

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Children and Education
Scrutiny Panel

EARLY YEARS PROVISION IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To notify members of the current position related to Ofsted inspection outcomes for early years and childcare providers in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To advise members of support, advice and guidance offered to the early years and childcare sector by the early years function.
- 1.3 To share provisional early years outcome data for children who completed the Early Years Foundation Stage in school during the summer term 2022.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Best Start Plan continues to drive partnership working across North Lincolnshire to improve outcomes for children in the early years. There is a commitment to enabling children and their families to be resilient and to stay in their families, to access excellent early education in local flourishing communities. The early years sector is committed to the Best Start Plan to improve outcomes for children in their Early Years, including children's readiness to start school, closing the learning gap between the most and least advantaged and increasing children's communication and language skills. Schools and settings, maternity services, family support, and the 0-19 team work closely in partnership with the LA to ensure children are known and assessed early, identifying more vulnerable families from pre-birth onwards, coordinating help when required.
- 2.2 The Council has a statutory duty to provide advice, support, and guidance to the early years sector to improve the quality of their early education and promote high quality provision. The guidance provided should relate to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum,

meeting the needs of vulnerable children and effective safeguarding of children. It should be noted that whilst the council provide challenge and support to settings, they are either privately owned or run by voluntary committees and we have no regulatory powers to enable us to enforce change within setting. Instead, we rely upon trust and respect and partnerships built over many years of supporting the sector in North Lincolnshire.

- 2.2 In North Lincolnshire we have 146 early years and childcare settings registered with Ofsted including Nurseries, Pre-schools, childminders, and home carers working in the child's family home. Each setting receives a bespoke offer of challenge and support, there is a graduated approach to the offer to all settings with a focus on vulnerable settings and on settings with higher numbers of children below age related expectations at the integrated two-year old check. In addition, there are frequent best practice meetings in relation to Safeguarding, children with special educational needs and disabilities and network opportunities. Alongside this, there is a robust and well-planned approach to workforce development which all settings can access, this includes speech, language, and communication training, safeguarding, pedagogy and child development, Solihull attachment and CACHE training.
- 2.3 The graduated approach is formally reviewed termly and where there are concerns identified the offer includes a clear action plan with key milestones. Concerns related to the welfare requirements in the EYFS or safeguarding of children are closely monitored.

3. Ofsted Inspections

- 3.1 Ofsted have a focus on the early years in their current five-year strategy. The strategy focusses on improving the earliest years of education to help support children's recovery after the Covid-19 lockdowns. The strategy recognises the serious impact of the pandemic on children's learning, particularly speech and language skills and social and emotional development. Inspectors have received specialist training on early years education to enhance their understanding of what high-quality early education looks like.
- 3.2 North Lincolnshire position

The Ofsted inspection outcomes for settings in the private and voluntary sector in North Lincolnshire is currently as follows:

- 98% of childminders are good or better, 11% outstanding
- 96% of non-domestic care are good or better, 24% outstanding

In the last academic year, there have been 30 inspections of early years settings (13 childminders and 17 non-domestic care), 90% received a good or better Ofsted inspection outcome.

Setting Type	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement (RI)	Inadequate	Other
Childminders	3	7	1	1	1 inadequate (resigned)
Non-domestic childcare					
Nurseries and pre-schools	5	9	0	2	2x suspensions
Out of school club*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Met x1

*Ofsted outcomes, no grades awarded met or not-met only

- 3.3 The LA are currently providing challenge and support to three inadequate (one was suspended also), one Requires Improvement plus one additional setting that was suspended during the summer term; but has now reopened. Settings that receive a less than good Ofsted inspection outcome or are suspended become providers of concern and have a timely action plan, with frequent support, often weekly. Their progress is regularly monitored and reported.
- 3.4 In instances where settings have received a less than good Ofsted inspection outcome, intensive support and challenge has ensured progress at next inspection. Most recently two settings that were judged RI in 2020 both achieved a good outcome at their next inspection.

3. Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Results

- 3.1 The first measurement of children's progress is at the end of the foundation stage in school, where they are assessed by their teacher against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP). Provisional results for North Lincolnshire indicate that children are as likely to attain a Good Level of Development (GLD) as their peers nationally.
- The percentage of children provisionally attaining a GLD at the end of the reception year was 65.3%. This is in line with the national average of 65.2% and slightly above the regional average for Yorkshire and Humber of 64.4%
 - The percentage of children eligible for free school meals provisionally attaining GLD was 48%, which is slightly below the national average (49%). The local attainment gap for children eligible for FSMs was 22% compared to 20.5% nationally.
 - The figure for boys provisionally attaining a GLD (58.7%) and the difference between the attainment of boys and girls (13.5%) is in line with the national figure (13.3%).
 - 37.8% of children in North Lincolnshire receiving Special Educational Needs and Disability support provisionally attained a GLD. This is higher than children nationally (23%) and regionally

(21.5%) although children with an Education Health and Care plan do less well locally (0%) compared to national (3.7%) and regional (3.8%) figures.

As this is the first year of the revised EYFS assessment following the 2021 review of the EYFS and EYFS profile, there is no data available from previous years to offer comparison.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Early Years function lead on the review of childcare sufficiency members may review the Childcare Sufficiency Audit annually to be assured of arrangements to meet the Council Sufficiency Duties related to the supply, demand and quality of early years and childcare places.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 None for information only.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 None, for information only.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 None, for information only.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 *To receive the annual Childcare Sufficiency Audit of local arrangements to be assured of arrangements to meet the Council Sufficiency Duties related to the supply, demand and quality of early years and childcare places.*

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Post Code
Author: Jemima Flintoff
Date: 19 September 2022

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Early education and childcare Statutory guidance for local authorities