 or 15 hour week.

We have also included for the first time the costs for over 2's within the pre-school settings as many now offer extended hours.

¹² Source: Family and Childcare Trust, <http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/>

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Table 1.4a: Average weekly childcare costs within North East Lincolnshire, by ward, neighbourhood and compared against regional and national average: 2014/15

Ward	Day Nursery (25 hours per week)		Childminder (25 hours per week)		After School Club (15 hours per week)	Pre-schools (25 hours per week)	
	Under 2's	Over 2's	Under 2's	Over 2's		Under 2's	Over 2's
Croft Baker	£ 88.00	£ 84.00	£ 103.41	£ 103.41			£ 88.33
East Marsh	£ 103.00	£ 100.25	£ 87.50	£ 87.50			£ 86.50
Freshney	£ 115.00	£ 110.00	£ 97.32	£ 97.32	£ 37.50		
Haverstoe	£ 100.00	£ 92.50	£ 101.25	£ 101.25	£ 58.75		£ 117.50
Heneage	£ 115.00	£ 110.00	£ 95.25	£ 95.25			£ 71.50
Humberston and New Waltham	£ 87.50	£ 87.50	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 40.00		£ 73.18
Immingham	£ 107.50	£ 112.42	£ 96.43	£ 96.43	£ 72.00		
Park	£ 102.50	£ 100.83	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 49.00		£ 115.94
Scartho	£ 115.00	£ 110.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 45.00		
Sidney Sussex	£ 102.50	£ 100.00	£ 97.50	£ 97.50	£ 52.50		£ 125.00
South	£ 105.00	£ 102.50	£ 100.00	£ 100.00			
Waltham			£ 87.50	£ 87.50	£ 35.00	£ 105.50	£ 105.50
West Marsh	£ 95.00	£ 92.50	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 36.25		£ 62.50
Wolds		£ 112.50	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 34.38		£ 68.75
Yarborough	£ 106.25	£ 98.75	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 46.25		£ 70.83
North East Lincolnshire Average	£ 103.70	£ 102.01	£ 98.93	£ 98.93	£ 44.29		£ 35.00
North East Lincolnshire Lowest	£ 87.50	£ 84.00	£ 62.50	£ 62.50	£ 28.75		£ 125.00
North East Lincolnshire Highest	£ 115.00	£ 122.25	£ 162.50	£ 162.50	£ 79.50		£ 86.69
Yorkshire & Humber Average	£ 96.47	£ 92.37	£ 90.12	£ 88.83	£ 42.84		
England Average	£ 117.30	£ 111.64	£ 105.28	£ 104.15	£ 47.91		

Day Nursery

- Average weekly costs within day nurseries in North East Lincolnshire are £103.70 for under 2's and £102.01 for over 2's.
- At ward level, average weekly day nursery costs for the under 2's are highest in Freshney, Heneage and Scartho for the under 2's at £115. The costs for over 2's are highest in Immingham and Wolds at £112.50 and £112.42 respectively
- The lowest costs for under 2's can be seen in Humberston & New Waltham at £87.50 and Croft Baker for over 2's at £84.00
- When compared against the regional and national day nursery average costs, North East Lincolnshire has higher costs than Yorkshire and Humber (£96.47) yet lower than the national average of £117.30.

Childminder

- Average weekly costs for childminders in North East Lincolnshire are £98.93 for both the under and over 2's.
- Almost all North East Lincolnshire childminders make no pricing differentiation between under 2's and over 2's but choose to have a standard hourly rate for all children.
- Equivalent childminder provision is less expensive on average in most wards except Croft Baker, Haverstoe, Humberston and New Waltham and West Marsh.
- When compared against the regional and national childminder average costs, North East Lincolnshire has higher costs than Yorkshire and Humber (£90.12 /£88.83) yet lower than the national averages (£105.28 /£104.15).

After School Club

- The average weekly cost within after school clubs in North East Lincolnshire is £44.29 for a 15 hour week.
- At ward level, costs are lowest in Waltham (£35) and highest in Immingham Ward (£72.00).
- When compared against the regional and national average costs, North East Lincolnshire has higher average costs than both Yorkshire and Humber (£42.84) but lower than the national average (£47.91).

1.5 Ethnicity

Table 1.5a provides a summary of the ethnic background of children aged two, three and four years old on roll, taken from the Summer 2015 headcount. For the benefit of this analysis, the category of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) encompasses all ethnic groups that are not White British. Please note that to provide a more accurate analysis, records where ethnicity is not known or obtained have been omitted from these results, thus providing an ethnicity split for those pupils whose ethnicity is known.

Table 1.5a: Summary of children on headcount, by ethnic group: Summer 2015

Ward	White British	BME
Croft Baker	88.2%	11.8%
East Marsh	89.7%	10.3%
Freshney	95.0%	5.0%
Haverstoe	94.9%	5.1%
Heneage	89.5%	10.5%
Humberston and New Waltham	93.8%	6.2%
Immingham	95.8%	4.2%
Park	87.6%	12.4%
Scartho	90.6%	9.4%
Sidney Sussex	88.2%	11.8%
South	87.9%	12.1%
Waltham	91.9%	8.1%
West Marsh	90.5%	9.5%
Wolds	92.0%	8.0%
Yarborough	90.2%	9.8%
Grand Total	90.7%	9.3%

- From the Summer 2015 headcount, 9.3% of all pupils whose ethnicity is known are from a BME background, which is up 2.1% on the 7.2% reported in the Spring 2014 headcount.
- Data from the 2011 Census indicates that in NEL, 4.6% of the entire population is classed as BME¹³.
- There are pockets within NEL that show a higher child BME population, in particular Park (12.4%), South (12.1%), Sidney Sussex and Croft Baker (both at 11.8%).
- These figures will show variance from 2011 Census data. The variance is a direct result of increasing BME population in certain areas in NEL for families from eastern European countries plus the four year difference in reporting.

¹³ Source: North East Lincolnshire Informed, Population – Census: Ethnicity (Census 2001 and 2011), <http://www.nelincsdata.net/IAS/>

2. Demand for childcare

2.1 Occupancy

Table 2.1a details occupancy levels, or how full a setting is on a daily/weekly basis. This data was collected as part of the 2014 FIS update. Setting occupancy can vary both throughout the year, and on a weekly basis, therefore this data should be treated as a guide or snapshot of the total picture in the Local Authority as a whole.

The percentages below only reflect those providers which gave a response to the question.

Table 2.1a: Occupancy levels by percentage of responses

	under 30%	31-50%	51-70%	71-90%	91-99%	100%
Percentage of responses	8.4	6.1	21.4	35.1	23.7	5.3

- Of the settings which responded, the majority stated they were either 71-90% or 91-99% full.
- Less than 15% of settings are under 50% occupied.
- The settings stating they were under 50% occupied were either childminders or new settings. The reasons stated for the low occupancy were, lack of enquires, that they were newly registered or that demand can be very changeable.
- The settings stating they were 100% occupied were Childminders and Pre-schools
- No Holiday schemes recorded being more than 51-70% full.
- 91-99% occupancy was reported by 25% of day nurseries, 12% Childminders and 10% of pre-schools.

2.2 Vacant places

The Early Year's database, Tribal, used by FIS collects information on all childcare providers. Please note that as Tribal is not a live database, the details presented here are a snapshot and accurate as of March 2015.

Table 2.2a: Proportion of childcare settings in North East Lincolnshire that have immediate vacancies as of March 2015

Ward	Childminder	Percentage of all providers with Immediate Vacancies	Day Nursery	Percentage of all providers with Immediate Vacancies	Pre-school	Percentage of all providers with Immediate Vacancies	Out of School Club	Percentage of all providers with Immediate Vacancies
Croft Baker	7	63.6%	1	100.0%	1	50.0%		
East Marsh	1	100.0%	2	100.0%	1	50.0%	1	100.0%
Freshney	8	80.0%	1	100.0%			1	100.0%
Haverstoe	3	60.0%	1	100.0%	1	50.0%	1	100.0%
Heneage	7	70.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%		
Humberston and New Waltham	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	2	40.0%	2	66.6%
Immingham	2	28.6%	2	66.6%			1	100.0%
Park	2	66.6%	3	75.0%	1	50.0%	2	66.6%
Scartho	3	100.0%	1	100.0%			2	100.0%
Sidney Sussex	6	60.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
South	3	42.9%	3	100.0%			1	0.0%
Waltham	1	100.0%			1	100.0%	2	100.0%
West Marsh	1	33.3%	1	100.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Wolds	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	2	100.0%
Yarborough	3	75.0%	2	100.0%	1	100.0%	2	100.0%
Grand Total	51	62.2%	17	73.9%	12	57.1%	20	90.9%

Table 2.2a shows that as of March 2015, 10 out of 15 wards have at least one immediate vacancy within all available childcare settings. Overall figures for North East Lincolnshire show that pre-schools have the smallest proportion of immediate vacancies (39.39%). The other sectors have similar levels of vacancies ranging from 62.8% for Day Nurseries to 68.9% in the out of school clubs.

The proportion of immediate vacancies has dropped significantly in the last year. This could be partly due to the increase in demand for funded places for 2 year olds.

Where places were intentionally not filled reasons given typically reflected a desire to give more personalised care, or that taking older children too and from school limited capacity. The majority of providers stating they intentionally did not fill places were childminders. A selection of these comments is represented below:

- *“Prefer to keep numbers low.”*
- *“I have enough work with before and after school children.”*
- *“I am due to retire in a few months.”*

We also have some evidence to state that not all current vacancies will be at a time or day convenient to parental needs.

2.3 Waiting lists

Table 2.3a details the volume of children currently on a waiting list to attend a childcare setting within NEL, based on responses from the 2014 FIS update. Results have been analysed by age groups to ascertain if childcare for certain age groups is over-saturated within certain areas of NEL.

Table 2.3a: Ward distribution of children stated as being on a waiting list for childcare in NEL: 2014/15

Ward	Under 2	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	Overall
Croft Baker	0.0%	2.3%	2.5%	0.6%	5.4%
East Marsh	0.0%	3.4%	0.4%	0.0%	3.8%
Freshney	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Haverstoe	5.2%	9.4%	3.4%	0.6%	18.6%
Heneage	2.7%	6.5%	2.9%	0.0%	12.1%
Humberston and New Waltham	2.3%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.3%
Immingham	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Park	4.0%	4.6%	2.5%	0.0%	11.1%
Scartho	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sidney Sussex	3.8%	5.2%	1.0%	0.2%	10.2%
South	1.0%	1.5%	0.2%	0.0%	2.7%
Waltham	3.4%	4.0%	0.4%	0.0%	7.9%
West Marsh	1.5%	3.4%	1.1%	0.0%	6.1%
Wolds	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.0%	1.5%
Yarborough	2.5%	4.0%	0.6%	0.4%	7.5%
Grand Total	28.9%	53.7%	15.6%	1.8%	

Please note some parents will place their child on a waiting list for a preferred setting whilst their child is attending another setting. Some parents will also place a young child on a waiting list for a setting whilst waiting for the child to reach the age that the setting intakes.

- 522 children were stated as being on a waiting list for a childcare place, which is slightly more than the number reported last year. Of these, 340 children were on waiting lists at playgroup pre-schools, 154 at Day Nurseries and 28 at Childminding settings.
- Of the 340 children on waiting lists at pre-schools, 291 were 2 or younger.
- Haverstoe ward has the highest percentage of children on a waiting list at 18.6%
- Scartho ward settings reported no children on waiting lists, and Immingham only reported 0.6% of the overall total.
- 82.6% of children on waiting lists are 2 or under, which is consistent with Pre-School admission ages, and is likely correlated to availability of 2 and 3 year old funding, and attending settings near primary schools.

3. Appendices

3.1 Sources of information

Family Information Service,
Riverside Children's Centre,
Central Parade,
Grimsby,
DN34 4HE

North East Lincolnshire Council
www.nelincs.gov.uk

Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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