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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of childcare provision in North Lincolnshire in line with the council’s sufficiency duties. Section six of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work or train for work. In addition, local authorities must ensure sufficient childcare places for families to be able to access their early education entitlement for two, three and four year olds. The report outlines the number of childcare settings and places as well as predicted future demand for childcare. The report also considers environmental factors that will affect the demand for childcare including government policy changes.

There are 226 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire (as at 31 March 2013 (excluding school run provision)). Childcare includes day nurseries, pre-schools and playgroups, childminders, home carers, crèche facilities, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs. In addition there are 35 school/academy nurseries and 22 breakfast/after school clubs run by schools and academies. The number of Ofsted registered child carers is subject to change due to the opening and closure of businesses. In North Lincolnshire the number of Ofsted registered child carers is relatively stable, there is however a reduction in the number of childminders.

In relation to quality of childcare in North Lincolnshire, the Ofsted inspection grading is an indicator of quality. In March 2013, 69.3 per cent of childminders registered with Ofsted had a good or outstanding Ofsted grading. In relation to childcare on non-domestic premises, 58.7 per cent of the settings had a good or better Ofsted. The council works in partnership with all Ofsted registered childcare settings to promote and support continuous improvement. The council offers a quality assurance scheme ‘Steps to Quality’, 84 childcare settings have completed step one, two or three of the award.

The council’s Family Information Service works with families to identify childcare to meet their needs. A brokerage service provides additional support for families that are struggling to find appropriate childcare. Additional support to families has more often focussed on a search for after school care or childcare outside of the normal working hours (7am – 7pm).

In order to assess sufficiency the council must consider the population of children within North Lincolnshire between the ages of nought to 14 years. The total population of nought to 14 year olds was 27,675 as at March 2013. Since the last sufficiency audit in 2011, the population has increased by 2400 children. The largest increase is in the 11 – 14 year olds, there is a small decline in nought to two-year olds.

When considering the demand for childcare the report does not find any gaps in childcare for the nought to two year old age range.

All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education, commencing the term after their third birthday until they commence compulsory school at five years of age. A termly analysis of the take-up is undertaken. In
spring 2013, 94 per cent of three year olds were accessing their funded early education. An element of the sufficiency duty is to ensure that there are enough places for all children to access their entitlement. Population data has been projected up to summer 2015 alongside the number of places available. This has identified a shortage of childcare places from autumn 2014, for three and four year olds in the Scunthorpe North locality. There is also insufficient childcare in the following communities in North Lincolnshire, Barton upon Humber, Epworth, the Grange Lane area of Ashby, Keadby, Riddings and Westcliff.

From September 2013, the local authority has a duty to secure early education for eligible two-year olds. The government estimates in North Lincolnshire 396 children\(^1\) will be eligible for the funding (20 per cent of two-year olds.) To be eligible children are either looked after by the local authority or the family income is within the earnings and benefits criteria used to determine eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). In September 2013, using the free school meal checker 361 two-year olds have been allocated places in North Lincolnshire.

Further two-year olds will become eligible from September 2014, as the criteria for receipt of early education funding is widened to include families in receipt of Working Tax Credits, children with an education, health and care plan, as well as children who have been adopted. The full eligibility criteria are presented in the report.

As with three and four year olds, demand for two-year old places against actual supply has been forecast to summer 2015. This has highlighted, from September 2014, a shortage of childcare provision in the Scunthorpe North locality. There is also insufficient childcare for two year olds from September 2014 in the Grange Lane area of Ashby, Keadby, Riddings and Westcliff.

The government currently requires that childcare for two-year olds is to be delivered by good or outstanding childcare settings. Where there is insufficient, supply of childcare places satisfactory settings may deliver funded early education for two-year olds. In Scunthorpe South, there are insufficient childcare places of a good or better grading to meet demand. A local protocol enables satisfactory settings, where needed, to deliver funded early education. To date six satisfactory settings have been approved to deliver funded early education to two-year olds. Those settings that have been approved using the protocol are receiving support from the council to assist them in achieving a good or better Ofsted grading through Focused Improvement Plans. In addition, the developmental progress of two-year olds is being monitored and additional support may be provided where children are not demonstrating growth in their early learning.

The council is working in partnership with the private and voluntary sector to increase the number of places available for two, three and four year olds in the areas identified. A change in the statutory guidance for funded early education has made funding more accessible for childminders. As such, childminders in
areas of high demand have been targeted as potential new suppliers to increase the number of places available. In order to ensure there are sufficient places for September 2014 the council has plans in place to create additional childcare provision and is working with a number of private and voluntary providers to increase the supply of places via expansion of existing provision.

The sufficiency audit in 2011 identified a shortage of childcare places in the summer holidays, in particular affordable holiday care. The council has worked with providers to ensure there is a greater choice of childcare in the school holidays. Twenty-four settings offered holiday care with availability throughout North Lincolnshire, during the summer (2013). Attendance figures collated for the summer holidays demonstrates an average of nine children attending each setting daily, the majority of settings had additional capacity available. The Family Information Service did not report any unmet demand for holiday care.

There are significant changes in government policy including amendments to the benefits systems and the introduction of Universal Credit; the expansion of funded early education for two-year olds, as well as revisions to the regulation and delivery of childcare resulting from the publication ‘More Great Childcare’. Policy changes will impact upon the childcare offer in North Lincolnshire and are outlined further in this report.
1. Sufficiency Duty Requirements

1.1 Sufficiency Duty Defined

Section six of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for children up to 14 years, or until they reach the age of 18 in the case of children with a disability, to enable parents to work or train for work. In addition, local authorities must ensure sufficient childcare places for families to be able to access their early education entitlement for two, three and four year olds.

Reports assessing the sufficiency of childcare were prepared in 2008 and 2011, these are available on www.northlincs.gov.uk. This report updates the local position.

The government has introduced measures to repeal the requirement on local authorities to assess the sufficiency of childcare in their area every three years (Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 and the associated regulations.) in the Children and Families’ Bill 2013. Although repealing the measures, the Government remains committed to the availability of affordable, high quality childcare and a local assessment, but is also committed to reducing burdens on local authorities. Local authorities will retain the duties under sections six and seven of the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient childcare places. The new requirement will be an annual report that outlines the sufficiency of childcare in North Lincolnshire.

The sufficiency audit assesses the different types of childcare across the local authority and localities\(^2\). This includes the time, location, type and affordability of childcare in each of the localities. The next stage is to map supply against demand for childcare\(^3\). The local authority must then identify any gaps in provision and take reasonable actions to remove or reduce any barriers to families accessing childcare.

1.2 Definition of Childcare

For the purposes of this report the following definition of childcare is used as set out in Chapter One of the former Department for Children, Schools and Families publication Securing Sufficient Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties (2010).

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\(^2\) For the purpose of this report, North Lincolnshire is split into five localities. The localities and wards are as follows: Scunthorpe North (Crosby and Park, Frodingham and Town), Scunthorpe South (Ashby, Bottesford, Brumby, Kingsway and Lincoln Gardens), Brigg and Wolds District (Brigg, Broughton & Appleby and Ridge), Barton and District (Barton, Ferry and Burton upon Stather & Winterton) and the Isle of Axholme (North, Central and South Axholme).

\(^3\) For the purpose of this report, childcare is defined as Ofsted registered childcare offered by a childminder, pre-school, nursery, maintained school nursery, out of school club, breakfast club, holiday club and after school activities.
Childcare is defined in section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006 as ‘any form of care for a child’ including ‘education … and any other supervised activity’. The following are specifically excluded from this definition:

- education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started Key Stage 1 (thereby including nursery and reception classes);
- care provided for a child by a parent, step-parent or person with parental responsibility; or any relative; or foster parent (local authority or private); or
- care provided by a children’s home, a care home, a hospital or a residential family centre, a young offenders’ institution, a secure training centre, or a secure care home within any of those establishments.

In the Childcare Act 2006, ‘early years provision’ means childcare for all children aged from birth until the 31st August following the child’s fifth birthday and ‘later years provision’ means childcare for all children from the 1st September following the child’s fifth birthday until the child reaches 8. (see sections 20 and 96(6) of the Act).

Childcare includes some ‘supervised’ provision for under 18 year olds. This may overlap with local authorities’ duties under section 507B of the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient leisure activities for 13-19 year olds.

Local authorities should regard childcare as any provision that is regular and reliable and provides a safe place for children to be. It would not include, for example, before school or after-school activity that was unsupervised or that was provided as a one-off activity.

2. **Supply of Childcare**

Early education and childcare play a crucial role in developing our children and young people. Getting things right for children in the early years through high quality provision helps to raise children’s educational achievement. It also improves their life chances, particularly for those who are living in poverty or who face other types of disadvantage.

Without sufficient, flexible, high quality childcare; parents are unable to take up or remain in work, which impacts upon the quality of the workforce and the local economy. Helping families to achieve/maintain employment is the best way to tackle child poverty, as well as helping the local economy to grow.

2.1 **Number of Child Carers**

There are 226 Ofsted registered childcare providers in North Lincolnshire as at 31 March 2013 (excluding school run provision). These places are in the private and voluntary sector as well as two council run nurseries and a crèche. Childcare offered by the private and voluntary sector includes day nurseries,
pre-schools and playgroups, childminders⁴, crèche facilities, out of school and holiday club and home carers⁵. Further provision is offered in nursery units, breakfast and after school clubs of maintained schools and academies.

Figure one demonstrates the breakdown of childcare in North Lincolnshire at Ofsted registered providers including schools (excludes home carers, 10 in total in North Lincolnshire and a crèche offered at The Pods, leisure facility in Scunthorpe). A number of providers are duplicated due to the configuration of their services. For example, a number of pre-schools offer a breakfast, out of school club and holiday care meaning they fall into four categories.

Figure one – Number of Ofsted registered child carers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-schools</th>
<th>Nurseries</th>
<th>EEF Registered Childminders*</th>
<th>All Childminders (March 13)</th>
<th>Maintained Nurseries</th>
<th>Academy Nurseries</th>
<th>Breakfast Clubs^</th>
<th>Out of School Clubs</th>
<th>Holiday Clubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>8~</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total North Lincolnshire</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Childminders that are approved by the council to deliver funded early education
^ Includes school run provision offered using the school Ofsted registration
~ one setting does not offer funded early education to families

The number of Ofsted registered child carers is subject to change. This is due to a number of factors including new childcare businesses opening, expansion of existing businesses or closure. When considering childminders, the market is more fluid as new childminders enter the market and others decide to retire or exit for a change of career. When a childminder resigns their Ofsted registration, the Family Information Service (FIS) contacts them to determine the reason for closure. It is most common for childminders to retire or to begin working in a nursery, pre-school or school.

The childcare market in North Lincolnshire is relatively stable. There is however a reducing number of childminders. This is a continuing trend. During the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, there were the following changes to the local childcare market:

- the opening of one new nursery and an out of school club
- 16 new childminders registered
- six new homecarers registered
- one pre-school closed
- 26 childminders resigned their Ofsted registration
- one homecarer resigned their Ofsted registration

⁴ Childminders – care for up to six children in the childminders family home.
⁵ Home Carers – care for children of one family in the children’s home.
⁶ Schools do not need to register separately with Ofsted for breakfast and after school clubs. They can be run using their school Ofsted registration and are part of the school inspection.
2.2 Number of Childcare Places

The number of childcare places in North Lincolnshire has been estimated for each sector and locality; the findings are presented in figure two (i) and two (ii). In relation to childcare for nought to five year olds the highest number of places overall is available in Scunthorpe South, the population is also highest in this area. More thorough analysis of places and population is detailed later in the report with regard to two, three and four year olds and their early education entitlement.

Figure two (i) – Childcare places available in North Lincolnshire for 0 – 5 year olds by Children’s Centre locality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>0-2 year olds *</th>
<th>Number of places 2 year olds*</th>
<th>Number of places 3 year olds*</th>
<th>Ofsted registration</th>
<th>Childminders (0-5 years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number places in North Lincolnshire (inc School Nurseries)</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>2094</td>
<td>2971</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Numbers as advised by settings (Ofsted registration can be higher - not staffed to maximum numbers)

Figure two (ii) illustrates the number of places for children and young people five years and above. There are more breakfast club places than after school or holiday provision. Schools and academies (17) offer breakfast provision for pupils often at a highly subsidised cost.

The analysis does not include clubs offered by schools and academies that take place at the end of the school day. These are often run for an hour after school, for one term at a time when teachers are available. As such they are not a reliable form of childcare; however there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that working parents do use after school clubs as a form of childcare.

In relation to holiday care the highest numbers of places are available in the Brigg and Barton localities. There is a high demand for childcare from working parents in these two localities. In Messingham, Goxhill and Wrawby, the out of school clubs run to demand, sometimes opening only part of a week. The opening days are usually determined in partnership with parents.
Figure two(ii) - Childcare places available in North Lincolnshire for children and young people over 5 years of age by Children’s Centre locality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Childminders (5 - 8 years)</th>
<th>Out of School Clubs*</th>
<th>Breakfast Clubs*</th>
<th>Holiday Clubs*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no places in North Lincolnshire</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of Ofsted registered places is not available for school run provision or provision within a full day care nursery – numbers of places have been estimated at a 1:8 ratio, based on where possible take up information provided by the settings

Figure three – Percentage and number of childminder place vacancies for the period April 2012 – March 2013 in North Lincolnshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage vacant places</th>
<th>Apr-12</th>
<th>May-12</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Jul-12</th>
<th>Aug-12</th>
<th>Sep-12</th>
<th>Oct-12</th>
<th>Nov-12</th>
<th>Dec-12</th>
<th>Jan-13</th>
<th>Feb-13</th>
<th>Mar-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of place vacancies</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of places available</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The current vacancy management system operated by the FIS demonstrates fewer vacancies with childminders, a drop of six per cent during the last financial year. This could be due to an increase in demand but also the reduction in the number of childminder places available, the number of places has reduced by 33 places during the year. Childminders are to be promoted as a source of funded early education for two, three and four year olds. A recent change in the statutory guidance has made early education funding more accessible for childminders. As such, demand for places at childminders is anticipated to increase particularly in areas where there is a limited supply of childcare.

The vacancy management system is to be developed further to include other providers, with a particular emphasis on two, three and four-year old places to ensure the council is able to work with providers to meet demand for childcare places.

2.3 Quality of Childcare

2.3.1 Ofsted Gradings

Due to the importance of quality early education and its impact on the Early Years Foundation Stage results, the council monitors the quality of childcare within the area. In March 2013, 69.3 per cent (79 childminders) of the 114
Ofsted registered childminders that have an Ofsted inspection grading were judged good or outstanding. Twenty six of the childminders are registered with Ofsted but have not yet received an inspection grading. For childcare on non-domestic premises (for example - nurseries, pre-schools and out of school clubs) 58.7 per cent (44 settings) of the 75 had a good or outstanding Ofsted grading.

All childcare settings (maintained, private and voluntary sector) receive advice and guidance from the council to support them in meeting the needs of children within their setting, supporting quality improvements and statutory requirements, including the Early Years Foundation Stage. Support is prioritised using an Early Years Quality Improvement Support Tool (EYQIST). The tool provides a holistic view of the setting identifying areas of good practice and areas for development. Depending on the rating (red, amber or green), both overall and for specific areas support from the council is then available for identified providers to support improvement through a Focussed Improvement Plan.

### 2.3.2 Steps to Quality

The council offers a three step quality assurance scheme called Steps to Quality to support settings with their continuous quality improvement. All funded early education settings were contractually obliged to sign up to the scheme prior to September 2013. Figure four, demonstrates their progress through the scheme. The funded early education providers have made steady progress through the scheme with it taking a minimum of five years to achieve all steps. A correlation of the step achieved and Ofsted grading is underway, the findings will be reported in the Sufficiency Audit published in 2014.

Figure four – Childcare settings progress on the Steps to Quality assurance scheme (July 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Domestic Settings*</th>
<th>Childminders</th>
<th>Out of School Clubs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Towards</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Towards</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Towards</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excludes out of school clubs
### 2.3.2 Workforce

The Council invested in the training and development of the childcare workforce using the Graduate Leader Fund (2008-11). This has resulted in a strong legacy in the childcare workforce of staff with level four and above qualifications and staff who are working towards degrees in early years development. Research indicates that a more qualified workforce directly impacts on the quality of care and early learning received by the children in their care.

Details are collated termly of workforce qualifications for all funded early education settings; the numbers of qualified staff are presented in figure five. The funded providers in the private and voluntary sector employ 567 staff (544 excluding apprentices and students). Of these 474 were employed with qualifications at level 3 and above.

Figure five– Qualifications of staff employed in funded early education settings summer term 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification Level</th>
<th>Apprentice/Student</th>
<th>Unqualified</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Level 6</th>
<th>QTS*</th>
<th>EYPS^</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of workforce (%)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*QTS – Qualified Teacher Status
^EYPS – Early Years Professional Status

Nationally, between 2007 and 2011, the proportion of full day care staff with at least a level three qualification grew from 72 per cent to 84 per cent. The proportion of these with a degree or higher increased from four per cent to 11 per cent. In line with national trends, 87 per cent of the funded early education settings (mix of full day care and sessional care) workforce in North Lincolnshire has at least a level three qualification.

In order to register as a childminder all individuals must complete the Introduction to Home Based Childcare (IHBC); this is equivalent to an NVQ Level 2 qualification. In North Lincolnshire, this is a 15-week course run by the council. The course provides a good grounding in Ofsted requirements, safeguarding, running a business and meeting the needs of children, including their welfare needs and learning through play. The quality of the course and support offered by the council to childminders at start-up is improving the Ofsted grading of newly registered childminders.

Of the 114 Ofsted inspected childminders, 42 have completed a higher-level qualification in addition to the IHBC.

- 33 have an NVQ level three
- one has an NVQ level four
- three have Foundation Degrees
- five have Degrees (three of the five have Early Years Professional Status)

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2.3.2 Brokerage Support for Families – Family Information Service (FIS)

The council’s FIS supports parents and carers in North Lincolnshire to find high quality childcare provision for their child or children. In doing so the service also identifies any gaps in provision in specific communities.

The emphasis is on empowering parents and carers to find the right childcare provider to meet their individual needs by providing them with detailed and up-to-date information on all Ofsted registered and non-registered childcare settings in their area. The majority of childcare enquiries can be successfully dealt with through the provision of a list of childcare settings. The lists are tailored to the requirements of the family, including detailed information on each setting such as opening times, their latest Ofsted inspection date and outcome, whether or not they have current vacancies as well as their full contact details. This information is maintained and updated on an on-going basis.

However, a small number of enquiries for childcare cannot be met in this way and require childcare brokerage whereby the FIS becomes actively involved in seeking out a childcare provider or combination of providers to meet the needs of the family.

Around seven per cent of childcare enquiries to the FIS over the last twelve months have necessitated childcare brokerage. This is a slight decrease on the previous year. The improved vacancy information for childminders coupled with a decrease in demand for childcare which coincides with the wider economic down-turn have contributed to parents and carers finding it easier to find the childcare they need.

Those enquiries where brokerage has been necessary have mainly centred around out of school provision or where families require childcare outside of the normal working hours of most childcare providers (7am to 7pm). Over the past year, the FIS has successfully resolved all but one brokerage enquiry.

As a result, the brokerage service has identified that there is potentially an under-supply of childcare places in the New Holland and Barrow-upon-Humber areas, particularly for out of school provision.

There has also been a shortage of out of school childcare places in Scunthorpe especially around the town centre with several schools not being served by childcare providers able to offer a drop off and/or pick up service. There is still a gap in provision for children attending Saint Bernadette’s Catholic Voluntary Academy. The FIS continues to highlight these gaps to newly registered childminders and existing out of school clubs in order to increase capacity.

---

8 The demand in both communities is too small to warrant an out of school club. The communities are served by Out of School clubs in Barton upon Humber, where a pick up is arranged from the school and children are transported to provision in Barton. However, parents may not want their children transported out of the village. An out of school club does run at Barrow when numbers make it financially viable.
A shortage of childcare places in Haxey has been relieved by the recent registration of one new childminder but there continues to be a need to create further places.

There continues to be an over-supply of childcare places in Broughton although the gap has been narrowed following the closure of one childminding business.

3. Early Education Funding

3.1 Three and Four Years Olds

The council has a duty, under the Childcare Act 2006, to ensure that there are sufficient places for all three and four year olds to access their entitlement to 15 hours of early education per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per annum).

3.1.1 North Lincolnshire Offer

In North Lincolnshire, early education is delivered in school nurseries (35), day nurseries\(^9\) (30), pre-schools\(^10\) (30) and with registered childminders\(^11\) (13). In total, there are 108 settings and 2800 places.

Take up of funded early education places is monitored termly. Figure six, illustrates the take up of three and four year olds by term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Lincolnshire</th>
<th>Summer 12</th>
<th>Autumn 12</th>
<th>Spring 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Funded</td>
<td>% Take Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Year Olds</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>1765</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Year Olds</td>
<td>1173</td>
<td>1113</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2013)

The take up percentage is higher amongst four year olds; anecdotal evidence suggests that parents increase funded hours and take-up as children reach school age. In total of a population of 1173 (summer 2012), 60 children did not access funded early education in North Lincolnshire prior to starting a reception class in school.

All four year olds are offered a full-time school place in the autumn term of the academic year in which they turn five years of age, as per the School

\(^9\) For classification purposes a day nursery is open from 8am – 6pm daily
\(^10\) For classification purposes a pre-school is open 9am – 3pm term time only
\(^11\) Registered childminders have applied for approval to deliver funded early education under agreement with the council
Admissions Code\textsuperscript{12}. Parents can request that their place is deferred until later in the year or until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age (five years). A parent can request that their child take up the place part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Children that decide to defer their place have not been included in the autumn term; in the past, two/three families have decided not to access their place full or part-time in the maintained sector and funding has been paid for 15 hours in the private or voluntary sector as per the wishes of the family.

Figure seven, demonstrates the population of three year olds and the number of children that take up early education funding\textsuperscript{13} in Children Centre localities. The chart illustrates a higher take up of funded places in the autumn term than in the spring and summer terms. School nurseries are popular and often the first choice of parents due to the potential seamless transition into school. Many school nurseries fill all their places in the autumn term with what becomes the next cohort of children for their reception class. There may be a misconception amongst parents about where they can access their early education funding. One explanation is that they are perhaps waiting until the next school intake in the following September, prior to access the funding. Take up is monitored and where a trend is identified, measures will be taken to improve take up in the spring and summer terms.

Figure seven – Population of three year olds and the number of children taking-up of funded early education by Children’s Centre locality

There are a number of reasons for children not accessing their early education entitlement. These include:

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item School Admissions Code effective from 1 February 2012 and which applies to admissions from September 2013 in all maintained schools in England. Admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.
\item Take up is plotted against their home address rather than the setting attended.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
• Parental choice (early education is optional – research in 2010/2011 with families in North Lincolnshire found that parents preferred to care for their children themselves or it was felt that their children were not ready to attend a pre-school)
• Accessing childcare in another authority
• Accessing childcare with a childminder not registered for funded early education (as of September 2013 all childminders are now able to register to offer Early Education Funding without completing a pathway to registration – this will make funding for children in the care of childminders more accessible)
• Moved out of area (The health data from the North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group used for the analysis of take up is provided annually as such does not reflect changes to the population)
• Health Data (as above) does not include all children, some statistical data for the borders of North Lincolnshire are not included, most notably North and South Killingholme
• Not aware of the entitlement
• Children in the care of another local authority

Families can access up to 15 hours free early education each week. In the spring term 83 per cent of the children attended for the full fifteen hours. Only seven per cent attended for less than 10 hours.

Research findings from 2010 found that where children were not taking up their full entitlement this was parental choice. Parents stated that they prefer to spend time with their children or that they are building up to the 15 hours in preparation for school. In 2011, research demonstrated that a small number of parents indicated that a maximum of 12 1/2 hours over two days was a barrier to their accessing their full entitlement. The Statutory Guidance from September 2012, allowed families to access the full 15 hours over two-days. This increased flexibility for families and ensured that a parent working for two days a week was able to access the full entitlement to funding. Nurseries in North Lincolnshire usually offer the opportunity for parents to access the funded early education throughout the year, there by accessing on average 11 hours a week. This is known as stretched funding.

All funded settings offer 15 hours of early education, with the exception of one provider who offers a maximum of 14 hours due the availability of the building. In general, families are able to access sessions flexibly to meet parental demand, more flexibility is offered by the private and voluntary sector. Only one setting in Barton upon Humber has chosen not to offer funded early education places.
3.1.2 Three and Four Year Old Projections

The council has projected the number of three and four year olds eligible to access early education funding to summer 2015. The predictions are based on the number of hours available rather than places as this provides a clearer indication of supply and demand. The number of hour’s available and projected demand is presented in figure eight (green – sufficient number of hours available, red – insufficient places based on projected population and demand for hours).

Figure eight – Projected demand for early education funding up to summer 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>No of hours available (3yr olds)</th>
<th>3 year olds (2013/14)</th>
<th>3 year olds (2014/15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>8395</td>
<td>5310</td>
<td>7305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Good or Better</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>24475</td>
<td>10770</td>
<td>14610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Good or Better</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>11110</td>
<td>4095</td>
<td>5355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Good or Better</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>13420</td>
<td>4290</td>
<td>5925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Good or Better</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>8374</td>
<td>3075</td>
<td>3990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Good or Better</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2013)

Overall there is a shortage of hours in Scunthorpe North from summer 2014 onwards. A large new provider has opened in the area recently. This will increase the number of places and reduce the sufficiency gap.

There are also specific communities in which there is a shortage of childcare, from September 2014 onwards. The sufficiency of the current number of places is impacted due to the increase in two-year old funding and the demand for two-year old places. There is insufficient childcare for three year olds in the Grange Lane area of Ashby, Keadby, Epworth and Barton. The council is working to increase the number of places available with childminders as well as with potential new and expanding businesses in the areas identified to ensure that there is sufficient demand to meet need in 2014.

3.2 Two-Year Old Funding

3.2.1 Pilot Initiative

The government has since 2009 been piloting an initiative to provide ten hours free early education for disadvantaged two-year olds. To qualify families met a locally determined criteria and were referred to a panel by Health Visitors.
and/or Family Workers at Children’s Centres. Families have been encouraged to stretch their funding over a year accessing seven and a half hours per week.

The numbers of families accessing the funding has steadily increased over the pilot period from 55 children in 2009 to up to 153 children, summer term 2013. This has enabled the council to work in partnership with the childcare sector to develop practice in caring for two-year olds and put in place processes and smooth transition for children. Figure nine, illustrates take-up by Children’s Centre locality.

Since September 2009, 407 children and families have benefitted from the funding. The council is developing methods to track a sample of the children to determine the effects of early education upon the children by the end of the foundation stage at school.

Figure nine – Number of places available and take-up of two-year old funding September 2011 – June 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of places by Children’s Centre locality</th>
<th>Sep-11</th>
<th>Dec-11</th>
<th>Mar-12</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Sep-12</th>
<th>Dec-12</th>
<th>Mar-13</th>
<th>Jun-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Places Available</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of places taken-up in North Lincolnshire</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashby</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottesford</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frodingham</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Goslings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor Farm</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Axholme</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Axholme</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Street</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westcliff</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of County Placement*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two children access childcare at settings out of county; families were already accessing places prior to funding being approved
3.2.2 Eligibility September 2013

From September 2013, local authorities have a duty to secure early education for eligible two-year olds. The government estimates in North Lincolnshire 396 children\textsuperscript{14} will be eligible for the funding (20 per cent of two-year olds.) Children that meet the criteria will become eligible the school term after their second birthday.

To be eligible children will be either looked after by the local authority or the family income is within the earnings and benefits criteria used to determine eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM).

In England, children are eligible to receive FSM\textsuperscript{15} if their parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' 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, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

In September 2013\textsuperscript{16}, using the free school meal checker 361 two-year olds have been allocated places in North Lincolnshire, figure ten highlights the localities in which they live. Five families have declined their place as they feel currently their children are not ready to start attending early education.

Not all children allocated a place have commenced at a pre-school or nursery. The majority of pre-schools closed during the summer holidays this meant that families were unable to secure a place for their child until they reopened in September. However, with the start of the new term the numbers of applications has increased and children attending settings is increasing.

\textsuperscript{14} The Department for Education estimates 396 children with a variance +/-80 children
\textsuperscript{15} The Department for Work and Pensions’ Welfare Reform Act plans to bring in a universal credit (UC), to be phased in between 2013 and 2017, to replace many current in-work and out-of-work benefits with a single payment. This will result in the removal of current income thresholds.

Universal credit is intended to be a simpler and fairer way of determining entitlement to benefit. It will mean that the current criteria for identifying children's entitlement for free school meals will no longer exist.

The Department for Education aims to ensure that, as universal credit is introduced from April 2013, the FSM eligibility criteria are fair, simple and easily integrated into the existing FSM administrative and delivery systems, and that the changes, as far as realistically possible, are cost neutral.

\textsuperscript{16} Figures as at 18/9/2013. Number of places allocated and actual take-up increases weekly.
Children’s Centres will contact families to support them in finding a suitable place for their child where an offer of a place has not been taken up within a four week period.

Figure ten – Places allocated for two-year old early education funding September 2013 by Children’s Centre

3.2.3 Eligibility September 2014

More children will become eligible from September 2014; the Government has proposed that 40 per cent of two-year olds should become eligible. The impact locally will be that approximately 1000 children will become eligible in North Lincolnshire.

Eligibility Criteria September 2014:
- Free school meals criteria
- if their families receive Working Tax credits and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190 per year
- if they have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care plan
- if they attract Disability Living Allowance
- if they are looked after by their local authority
- if they have left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order

Research demonstrates consistently that high quality early education brings benefits to children’s development. The Government currently requires, as far as possible, early education for two-year olds to be delivered by childcare settings that have achieved an overall grading of outstanding or good in their
most recent Ofsted inspection report. The Government has consulted (April/May 2013) to determine if this requirement should be compulsory for all settings with two-year olds attending.

3.2.4 Preparations for Implementation 2013/2014

The council has projected numbers of two-year olds to determine demand and areas of insufficient places (numbers and quality places) up to summer 2015, using North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group population data. Research with providers has also determined the number of places available, their ability and willingness to expand and for childminders their qualifications and willingness to deliver funded early education under contract with the council.

The methodology used to determine take-up from September 2013 was an analysis of actual take up of FSM in North Lincolnshire schools with projections based on a typical academic year. To estimate take up in September 2014 the 30 per cent most economically disadvantaged households from the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) were used, projecting an estimated 700 children (40 per cent of the two-year old population). The Government has now published the criteria for September 2014 and these estimates will be reviewed to determine their alignment to the IADCI. The Government is also expected to publish the projected number of places for September 2014 in the autumn term 2013. As with three and four year olds, the number of hours available is presented alongside estimated demand for hours (green – indicates areas of sufficient childcare supply, red – indicates insufficient supply of childcare to meet projected demand). The number of hour’s available and estimated number of hours required by locality is demonstrated in figure 11.

Figure 11: Estimated take up of two-year old funding by hours in North Lincolnshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total No Hours in Locality</th>
<th>No of hours available (2 year olds)</th>
<th>Number of Hours required for 2 year olds (2013)</th>
<th>Estimated Number of hours required for 2 year olds (2014/15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>2590</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Places at Good or Better</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>7240</td>
<td>2550</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Places at Good or Better</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg</td>
<td>2680</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Places at Good or Better</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>4080</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Places at Good or Better</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Places at Good or Better</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A number of assumptions have been made within the analysis:
- The take-up of free school meals in schools is reflective of the take-up of the two-year old funding offer
• Hours for two-year olds are included at full-day care settings and pre-schools where they have indicated a specific allocation of places for two-year olds only. A number of pre-schools identify only the total number of places for all children and do not break these down into age groups, allowing them to be flexible to meet the needs of their communities. As such there are additional places at pre-schools which have not been estimated in these numbers. In addition, only those childminders currently registered to deliver funded early education have been included. There is an opportunity to work with childminders to increase the number of places available to families.

• Estimates do not include any take-up of paid for childcare by parents. In consultation with providers, it is known that 570 two-year olds attended childcare provision (summer 2012) for a varying number of hours per week.

• Hours calculated are between the hours of 9am – 5pm; full day care settings operating outside of these hours are not staffed to offer the number of places quoted outside of these times.

The analysis indicated sufficient supply of childcare places to meet demand for phase one of the roll out of two-year old funding in 2013/14 in all areas of North Lincolnshire. However, some children will access their free early education in satisfactory providers, in particular in Scunthorpe South where there is a higher incidence of Ofsted graded satisfactory childcare providers. In other areas, there is a choice of good or better places for parents. The council prioritise support to settings with a satisfactory Ofsted grading and through a Focused Improvement Plan assist the settings with continuous improvement working towards a good Ofsted grading.

The statutory guidance concerning early education for two, three and four year olds states that local authorities should fund early learning places for two-year olds in any childcare setting that has an Ofsted grading of good or outstanding. Settings with an Ofsted grading of satisfactory or requires improvement should only be funded in areas where there is not sufficient good or outstanding provision.

A local protocol is in place to determine satisfactory settings that may offer funded early education for two-year olds. Currently (September 2013), seven childcare settings that are satisfactory have been approved to deliver funded early education to two-year olds, due to a lack of places to meet anticipated demand. This is reviewed termly. All parents of eligible children receive details of settings approved to access their early education. The council support childcare settings to achieve a good or better Ofsted grading through support and advice. Each term settings have a Focused Improvement Plan to improve one to two elements of their provision in turn impacting upon continuous quality improvements.

Initial analysis of places allocated against estimated demand for September 2013 does indicate projections were on par with actual demand. Further analysis is on-going.
The analysis of potential demand for September 2014 highlights a shortage of places in Scunthorpe North. In addition in other localities, whilst there is sufficient supply of places overall there are specific communities in which there are insufficient places to meet anticipated demand, these are the Grange Lane area of Ashby, Keadby, Riddings and Westcliff. In order to ensure there are sufficient places for September 2014 the council has plans in place to create additional childcare provision and is working with a number of private and voluntary providers to increase the supply of places via expansion of existing provision.

Key Support for Settings

The council has been working closely with settings to assist in preparations for increasing numbers of two-year olds.

- Development training has been provided to settings focusing on birth to two-years of age. This included children’s development, appropriate environments, meeting the needs of younger children and resources.
- A training programme developed and implemented in relation to two-year old progress checks (all full day and sessional day care settings have accessed this training). This training is on-going and evolving (in partnership with settings) as practitioners become more competent in completing the progress checks.
- All settings have been supplied with a template for two-year old progress checks; this was developed locally in partnership with Health colleagues.

This is in addition to the ‘Every Child a Talker’ initiative that has been successfully embedded in private, voluntary and maintained settings in North Lincolnshire. As well as the Imagination Library initiative being rolled out across North Lincolnshire; to support early language and communication skills. The Imagination Library was founded in 1996 by Dolly Parton to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee (USA). The aim was to encourage a love for reading among pre-school children and their families and to generate an excitement about books. The programme promoted parental engagement in a child’s early learning experiences, encouraged reading to a child early and often, and promoted the use of library services.

3.3 School Holiday Care

In the last childcare sufficiency audit in 2011, parents expressed concerns about the lack of childcare places available in the summer holidays. In addition, parents expressed concerns about the costs of holiday childcare in particular childminders who were charging on average £30 per day. Since

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17 Every Child a Talker (ECaT) was a national project to develop the language and communication of children from birth to five years of age. The project was set up after concern about the high levels of ‘language impoverishment’ in the UK, and how this affects children’s progress in school and chances in life.
2011, the council has worked with settings to ensure that there is a choice of childcare provision in the largest communities of North Lincolnshire.

During the summer 2013, there were 24 settings offering holiday childcare to children of school age (four plus years). Nine of the settings offering holiday care in Scunthorpe, three in Barton upon Humber and the remainder (12) were in the towns and rural communities of North Lincolnshire. Numbers of children attending the settings varied from just one or two children a day (at full day care nurseries) to 25 at one setting. The majority of settings had between eight to ten children per day. In relation to costs, the average price per day was £25; however prices ranged from £18 to £40 per day. In addition to holiday clubs, childminders also offered holiday care. Attendance figures collated for the summer holidays demonstrate an average of nine children attending each setting daily, the majority of settings had additional capacity available should there have been a greater demand from parents. The Family Information Service did not report any unmet demand for holiday care.

A holiday play scheme specifically for children and young people with a disability is offered during the summer and Easter holidays funded by the council. All Ofsted registered childcare offers inclusive practice and welcomes children with disabilities to attend. Additional support is provided to childcare settings and schools to meet the needs of some children to assist settings with any additional costs incurred through caring for the child or children. Parents of children with disabilities are encouraged to access childcare. In previous research with families in North Lincolnshire during 2010/2011 it was found that childcare was accessed primarily for respite purposes.

In addition to childcare offered by Ofsted registered providers a number of other organisations offered activities for children and young people in the summer holidays, these included:

- Scunthorpe United Football in the Community – football sessions 10am – 3pm
- Grange Park Messingham – Sports and Games 9am – 4pm
- Epworth Leisure Centre – some activity sessions 10am – 3pm

These too are used as a form of childcare for working parents in the area with prices ranging from £10 to £20 per day.

3.4 Childcare for Older Children

The sufficiency audit in 2011 highlighted a small demand for out of school and holiday care for young people over the age of 10 years.

3.4.1 After School Care

A number of out of school clubs do offer care to young people, this is usually as children move to secondary schools to assist them with the transition, often for the first few weeks of term. This is quite popular with parents and young people as they gain the confidence to go home alone.
Young people of secondary age expressed the need for activity-based sessions. Schools provide a termly programme of varied activities for their pupils. In addition, the council in partnership with the voluntary sector; provide a number of activities throughout North Lincolnshire, including Positive Activities, Street Beat, On-Target and Street Sport. These include sports, arts and chill sessions. A new portal www.Yap-Yapp.com has been launched to support young people in finding activities in their area.

3.4.2 School Holidays

During the summer holidays activities for young people included The Buzz Arts festival, an ‘Apprentice Style’ challenge offered by Study Parks, Woodcrafts and skills at Waters Edge Country Park as well as a girls fitness camp and a boys survival camp. Activities for young people with a disability were also offered by Scunthorpe United Disability Club.

Further analysis of the youth offer is underway and will be reported in the Sufficiency Audit 2014.

4. Population Data

According to the 2011 Census, there are an estimated 167,400 people living in North Lincolnshire. This represents a 9.5 per cent growth since 2001 and is significantly higher than the 2010 mid-year estimate of 161,300 published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in 2011.

4.1 Children and Young People Population

The total number of children and young people in North Lincolnshire has increased by almost 2400 children since the audit published in 2011. The numbers of children in all age groupings have increased as demonstrated by Figure 12 with the largest increase in 11 – 14 year olds. The only exception is the nought to two-year olds in which there is a slight reduction of almost 150 children.

Figure 12 – Population 0 – 14 year olds in North Lincolnshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>0 - 2 years</th>
<th>3 - 4 years</th>
<th>5 - 7 years</th>
<th>8 - 10 years</th>
<th>11 - 14 years</th>
<th>Total number of children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton &amp; District</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>4791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigg &amp; District</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1223</td>
<td>4292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>3406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe North</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1271</td>
<td>5295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scunthorpe South</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>1419</td>
<td>2116</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>2344</td>
<td>9891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>5566</td>
<td>3812</td>
<td>5799</td>
<td>5365</td>
<td>7133</td>
<td>27675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population data source North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (March 2013)
4.2 Ethnicity

The resident population by ethnic group is presented in figure 13 for the total population and for 0 – 14 year olds as in March 2011. The ethnicity of children accessing funded early education in the spring term 2013 is presented alongside the population data from the Census 2011. Children of all ethnic minorities are attending childcare settings in North Lincolnshire, data is collected only for funded two, three and four year olds.

Figure 13 – Resident population by ethnic group for the total population and 0 – 14 year olds & take up of funded early education by ethnic groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>All categories: Ethnic group</th>
<th>White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</th>
<th>Irish</th>
<th>Gypsy or Irish Traveller</th>
<th>Other White *</th>
<th>White and Black Caribbean</th>
<th>White and Black African</th>
<th>White and Asian</th>
<th>Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>Pakistani</th>
<th>Bangladeshi</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Other Asian</th>
<th>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total</th>
<th>Other ethnic group : Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>167,446</td>
<td>154,526</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>5,405</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>1,122</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4 years</td>
<td>10,282</td>
<td>8,968</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 7 years</td>
<td>5,782</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 9 years</td>
<td>3,595</td>
<td>3,253</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 years</td>
<td>9,550</td>
<td>8,740</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Source - ONS Census 2011

Ethnicity of 3 & 4 year old funded children (Spring 2013) | 3561^ | 2792 | 0 | 6 | 108* | 6 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 6

*White Eastern European - 9, White European - 42, Other White – 57
^Children attending both a maintained nursery and private or voluntary provider are double counted in the 3 & 4 year old statistics
556 families did not disclose their ethnic origin
5. Affordability of Childcare

5.1 Cost of Childcare

In North Lincolnshire the cost of childcare varies dependent upon the type of childcare and the age of the child being cared for.

A guide to prices is as follows:

- Childminders £3 - £4.50 per hour
- Pre-schools £7.50 - £9.00 per three hour session
- Nurseries (full days) £30 - £40 per day
- Out of school clubs £8 - £9 per evening session
- Holiday Clubs £18 - £40 per day

Prices vary throughout North Lincolnshire with the cost of childcare being more expensive in the Isle of Axholme area. An update of childcare fees is underway and this will be analysed and reported further in the Sufficiency Audit 2014.

5.2 Employment

In North Lincolnshire four per cent of households (2761 total number) with dependent children have no parent in employment. The unemployment rate for North Lincolnshire in September 2013 was 3.8 per cent. This is the lowest level for almost five years and means that the number of people of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance\(^\text{18}\) in the region was 4,014.

Six per cent of the 70,684 households are occupied by lone parents. Lone parents employment status is illustrated in figure 14. Lone parents with children over the age of five years, as part of the Lone Parent Obligations, are no longer entitled to receive Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent\(^\text{19}\). There is an expectation that parents will actively seek employment.

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\(^{18}\) Statistics source Office of National Statistics (August 2013)

\(^{19}\) Parent Obligations (LPO) changes, from November 2008 lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer entitled to receive Income Support (IS) solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. Since then, from October 2010, the age of the youngest child has been reduced to seven and over, and the coalition government announced in the June 2010 Emergency Budget that, subject to passage of the Welfare Reform Bill 2011, these obligations would be extended to lone parents with a youngest child aged five and over from 2012. Lone parents who are no longer eligible for IS have been able to move to other benefits as appropriate, including Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA). The JSA regime has been amended to include flexibilities for lone parents, for example, in the hours of work they are required to seek.
When considering hours worked and eligibility for Working Tax Credits both parents must work in excess of 16 hours per week to be eligible. Figure 15 demonstrates hours worked. Only 9.1 per cent of the resident population between the ages of 16 and 74 years are working less than 15 hours per week. Families where both parents (or lone parent) are in employment are eligible for 70 per cent of their childcare costs to be met through the childcare element of Working Tax Credits. The government proposes to increase this to 85 per cent of childcare costs for parents paying income tax.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Hours Worked Per Week</th>
<th>Population/Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 in Employment</td>
<td>78101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time; 15 Hours or Less Worked</td>
<td>7073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time; 16 to 30 Hours Worked</td>
<td>15950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time; 31 to 48 Hours Worked</td>
<td>44769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time; 49 or More Hours Worked</td>
<td>10309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source – ONS Census March 2011

**5.2 Support for Families**

There is assistance available to support families with the cost of childcare. Work has been undertaken to promote two, three and four year old funding in the period since the last Sufficiency Audit (2011). Children’s Centres are playing a pivotal role in supporting the extension of two-year old funding by contacting potentially eligible families to support them with applications and further to assist them in finding quality childcare to meet their individual family circumstances. Further promotional and one-to-one work is required to ensure parents understand the benefits of childcare for their child and what support is available to assist them in meeting the costs. As well as the options available to them, there is some anecdotal evidence that parents believe early education is best delivered in a school environment.
5.2.1 Free Childcare

All three and four year olds are entitled to fifteen hours a week free early education (during term time) commencing the term after their third birthday until compulsory school age. This equates to 570 hours per annum. Working families can stretch the entitlement allowing them to access free childcare for fewer hours but throughout the year.

From September 2013, 20 per cent of all two-year olds will be eligible for 15 hours free early education and this will increase to 40 per cent of all two-year olds from September 2014.

5.2.2 Tax Credits and Universal Credit

Depending on their income, parents working 16 hours or more a week receive up to 70 per cent of the cost of childcare; up to a maximum of £175 a week for one child and £300 a week for two or more children. The government is proposing to extend this offer to those families working fewer than 16 hours per week and to increase support to 85 per cent of childcare costs for parents where income tax is paid. Credits can only be used with Ofsted registered childcare settings.

5.2.3 Employer Supported Childcare

Parents can claim relief on tax and National Insurance Contributions on the cost of childcare, using childcare vouchers or workplace nurseries provided through their employers. Parents can benefit from up to £933 a year for one child and £1866 for two or more children through the scheme. It is proposed to phase out employer supported childcare due to the limited number of employers that offer the facility (only 5 per cent of employers nationally offer vouchers). Vouchers can only be used at Ofsted registered childcare settings. The largest employer, North Lincolnshire Council, offer childcare vouchers to their employees. Vouchers are popular with childcare settings as they are a guarantee of income from parents.

5.2.4 Care to Learn

Parents in education and training can access the Care to Learn funding. Parents (under 20 years of age) are eligible for £160 childcare per week when studying at school, at a sixth-form College or Further Education College.

5.2.5 Flexible Working Practices

The right to request flexible working was first introduced in April 2003 for parents of children under six years old, or under 18 if the child has a disability. The right was extended to certain carers in 2007 and further extended to parents of all children under 17 in 2009. Employers are obliged to consider all requests in a reasonable manner. Employers were consulted on their views of childcare and support of flexible working practices for the sufficiency audit in 2011. Employers did demonstrate improved recording of childcare needs,
requirements and absenteeism due to childcare problems. A greater number of employers have a member of staff responsible for supporting their employees in finding childcare to support their return to/entry to work. Examples were provided of how childcare had affected their employees, including lack of childcare, inflexible childcare and the cost of childcare. Almost six hundred employers had approached their employer or been provided with information by their employer in relation to finding childcare to assist them in entering or returning to work. Seventeen of the employers offered flexible working and 33 offered leave for parents. The majority did not offer any further benefits to employees. Four per cent of 2300 businesses responded to the questionnaire and telephone interviews.

6. **Government Policy and its Impact on Childcare**

There are significant changes in Government Policy including amendments to the benefits system and the introduction of Universal Credit. The expansion of funded early education for disadvantaged two-year olds as well as revisions resulting from the Elizabeth Truss report ‘More Great Childcare’ (published spring 2013).

6.1 ‘More Great Childcare’

The reforms outlined in ‘More Greater Childcare’ set out how the coalition government aims to ensure a system that delivers childcare of a high quality at good value for children, parents and the tax-payer. The report is the Government’s response to the report published in summer 2012 by Professor Cathy Nutbrown. The report was a review of qualifications for the early education and childcare workforce. ‘More Great Childcare’ has lead to a high number of consultations concerning potential legislative reforms from the Department for Education.

Key proposals for change include:

- **Early Years Teachers** - It is proposed to introduce Early Years Teachers, who will specialise in early childhood and development and meet the same entry requirements and pass the same skills test as trainee school teachers. The first will commence their training in September 2013.

- **Early Years Educators** - In future, the early year’s workforce at level 3 will become Early Years Educators. All Early Years Educators will be required to have at least a level C grade in GCSE Maths and English. The Early Years Educator qualification will be introduced from September 2014.

- **Improving the Regulatory Regime** - Ofsted inspection regime will be focussed more on quality rather than process and provide parents with assessments in which they can have confidence. Weaker providers will be inspected more frequently.

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20 Foundations for Quality – the independent review of early education and childcare qualifications: Final Report (June 2012)
21 At least a C grade in English, maths and science at GCSE.
• Childminder agencies are proposed. These will relieve some of the burden on childminders in setting up their own business, provide training and match childminders with parents. The childminder agency will be inspected by Ofsted, along with a sample of the childminders registered with the agency. Childminders who do not join an agency will continue to be inspected individually.

• The Regulation of Childcare – To streamline the Ofsted registration process and simplify requirements, with a single set of measures to ensure children’s safety. Schools will be free to take younger children without the current requirement to register separately with Ofsted and undertake a cumbersome statutory process to lower the age range of the school.

6.2 Proposed Tax Free Childcare

The Government proposes to amend tax credits and employer supported childcare in an effort to make support with the cost of childcare more accessible for families. A consultation concerning the proposals ends in October 2013, with the changes being phased in from autumn 2015.

It is proposed to support families with 20 per cent of their childcare costs to a limit of £1200 per child each year. Initially all children under five will be eligible. Scheme eligibility will then increase by one year, each year until all children under 12 are eligible. Families of children with a disability will continue to be able to claim until September following their 16th birthday.

The support will be available to all families where both (or one parent – single parent families) are in work. Earnings must be less then £150,000 per annum for each parent. The scheme will also be available to the self-employed. Those families in receipt of tax credits or Universal Credit will not be eligible. They will continue to receive 70 per cent of their childcare costs paid by the government and for those families where parents pay income tax this will increase to 85 per cent from April 2016.

6.3 Flexible Working Practices

In the Children and Families Bill 2013, the statutory procedure concerning flexible working practices will be repealed and replaced by a duty to consider requests in a reasonable manner. The right to request will be extended to all employees who have worked for their employer for 26 weeks or more whatever their reason for asking. The new extended right will continue to require employers to judge requests on whether it can be accommodated on business grounds.

22 The age eligibility cut off will be aligned with the school year – meaning that once the scheme has been fully phased in eligibility will end in the September following the child’s 11th birthday.