

# **Module 9**

## **Service Utilisation: Children's Services**

# Content Overview

## 9.1 Children Looked After

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- CYP with unresolved immigration status
  - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
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- Refugees

## 9.12 CYP at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home or outside of mainstream education

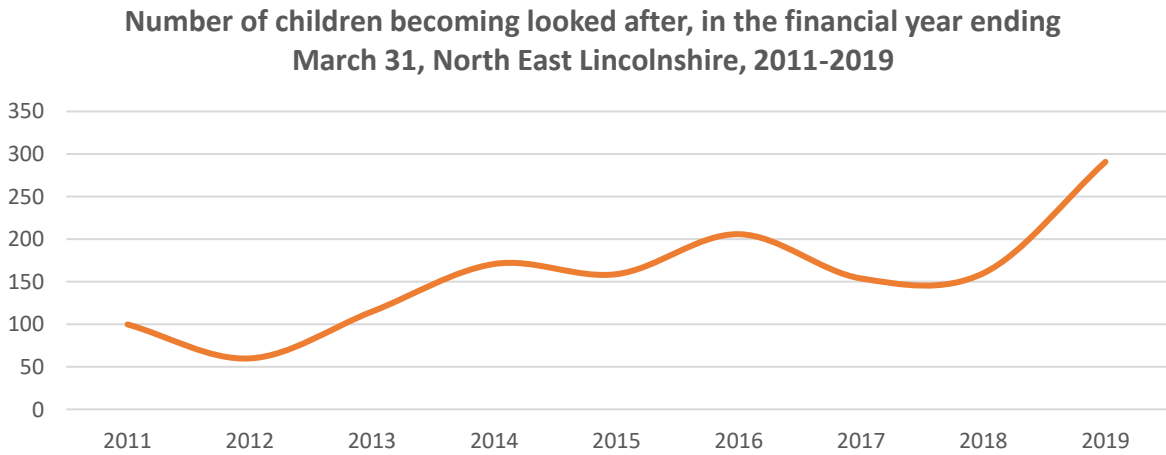
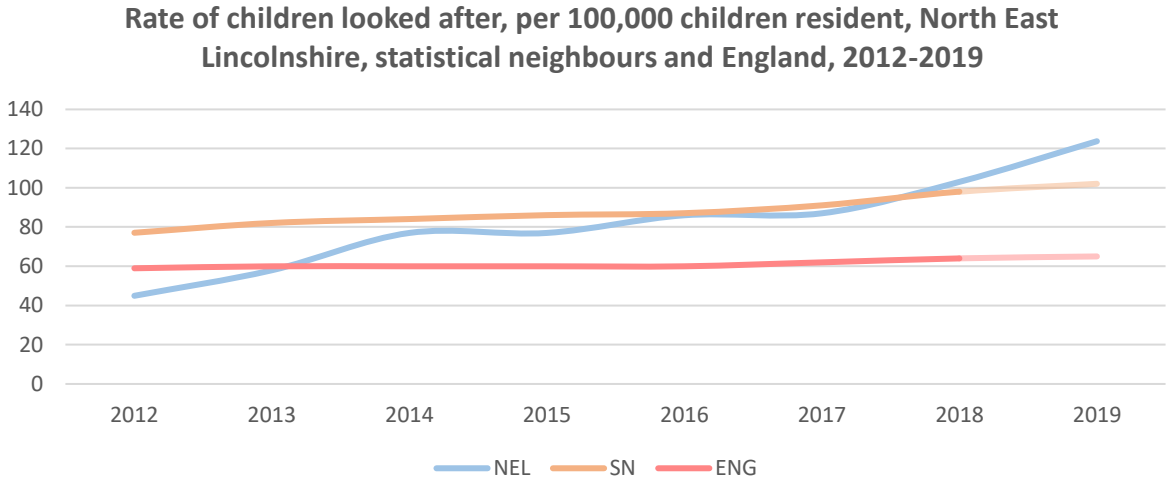
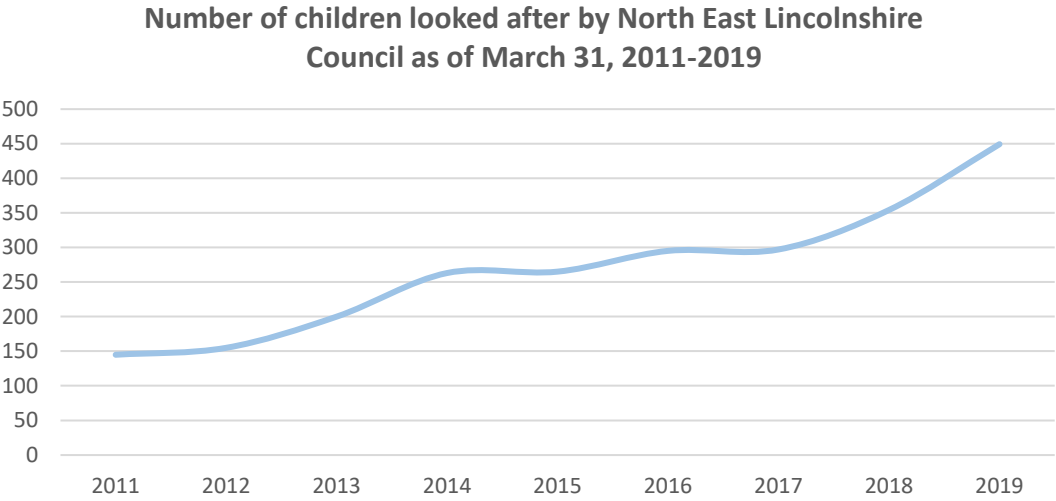
- CYP outside mainstream education
  - CYP excluded
  - CYP in alternative provision or Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)
  - CYP receiving elective home education
  - CYP missing from mainstream education
- CYP not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- Young People involved with the criminal justice system
- CYP involved in gangs

## 9.13 Suggested areas of future focus

## 9.1 Children Looked After

- The number of children looked after (CLA) by the local authority has grown year-on-year since 2011, rising to **449** by March 31, 2019.
- Similar rises have been seen in many other LAs and nationally overall CLA numbers have markedly increased.
- **NEL had the highest proportional increase** in the number of children in care **of any local authority in England, between 2011 and 2018.**
- When looking at rates of CLA since 2012:
  - Up until 2018, NEL CLA rates were below comparable rates for statistical neighbours.
  - When looking at the trends in CLA rates in NEL, these are much steeper in NEL compared to national or statistical neighbour trends where only moderate rises have been observed. This may partly be explained by factors associated with variations in policy or practices (including court practices) between NEL and statistical neighbours. It may also point to issues around service effectiveness at lower thresholds of need.
- It is interesting to note that in 2012, CLA rates in NEL were considerable below rates seen in statistical neighbours and also below national figures. The scale of the difference between NEL and statistical neighbours difference suggests this may be due to legislative or policy factors, although having discussed this with some practitioners we have been unable to pinpoint anything specific.
- Between 2011 and 2019, an average of **157 new children** have been taken into care by the council **each year** – equivalent to three children every week.
- The main evidence presented in the literature around reasons for increases in CLA across England include:
  - Rising poverty – there are bigger percentage changes (increases) in CLA numbers in more disadvantaged areas and more children in poverty are coming into care
  - Disinvestment in preventative services (e.g. Sure Start/Children's Centres) especially in more disadvantaged areas in the context of budget cuts
  - Impact of tax and benefit reforms
  - There is a strong relationship between deprivation and social care intervention

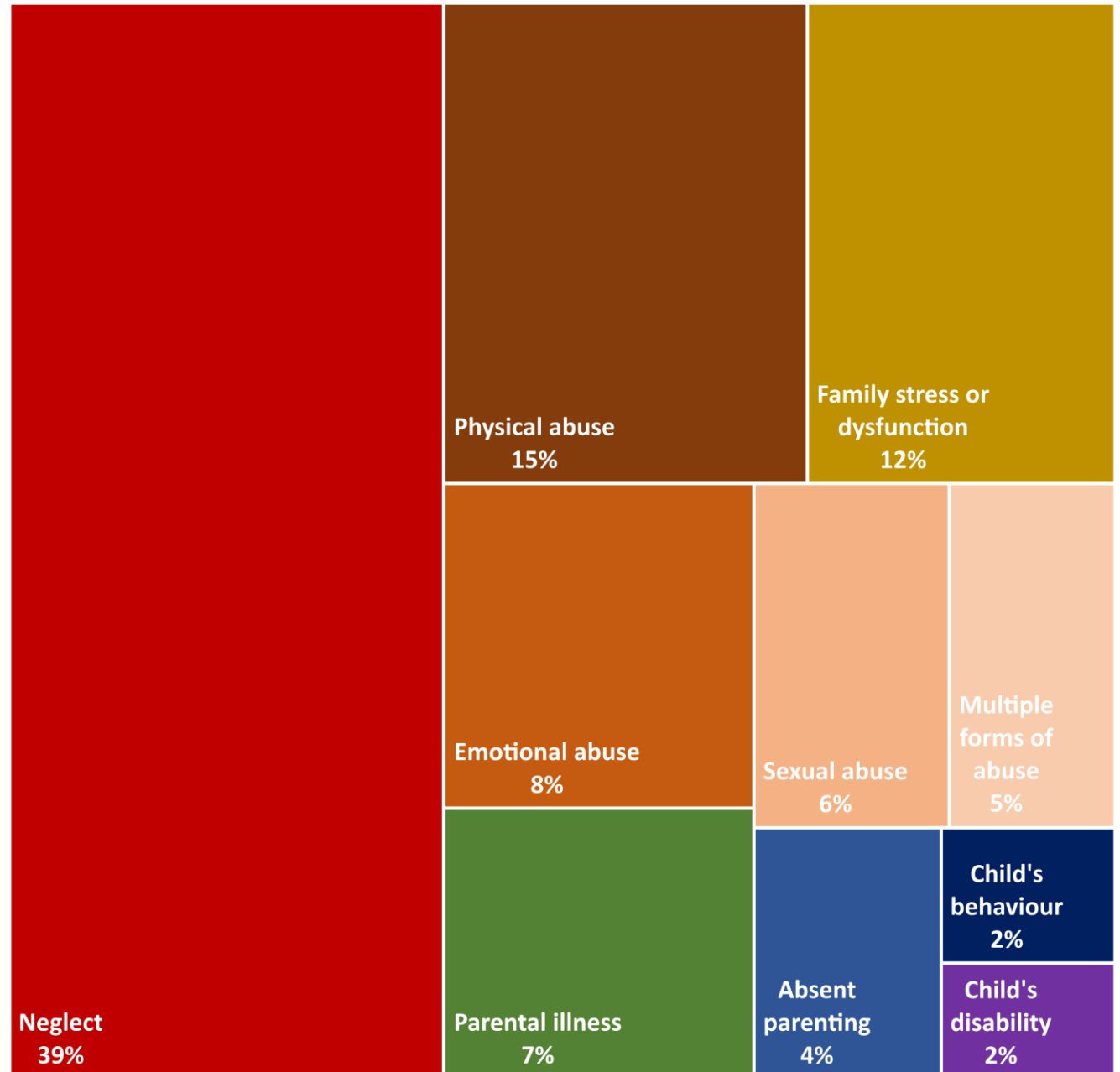
# Children Looked After



# Children Looked After

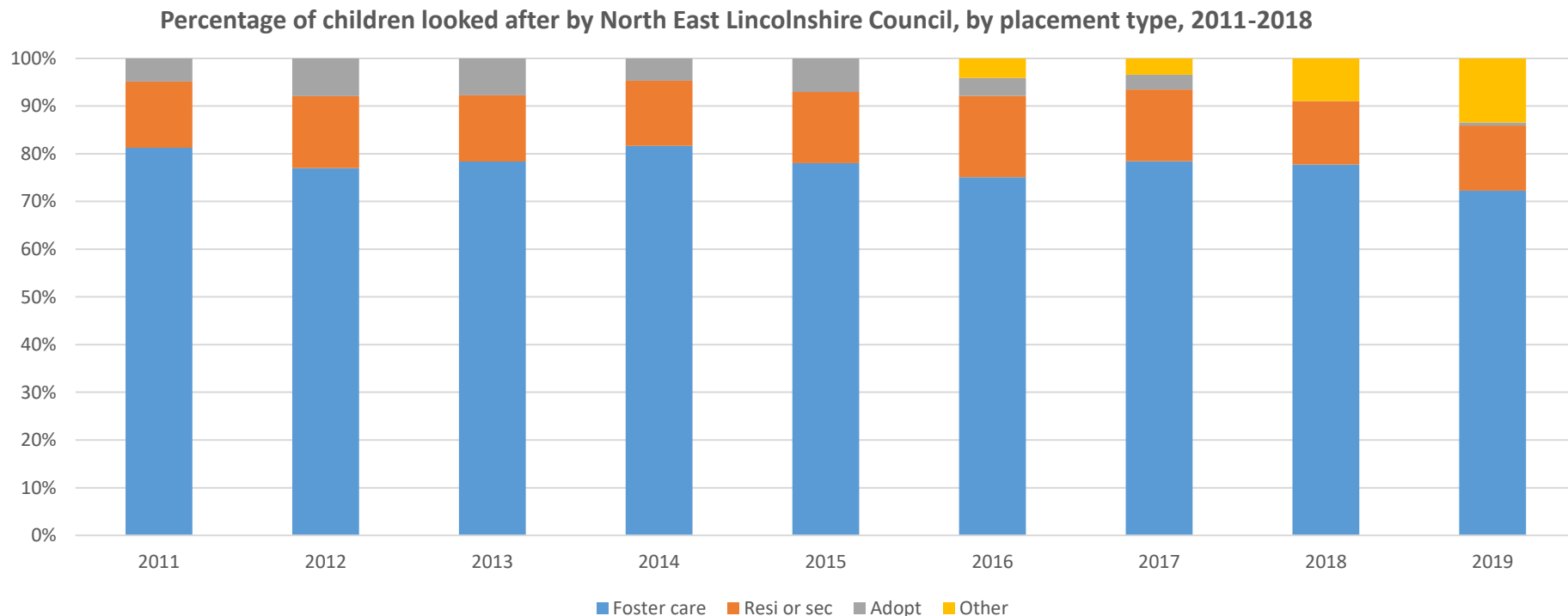
- The biggest reason for children being taken into care is abuse or neglect, with 73% of all children being taken into care because of this.
- The rate of children being taken into care for abuse or neglect locally is significantly worse than the England rate and has consistently been significantly higher. In 2018, the local rate of children being taken into care because of abuse or neglect was 30.5/10,000 compared to 16.4/10,000 nationally.

Reasons for children becoming looked after, NEL, 2017/18



# Children Looked After

- The majority of children looked after by the local authority are in foster placements.
- The percentage of children in foster placements or residential/secure settings has varied little – but the percentage of children placed for adoption has fallen in recent years. Alternatively, we have seen an increase in ‘other’ placements, although it is not clear from the data provided what is included in this category.



## 9.2 Children in Need and Child Protection

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, there were 2,332 children with an open referral with children's social care services in North East Lincolnshire, of which **301 had a child protection plan**, 449 were Children Looked After, 88 young people receiving leaving care support, and 17 with other support. Therefore, those not included in the above categories equate to **1,494 children in need**.
- Children receiving social care services are far more likely to live in deprivation. Almost half of all children live in the most deprived quintile of North East Lincolnshire and a further quarter live in the second most deprived quintile.

**Children with an open referral\* with children's social care, NEL, 31 March 2019 by deprivation quintile**

Deprivation	Number	%
1 (Most Deprived)	860	47.9%
2	445	24.8%
3	211	11.8%
4	87	4.8%
5 (Least Deprived)	98	5.5%
N/A	94	5.2%
Total	1795	100.0%

\* Does not include children looked after, care leavers or unaccompanied asylum seekers

# Children in Need and Child Protection

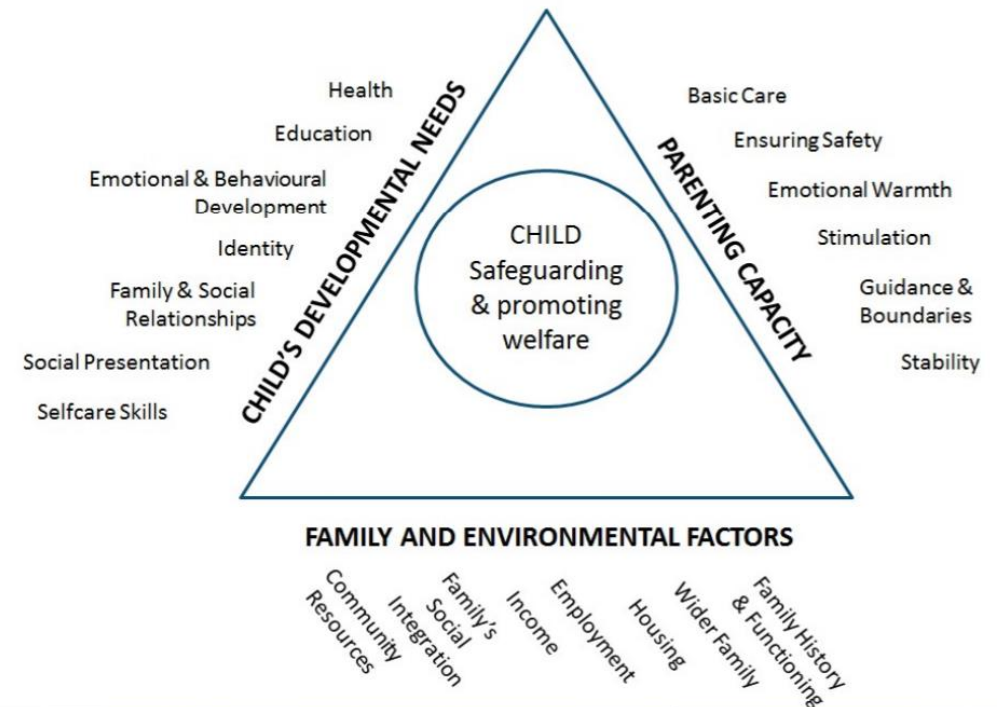
- 80 children had a disability recorded as a primary need, but only 60 children had the disability flag on their record suggesting there may be a data recording issue for disability. Abuse or neglect is by far the most common primary need recorded for a referral to children's social care services, accounting for 71.8% of open referrals.
- The main referral source was the Police, a quarter of all referrals for children's social care assessments for CIN and CP were via the Police.

## Assessment factors

An example of an assessment framework that supports a systematic approach to enquiries, set around three domains:

- the child's developmental needs, including whether they are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm
- the capacity of parents or carers (resident and non-resident) and any other adults living in the household to respond to those needs
- the impact and influence of wider family and any other adults living in the household as well as community and environmental circumstances

## Assessment Framework

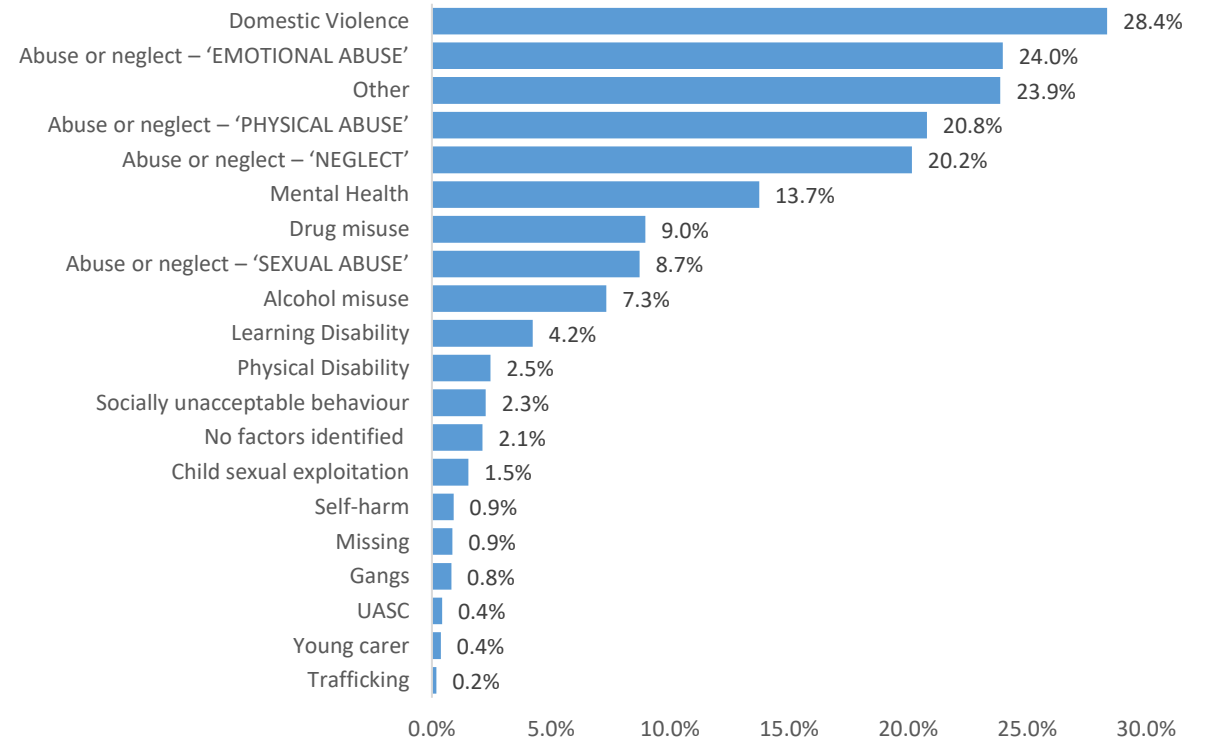




# Children in Need and Child Protection

- For all assessments completed by children's social care between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, all factors identified at the end of assessment are reported, during this time 3,572 assessment factors were recorded for 2,073 children.
- Domestic violence was recorded for 28.4% of children, emotional abuse was recorded in a quarter of assessments and physical abuse and neglect were recorded in a fifth of assessments.
- Generally, the proportions for males and females were similar for the majority of factors, although girls were almost twice as likely to have sexual abuse recorded as a factor, girls were also more likely to have CSE recorded as a factor and boys were more likely to have a learning or physical disability recorded, have socially unacceptable behaviour as a factor or be an unaccompanied asylum seeker.

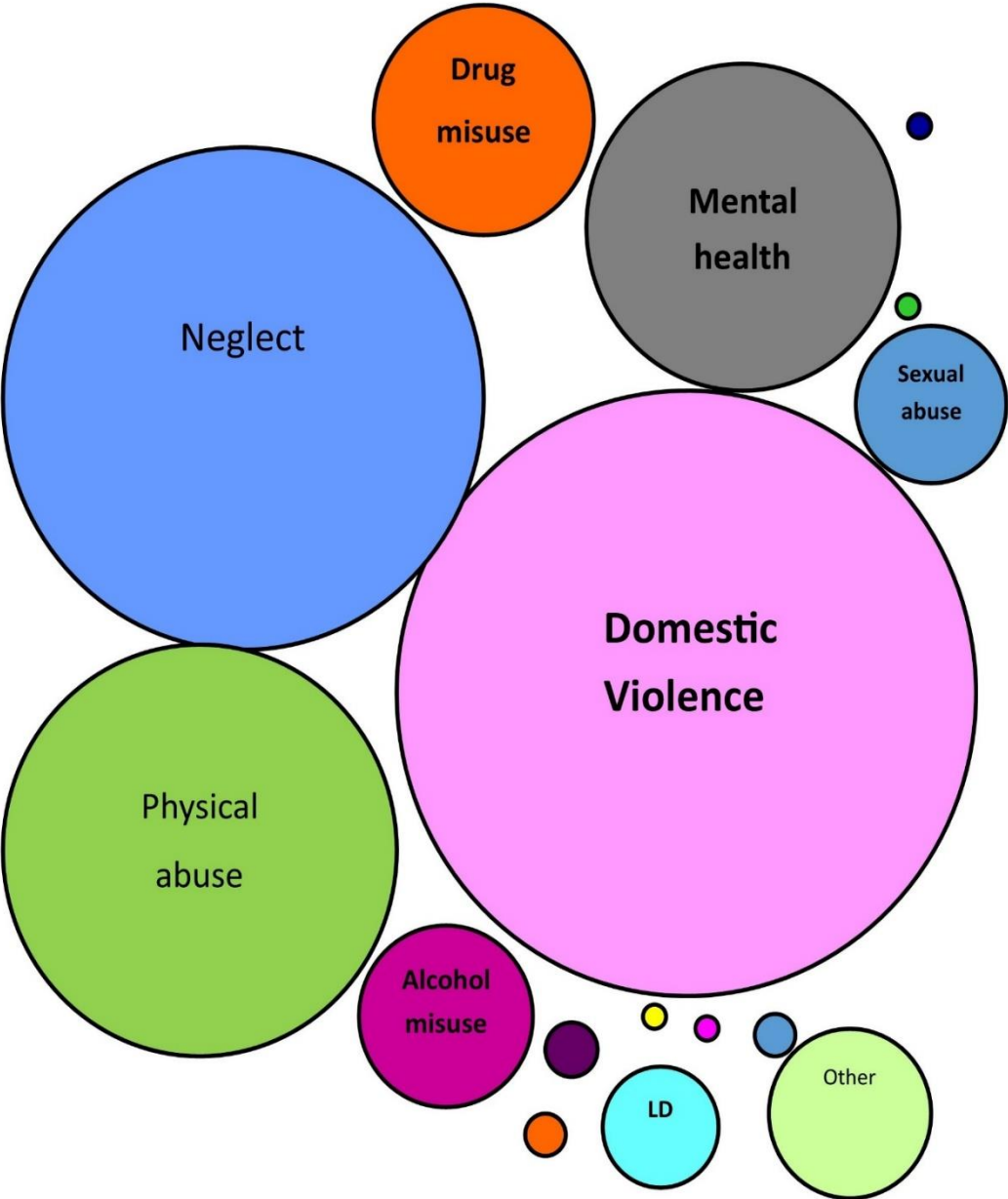
**Factors identified at the end of assessment, all assessments authorised during the year April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019\*.**



\*Does not include Children Looked After, Care leavers or unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Source: CIN Census 2018-19, NELC Information Team

# Children in Need and Child Protection – Assessment Factors










The diagram opposite shows the relative scale of individual assessment factors.

As already established, neglect and abuse (particularly physical abuse) are the largest presenting issues for children and young people.

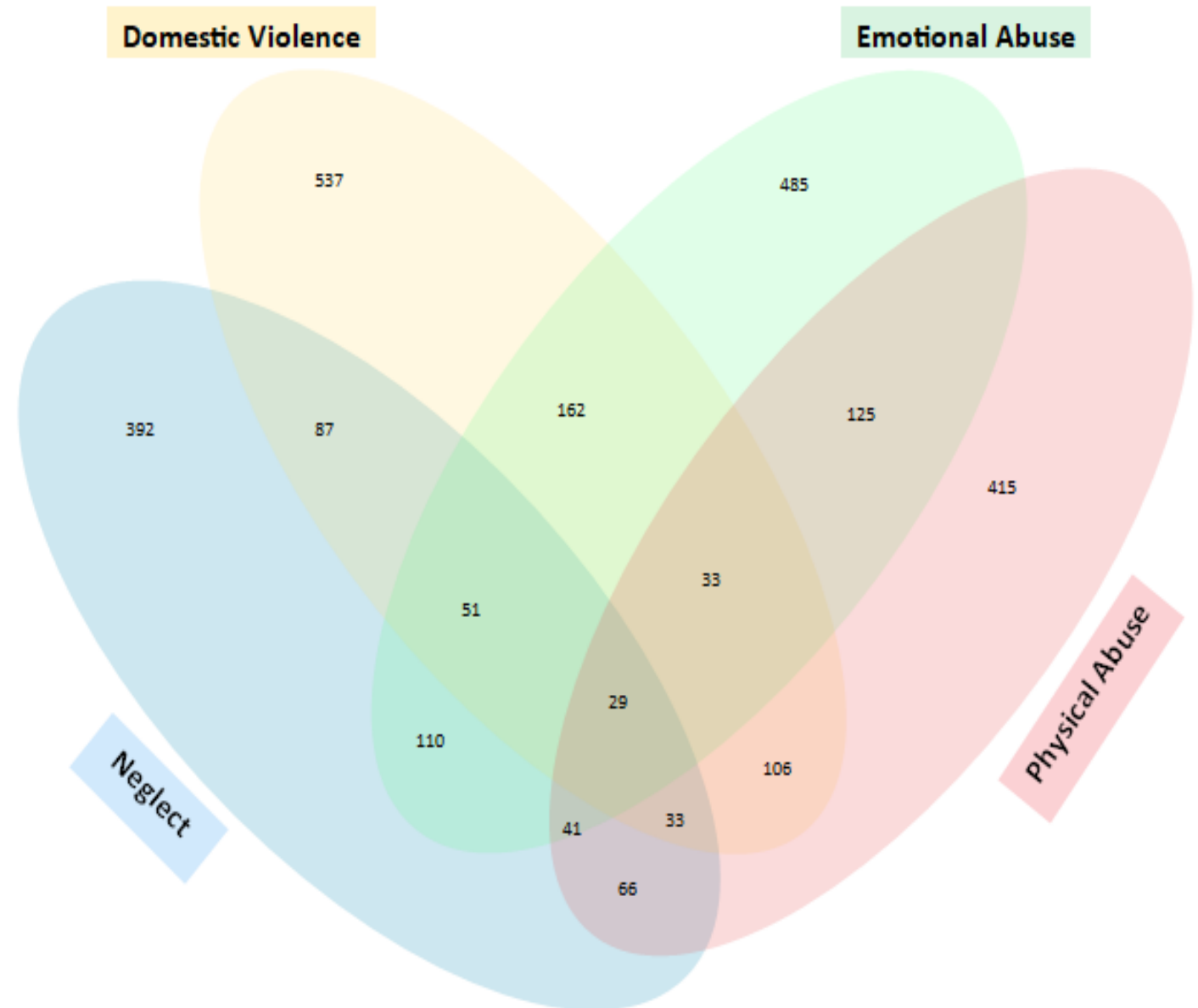
The largest parental factors are domestic violence, poor mental health and substance misuse— otherwise known as the toxic trio - as is the case in many other areas

Despite Family and Environmental factors being a key part of the assessment process, these do not appear to be recorded as specific factors to any great extent.

Key for smaller bubbles			Socially unacceptable behaviour
	Physical disability or illness		Child sexual exploitation
	Self harm		Going/ being missing
	Unaccompanied asylum seeker		Gangs

# Children in Need and Child Protection – Assessment Factors

- The four most common assessment factors identified (excluding 'other' category) were domestic violence, emotional abuse, physical abuse and neglect.
- 30.2% of children who had an assessment in 2018/19 had more than one factor identified and these could be a number of combinations.
- The Venn diagram shows the crossover of the four main assessment factors identified and gives some insight into levels of complexity
- 29 CYP had all four factors identified in assessment.



## **Children in Need and Child Protection – Assessment Factors**

- During 2018/19, 10.2% (212) of children had a parental mental ill-health recorded as an assessment factor by NEL Children's Social Services.
- UK research shows that parental mental ill-health problem is a significant factor in around 25% of new referrals to social service departments (Tunnard, 2004).
- This suggests we may be under identifying parental mental ill-health locally.

# Children in Need and Child Protection

- CYP are one of the highest users of General Practice, which has a key role in Safeguarding.
- As of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 the table below shows the no's of children with LA social care involvement by threshold of need. It was noted that:
- Of the 464 children looked after by the local authority, only 58.8% had either their GP or GP practice recorded.
  - Of the 338 children who were the subject of a child protection plan, only 41.1% had a GP or GP practice recorded.
  - Of the 2,503 children in need, only 29.6% had a GP or GP practice recorded.

	Total No. of children	Have a GP (No)	Have a GP (%)
Children Look After	464	273	58.8%
Children the subject of a child protection plan	338	139	41.1%
Children in Need	2503	741	29.6%

*Source: NELC Information Team*

# Children in Need and Child Protection

## Child deaths

- Children who were recorded as subject to a Child Protection Plan at the time of death accounted for 4% of child deaths reviewed in North East Lincolnshire between 2012/13 and 2017/18 this compares with 2% across England during 2016/17, (Department for Education, 2017b). Of the North East Lincolnshire deaths, there were no cases where the category for which the child was subject of a child protection plan was linked to their death.
- Children who were recorded as Children in Need at the time of death accounted for 20% of child deaths reviewed in North East Lincolnshire between 2012/13 and 2017/18.

### 9.3 Children not meeting the threshold of social work intervention

- We were **unable to determine** those who did not meet the threshold of social work intervention after assessment and any onward referral or support.

### 9.4 Children in families referred to /receiving early help

- We were **unable to determine** the number and nature of children in families referred to/receiving early help due to issues with data collection and robustness of recording. Consequently we are unable to have a full view of children at all thresholds of need.

## 9.5 Troubled Families

- The Troubled Families programme was launched nationally in December 2011, and aims to address the repeating generational patterns of poor relationships and parenting, abuse, violence, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, and criminal behaviour, that are prevalent in some of our most dysfunctional families, and which in turn leads to a wide range of poor outcomes in local neighbourhoods.
- A family is classified as troubled if they meet criteria from two or more of the six domains (crime/anti-social behaviour, education, child who needs help, worklessness, domestic abuse, health).
- During 2019/20 the most prevalent criteria for being classified as a troubled family in NEL were attendance and exclusion criteria in the education domain, criteria from the domestic abuse domain, and CIN criteria from the early help domain.
- The troubled families programme cohort consists of both early help and CIN. An analysis of local figures submitted to the National Impact Study (early help cases only), shows that from the **end of 2015 to June 2019, 3,589 individuals** had or were being supported by the troubled families programme, and which equates to **1,211 families**. There were individuals from all 15 North East Lincolnshire wards, however 56% of individuals were from 5 wards (East Marsh 15%, South 11%, Sidney Sussex 10%, Immingham 10%, and Heneage 9%).
- The troubled families programme is due to end on the 31st March 2020.



## Troubled Families

- Children from these families tend to be absent or excluded from school when compared with the general population of children and a substantial proportion of young people in these families are NEET.
- Evidence was found that having an adult in the household with a recent proven offence was associated with children in Troubled Families being NEET and there is a high prevalence of offending and anti-social behaviour in children in Troubled Families.
- These children are also relatively likely to be subject to child protection arrangements or in local authority care, and this is more likely for children in these families where there was an adult offender.
- There is evidence that children in Troubled Families are relatively likely to be at risk of eviction.
- Children in Troubled Families are more likely to be living in households where no one is in employment or where adults are receiving out-of-work benefits, more likely than children in the general population to live in families with 3 or more children and in non-intact families and are more likely to experience domestic violence than children in the general population.

*Children's Commissioner: Childhood vulnerabilities and outcomes in early childhood. Vulnerability Technical Report 4 National Centre for Social Research in JULY 2018*

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Childrens-Commissioner-Vulnerability-Report-2018-Overview-Document-1.pdf>

## 9.6 Children Known to Have Experienced Specific Personal Harm

- In 2018/19, **74 children** were identified as being at risk of **Child Criminal Exploitation**, which has significant overlaps with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). CSE locally has been driven by female relationships with organised crime group (OCG) members or those linked to OCGs through exploitation.
- Commonalities across the board include the high prevalence of previous involvement in the criminal justice system, along with a high percentage of children who have experienced trauma and abuse in early childhood. The prevalence of children accessing alternative education provision is also high. Local insight demonstrates that OCG activity is linked heavily to County Lines. There is a high prevalence of children identified who are CIN CP and LAC (60% of identified cohort), evidencing the correlation with those that have experienced interrupted levels of care throughout childhood.
- A local health practice review of children and young people at risk of or experiencing CSE was undertaken during 2014/15. The most common vulnerability factors for children experiencing or at risk of CSE were:
  - Domestic abuse – a factor in 16 of the 22 cases reviewed (73%)
  - Poor school attendance – a factor in 15 of the 22 cases reviewed (68%)
  - Frequent house moves – a factor in 14 of the 22 cases reviewed (64%)
  - Neglect – a factor in 13 of the 22 cases reviewed (59%)
  - Attachment issues – a factor in 13 of the 22 cases reviewed (59%)
  - Parental substance misuse – a factor in 12 of the 22 cases reviewed (55%)

## 9.7 Missing Children and Young People

- There were **273 incidents** of LAC missing from care placements during 2018/19 which equated to **45 children**.
- Of the 45 children who had at least once missing incident:
  - 25 were male and 20 were female
  - 27 were aged 10 to 15 years, 16 were aged 16-17 years, and 2 were aged 18+.
- Of the 273 missing incidents:
  - 64% of incidents were of the 16-17 year olds
  - 98 were missing up to 24 hours, 156 were missing 1 to 2 days, and 19 were missing 2+ days
- There are strong links between children and young people being at risk of exploitation and other behaviours, in particular missing from home or care. Evidence highlights that children and young people who go missing from home or care are at increased risk of being at risk of, or experiencing criminal exploitation and or sexual exploitation.

## 9.8 Children with Prior Care Experience

### Care leavers in education, employment or training

- As of March 2018, there were just over **70 care leavers** aged 19-21 living in NEL. Official statistics from the Department for Education show that as of March 2018, **44%** reported being **in education, employment or training**, compared to 53% across Yorkshire and the Humber, and 51% across England.

### Care leavers in suitable accommodation

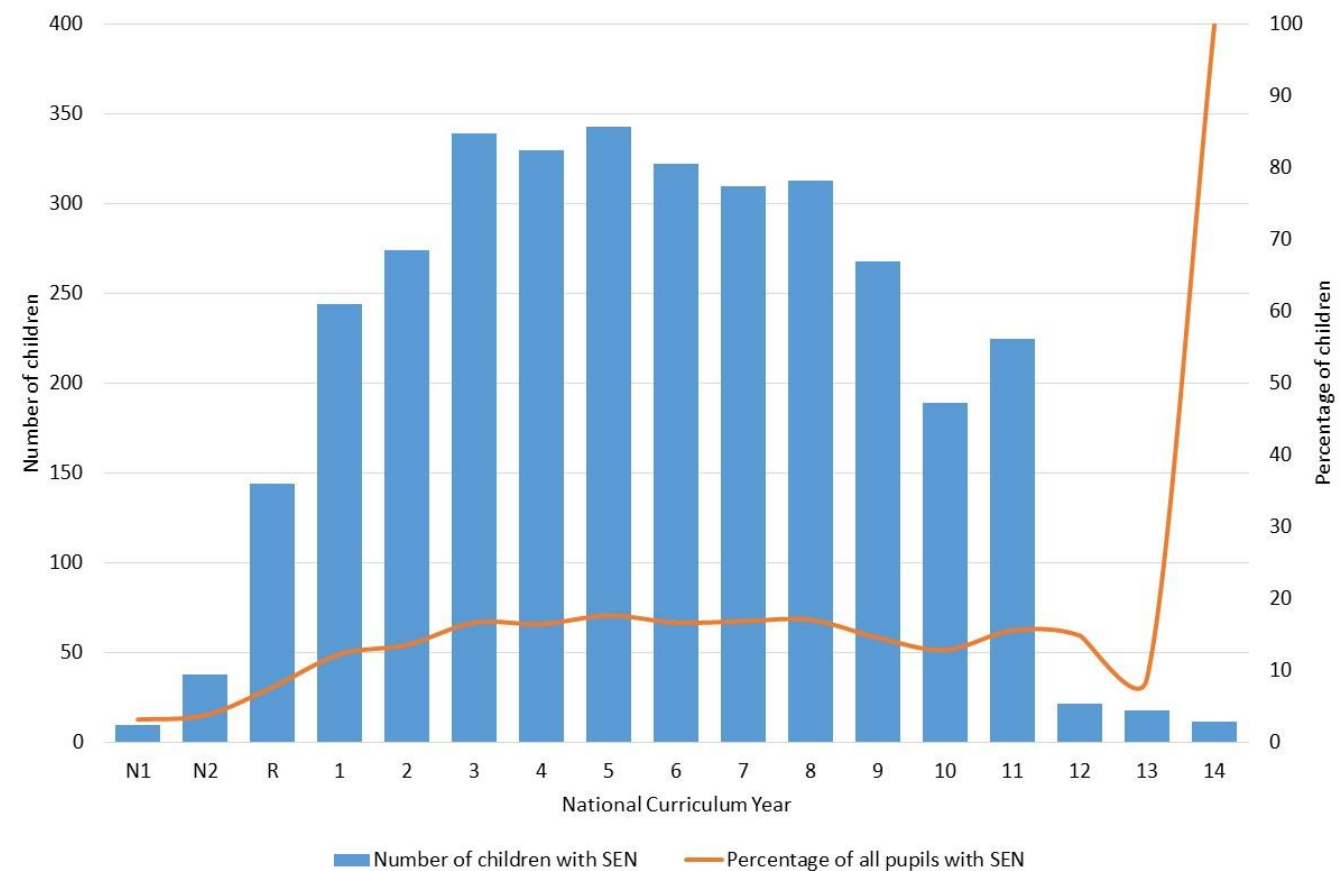
- Official statistics from the Department for Education show that as of March 2017, **84% of care leavers** in North East Lincolnshire aged 19-21 were considered to be **in 'suitable accommodation'**. Figures for March 2018 have been suppressed by the Department for Education but should be available locally.

# 9.9 Children with SEND

- Analysis of the local January 2019 school census dataset shows there were **3401 pupils recorded with SEN**, and of these 601 (17.7%) were recorded as with an EHC plan, and 2800 (82.3%) were recorded as with SEN support.
- The 3401 pupils with SEN in January 2019 was a 4.5% increase from the 3253 pupils with SEN in January 2018, which in turn was a 7.8% increase from the 3019 pupils with SEN in January 2017.

Number of pupils with SEN, and percentage of all pupils with SEN, by national curriculum year, 2019

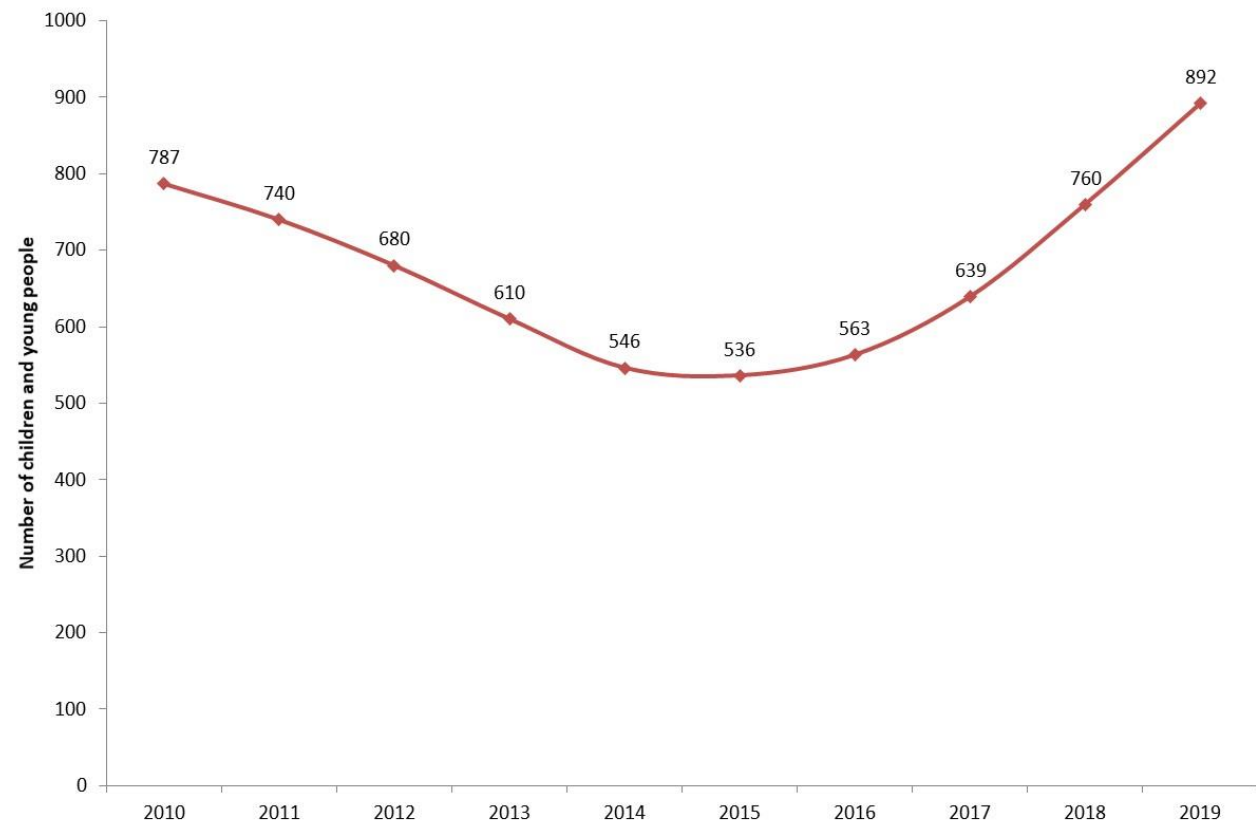
Source: NELC January 2019 school census  
Main and sole registered pupils, excluding out of county pupils, NCY N1-14



# Children with SEND

- The number of children and young people with SEN statements or EHC plans decreased each calendar year from 787 in 2010 to 536 in 2015, however this has been followed by yearly increases to 892 in 2019.

**Number of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan maintained by North East Lincolnshire Council, 2010 to 2019**



Source: Department for Education

# Children with SEND

- Of the 892 children and young people with an EHC plan maintained by North East Lincolnshire Council as at January 2019, 4% (n=35) were aged 0 to 4 years i.e. starting well life stage, and 96% (n=857) were aged 5 to 25 years i.e. developing well life stage.

Age group	Number	Percentage
<5	35	4%
5 to 10	292	33%
11 to 15	327	37%
16 to 19	216	24%
20 to 25	22	2%

*Source: Department for Education*

# Children with SEND

- The percentage of pupils with SEN is lower in North East Lincolnshire than that of the mean for our nearest neighbours.
- There are more than double the number of boys with SEN than there are girls.
- Despite the fact that many developmental issues are identifiable at age 2, few of those are receiving SEND support in the early years (including those in early education settings) and the first three years of school.
- The numbers of children with EHC plans and with SEN support have risen in North East Lincolnshire year on year from 2016 to 2019.
- There are considerable variations in the percentages of pupils with SEN between individual schools, by free school meal status, and by deprivation quintile.
- The percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks in North East Lincolnshire is much lower than that of the mean for our nearest neighbours.
- The rate of exclusions is higher in pupils with SEN than those without SEN. The rate of fixed term exclusions of pupils with SEN is lower than that of the mean for our nearest neighbours. The rate of permanent exclusions of pupils with SEN is higher than that of the mean for our nearest neighbours.
- Of the pupils with an EHC plan, the most common primary needs were autistic spectrum disorder, and severe learning difficulty. Of the pupils with SEN support, the most common primary needs were moderate learning difficulty, social emotional and mental health, speech, language and communication need, and specific learning difficulty.
- The key stage 2 and key stage 4 attainment of North East Lincolnshire pupils with SEN is lower than that of the mean for our nearest neighbours.
- Of the young people known to the local youth offending service, 61% had a recognised SEND.
- Of the North East Lincolnshire looked after children at 31 March 2018 and who had been continuously looked after for at least 12 months, 56.9% had SEN provision.
- Of the children in need in North East Lincolnshire as at 31 March 2018, 3.7% were recorded with disability.



## 9.10 Children in secure settings

### Children and young people in youth custody

- Figures show that **12** young people were subject to custodial sentences during 2017/18. This included three young people being recalled to custody and recounted. In 2017/18 nine individual young people went into custody the same number as 2016/17.

### Children and young people in mental health secure tier 4 settings

- During 2018/19 there were **<7 referrals** to tier 4 services. These are all out of area although NEL CCG is working with the STP to develop closer provision at Hull.

## 9.11 Children with Vulnerability Associated with Identity or Nationality

### Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

- An asylum seeker is a person who has applied for protection from persecution under the 1951 UN convention and is awaiting a decision from the Home Office on this application.

### Children in families seeking asylum

- Around three quarters of asylum seekers are made by singles rather than families. We are **unable to determine** if children are present in asylum seeking families due to the Home Office not providing figures by age group.

### Refugees

- A refugee is a person given permission to stay in the UK as a result of a process which began with a claim and/or assessment for protection under the 1951 UN convention, for which the UN acts as guardian.
- The Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement (VCR) Scheme are both operational in North East Lincolnshire. Refugees come from both Syria and Iraq, via refugee camps, with both these schemes run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations (UN) Refugee Agency. They then have leave to remain once they arrive in the UK. The support provided is funded through the Home Office. The VCR scheme is for families with children who are vulnerable.

## 9.12 Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home or outside of mainstream education

### Children and young people excluded

- There are only two types of exclusion from a school which are lawful: permanent and fixed-period. This means that legally a pupil is either in school full-time or they are excluded from school. They can be excluded for a fixed term (for a specific number of school days) or permanently excluded. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are more likely to be excluded from school than their classmates.
- During **2017/18** there were **41 permanent** and **1,349 fixed period exclusions** in North East Lincolnshire. In comparison there were 40 and 1,732 exclusions respectively during 2016/17.
- Of the 1,349 fixed period exclusions during 2017/18, 17% were at primary schools, 81% at secondary school, and 2% at special schools. Note that a pupil may have more than one fixed period exclusion during the time period. **Provisional** local figures suggest there were **34 permanent** and **1,318 fixed period exclusions** during **2018/19**.

## Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

- The numbers of fixed period exclusions at primary and secondary schools for 2017/18 are presented as rates per 100 pupils, and benchmarked against England and the other Humber local authorities.
- NEL fixed period exclusion rates in secondary schools are higher than England and Hull (as one of our statistical neighbours)

**Rates of fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils for state-funded primary and secondary schools, England and the Humber local authorities, 2017/18**

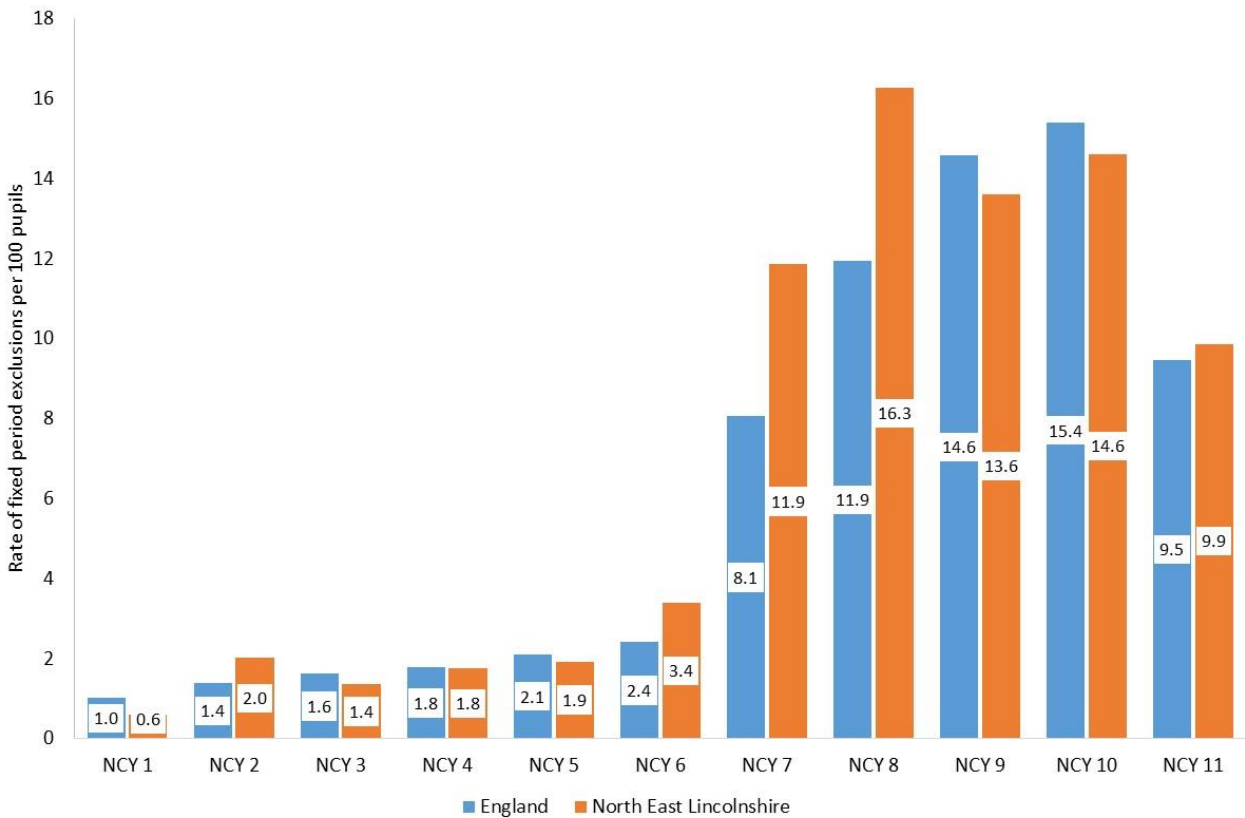
	England	East Riding of Yorkshire	Kingston upon Hull	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire
Primary schools	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.6	1.5
Secondary schools	10.1	9.3	4.9	12.9	23.3

Source: Department for Education

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

- The North East Lincolnshire rates by NCY are generally similar to those for England however local rates for NCYs 7 and 8 are considerably higher than those for England. This may suggest issues with transition.

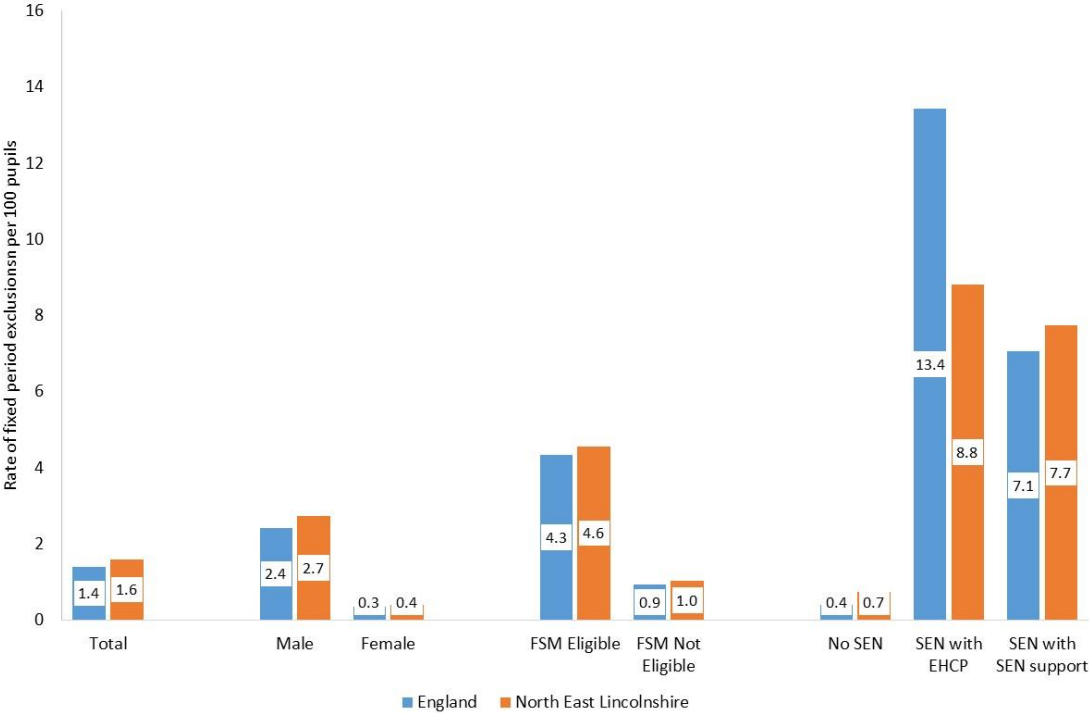
Rates of fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils by National Curriculum Year, England and NEL, 2017/18



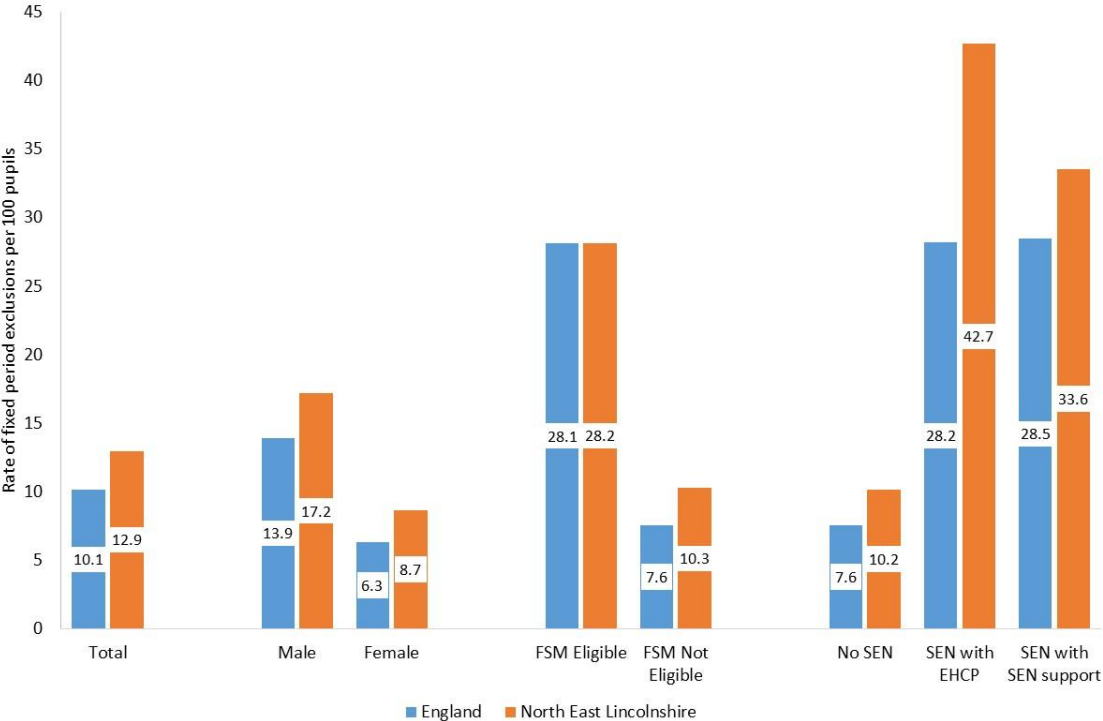
Source: Department for Education

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

Rates of fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils by gender, FSM eligibility and SEN status, primary schools, England and North East Lincolnshire, 2017/18



Rates of fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils by gender, FSM eligibility and SEN status, secondary schools, England and North East Lincolnshire, 2017/18



Source: Department for Education

## **Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home**

- Clear inequalities in the rates of fixed period exclusions are evident. Both nationally and locally, rates of fixed period exclusions are much higher in boys, children eligible for free school meals, and children with SEN.
- Looking at children with SEN in more detail, determined that out of all the SEN primary need classifications, it is children with a primary need of social, emotional and mental health, that have by far the highest rates of fixed period exclusion nationally in both primary and secondary schools.
- Overall, nationally during 2017/18, the variation in the rates of fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils, ranged from 1.3 for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulty, to 46.3 for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. Pupils with a primary need of speech, language and communication, had an overall rate of 5.5 fixed period exclusions per 100 pupils.

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

## Children and young people in alternative provision or pupil referral units (PRUs)

- According to the January 2019 school census there were **102** children at **pupil referral units**.
  - **All pupils had SEN**
  - Around 40% of pupils were residents of either East Marsh or South wards
  - 72% of pupils were male
  - 46% were eligible for free School meals
  - 65% of pupils were in NCY 11
- There were **130 pupils** included in the January 2019 **alternative provision** census:
  - 92% of pupils had SEN with the main primary needs being speech, language and communication needs (57%), followed by ASD (15%), and hearing impairment (10%).
  - **48%** of pupils were placed outside of North East Lincolnshire.



# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

## Children and young people receiving elective home education (EHE)

- The 1996 Education Act (Section 7) made it explicit that education for children aged between 5 and 16 is compulsory but schooling is not.
- As at 24/07/2019 there were **211** North East Lincolnshire resident children recorded as **EHE** (58 primary and 153 secondary), which is approximately **0.8% of the local school age population**.
- The EHE cohort consists of similar proportions of boys and girls.
- The current total of 211 children represents the highest number of EHE at the end of summer term during any academic year, however of this cohort, 38 children were in Year 11.
- National insight also shows there to have been considerable increases in EHE children which are now at an historic high.
- There are no national comparators for EHE, however the total national figure is estimated at around 70,000 children.

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

- A range of reasons are provided by families for children being EHE with anxiety / emotional health related issues being the most prevalent reason.

## Reasons for being EHE, North East Lincolnshire, July 2019

Reason provided by family for being EHE	Percentage
Anxiety / emotional health related issues	35%
School attendance / behaviour related issues	21%
Alleged bullying	15%
Philosophical / ideological	14%
Religious / cultural	8%
Other medical reasons	7%

*Source: Capita, North East Lincolnshire Council*

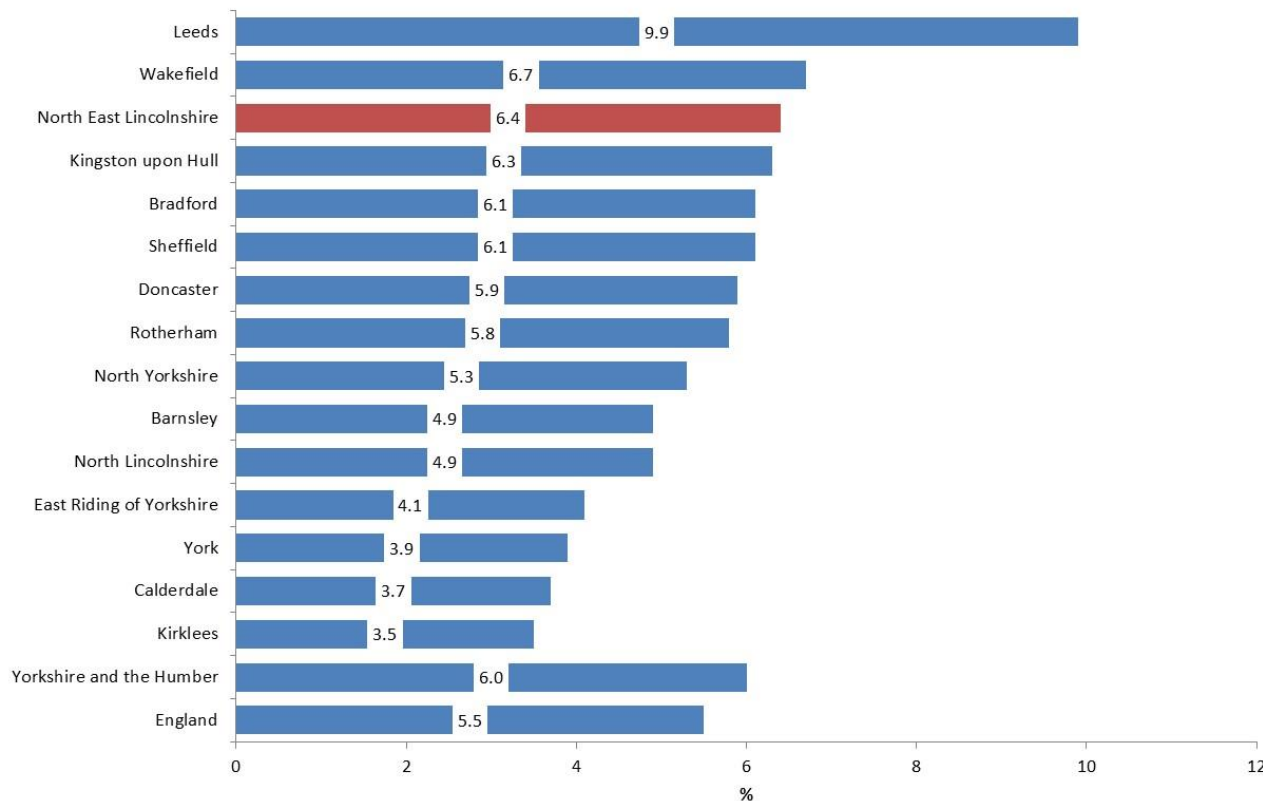
# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

## Young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

- Young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training are at greater risk of a range of negative outcomes, including poor health, depression or early parenthood. Legislation was introduced in 2013/14 that required all young people to remain in some form of education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17.
- Figures for North East Lincolnshire show there were 3,400 16-17 year olds known to the local authority. Of this cohort, **220** (6.4%) were classed as NEET which comprised of 5.8% known to be NEET and 0.6% whose activity was not known.
- An analysis of these figures by gender shows that there were 1,750 16-17 year old males known to North East Lincolnshire Council, of which 120 (7.0%) were classed as NEET. In comparison there were 1,650 16-17 year old females known to North East Lincolnshire Council, of which 100 (5.8%) were classed as NEET.
- NEL has the third highest percentage of NEET 16 to 17 year olds out of all the local authorities in the Yorkshire and the Humber. The North East Lincolnshire percentage for 2018/19 of 6.4% is higher than both the regional (6.0%) and national (5.5%) figures, and is a rise from 6.3% in 2017/18, which in turn was a rise from 6.0% in 2016/17.

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

**Percentage of 16-17 year olds not in education employment or training or whose activity is not known, England, Yorkshire and the Humber, and local authorities in the Yorkshire and the Humber, 2018/19**



- In addition to gender inequalities, local inequalities regarding SEND status are also evident. There were 120 16-17 year olds with SEND known to North East Lincolnshire Council, of which 9.7% were classed as NEET.
- In comparison there were 3,280 16-17 year olds without SEND known to North East Lincolnshire Council, of which 6.3% were classed as NEET.
- Destination figures of Year 11 students published by the DfE, show that 96% of students leaving Year 11 in 2016/17 went on to further learning.

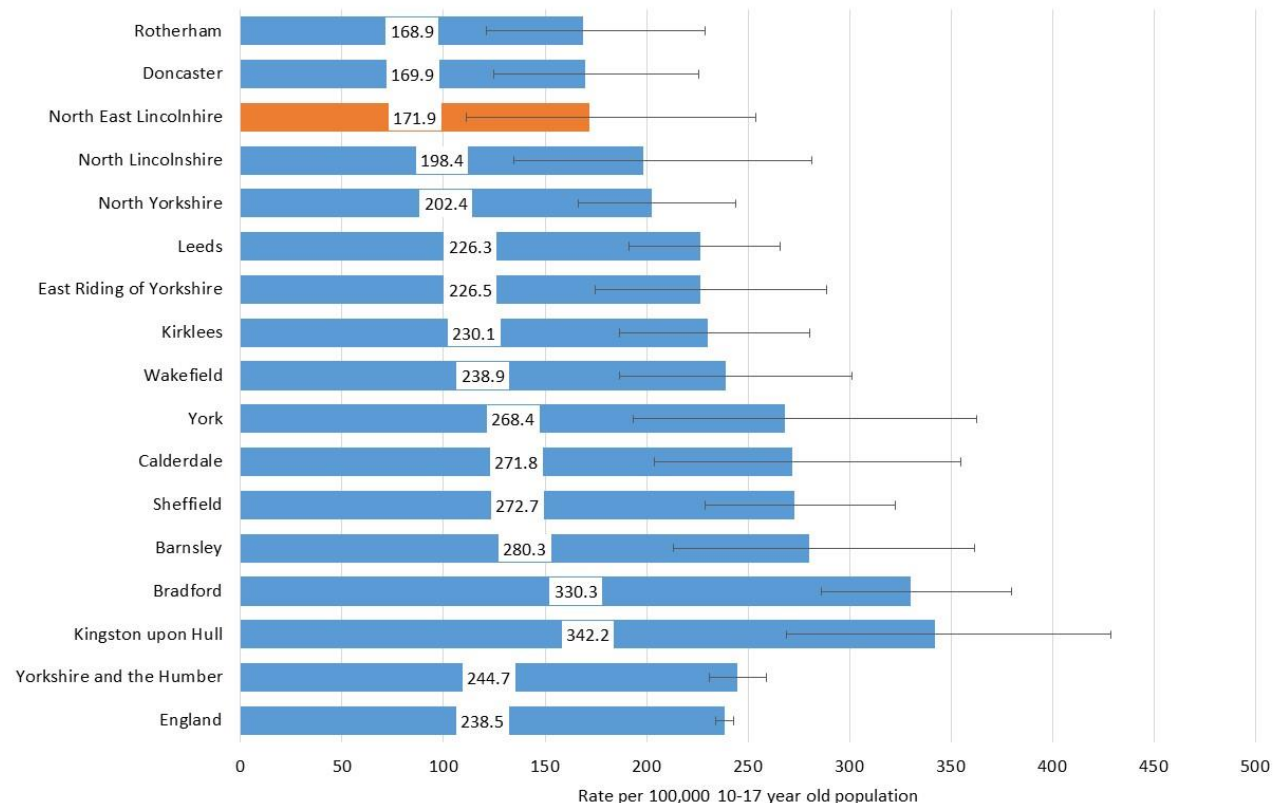
*Source: Capita, North East Lincolnshire Council*

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

## Young people involved in the criminal justice system

- Children and young people at risk of offending or within the youth justice system often have a range of health needs. The principal aim of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending by children and young persons.
- The North East Lincolnshire rate of 171.9 first time entrants per 100,000 10-17 year old population during 2018 equates to **25 young people** and is the third lowest rate in the region.

**First time entrants to the youth justice system, England and Yorkshire and the Humber local authorities, 2018**



*Source: Public Health England*

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

- Local analysis has been undertaken to understand the relationship between youth offending and special educational need. Young people known to the youth offending service as at April 2019 were cross referenced with their SEN status. Key findings were as follows:
  - 20% of young people known to the YOS had an EHCP
  - 3% of young people known to the YOS were currently being assessed for an EHCP
  - 38% of young people known to the YOS were either currently with SEN support or were in the past
  - 61% of young people known to the YOS had a recognised SEND
  - 24% of young people known to the YOS were children looked after
  - 41% of young people who are looked after and known to the YOS have SEND
- There appears to be a considerable relationship between young people known to the YOS, children who are looked after, and children with SEND, since the prevalence of SEND in both those known to the YOS and children looked after, is much higher than the prevalence of SEND in the overall child population.
- The most common primary SEND need of young people known to the YOS was speech, language, and communication needs.

# Children at risk in relation to activity or institutions outside the home

## Children and young people involved in gangs

- With the exception of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), no data was available for those CYP involved in gangs.
- The high crime and anti-social behaviour rate particularly in East and West Marsh wards has been exacerbated by the infiltration of organised crime gangs from Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, selling illicit drugs using County Lines.
- This has led to the exploitation of children and young people to carry out criminal activities often through violence and threats of violence after being groomed to work for the gangs in the first instance.
- Gangs will set up a supply chain from their home base to their chosen area utilising local vulnerable people to distribute their merchandise often through violence, intimidation and fear which is known as County Lines.
- The potential for the criminal exploitation of local young vulnerable people is real with young individuals being drawn into violent crime and gang related activity. Whilst CSE may not be the driving force in county lines gangs exploiting children, females who are being groomed to hold or move drugs for gangs become more accessible and are therefore at higher risk of exploitation by members or being trafficked to other county locations or entering into relationships with gang members.
- Where it has been determined that an organised crime gang has criminally exploited a young person via County Lines, the circumstances will be addressed via the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting.

## 9.13 Suggested areas of future focus

- Further explore the reasons for increased rates in CLA with relevant practitioners, to inform relevant future policy, practice and service provision.
- The issue of domestic violence is by far the greatest single factor identified in social care assessments. Further data on the extent of domestic abuse is provided in Module 8. Taken together this suggests we need a radical new approach and upscaling of evidence-based interventions to tackle this issue. The recent Director of Public Health Annual Report recommended that NEL's Community Safety Partnership takes a public health approach to domestic abuse. The new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum offers an opportunity for schools to deliver a preventative offer further upstream in the lifecourse.
- A review of coding of data in line with the social care assessment framework to separate out parent, child and social factors in data recording (in an extractable format), performance and future analysis. This should be across all thresholds of need including Early Help. To improve data quality further, the use of the category of 'other' should either be reduced or removed all together, and disability should be routinely identified and recorded.
- Develop robust data collection, coding and routine analysis within the Early Help Service
- Family life is complex and can rarely be reduced to a single variable in service data. The Venn diagram approach could be adopted to provide greater insight into overlaps and complexities.
- Further insight is required to understand the category of 'other' in CLA placements as whole. This should include identifying the nature of these (e.g. with other family members), stability of those placements and their suitability within this placement category overall.



## Suggested areas of future focus

- By far the greatest proportion of CIN is within the 2 most deprived quintiles in NEL. Relevant preventative services (e.g. Health Visiting, Early Help Service) and programmes (e.g. domestic abuse) should adopt proportionate universalism to ensure resources are targeted proportionately to these areas with an intensity of provision according to need. Relevant performance metrics should reflect this.
- There is an apparent under-identification and recording of parental mental ill-health in social care assessment, which could be addressed through staff training, relevant screening tools etc. Many children, of course, live in families where parents have a range of health conditions and disabilities with varying impacts on family life, both positive and negative.
- Improve recording of GP practice on all social care and early help records. A small audit on the no's of CYP with a safeguarding concern was also undertaken by some GP practices as part of this HNA, which suggested under-recording in practice records. Therefore, improvements should be made to the timely provision of safeguarding information from Children's Services to General Practice and robust recording in General Practice using recognised read codes and flags as appropriate.
- Work towards plugging data gaps for those not meeting social work thresholds, CSE, and children in gangs
- Raise awareness of risk factors for various forms of exploitation of CYP across all services working with CYP in NEL. We did not seek information on the interfaces between services involved in those who go missing from care and those services working to reduce exploitation. If not already in place, it is suggested there are robust and timely processes in place to identify and target work to those who go missing and are deemed at risk of exploitation.

## Suggested areas of future focus

- Ensure existing work within Inclusion Services includes a clear thread to drive down inequalities in fixed period exclusions including in those with FSM status and SEND. If not already an area of focus, work should also consider transition arrangements from primary into secondary schools, informed by exclusion data at individual school level.
- Relatively high rates of fixed period exclusions are due to social, emotional and mental health issues. A sizeable proportion are also excluded due to speech, language and communication issues and these are highly prevalent in both child and adult offender population nationally. The greatest proportion of Elected Home Educated CYP are due to anxiety and emotional health. It is likely a sizeable proportion of these issues are amenable to health care and therefore suggest a level of unmet need by health services. On the flip side of exclusion, these health problems may also point to issues around inclusion. It is suggested exclusions for these issues are explored in more detail at a granular school level to identify any variations in policy and practice. A small audit could also be undertaken to identify any earlier opportunities for intervention from health services and inclusion/prevention of exclusion by schools
- There are clear inequalities for CYP with SEND who appear disproportionately in fixed term exclusions, NEETs, and the Youth Offending Service likely due to earlier unmet need variously for health, care and education. It is important a strategic lens is maintained on reducing these inequalities and they are monitored within the SEND performance framework and those of relevant services.

## Suggested areas of future focus

- Despite most developmental issues being identifiable at 2, SEND services (SEN Support or EHCP) do not peak until NCY 3 with very few in early years settings. Indeed, the greatest proportion of EHC Plans are amongst the 11-15 age group. Even recognising some of this apparent lag might be due to time to diagnosis for a condition, or that school can be a prompt to seek SEND services, CYP may not be having their needs identified and/or met as early as possible (if at all) leading to further challenges for the those CYP and their families. High levels of CYP with SEND have been noted in YOS, within school exclusions and the NEET cohort, so early action may help to reduce these. It is suggested an audit of cases be undertaken to identify opportunities for earlier support. Development of system pathways for particular issues e.g. communication, speech and language, social and emotional health spanning identification, assessment, intervention and outcome may assist in this regard. It is also suggested a SEND strategic lens is sharply focused on the early years, proportionate to school aged and transition years.