

Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	02 December 2022
Subject:	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 2

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 2. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 2 is included in this report.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is undergoing a large system wide Business Intelligence Transformational Change Programme. Part of the Transformation Programme is to fully utilise Microsoft Power BI as a Business Intelligence platform across the organisation.

The Corporate Performance Team (CPT) is a significant driver of this delivery covering all operational and statutory reporting requirements for LCC. CPT has developed a new Power BI dashboard which with effect from Quarter 2 the Service Level Performance will be displayed, replacing the Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO).

Full service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here [Service Level Performance Indicators](#).

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to review and comment on the performance of the measures that are either above or below the target range.

1. Background

This report will summarise the Service Level Performance measures for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. There are eight measures that should be reported at Quarter 2. In Quarter 2:

- 3 measures that exceeded their target ☆
- 2 measures that achieved their target ✓
- 2 measures did not meet their target ✗
- 1 measure is unable to be reported at present.

1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

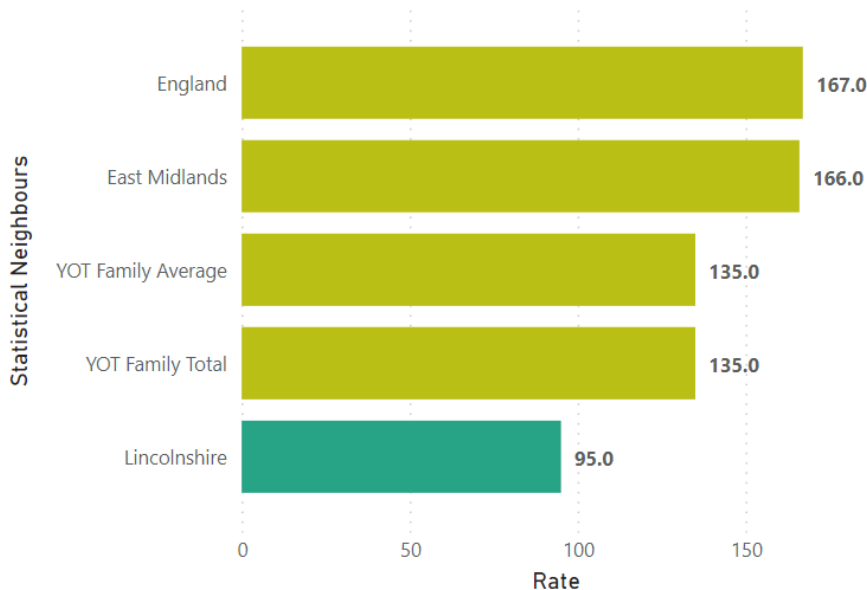
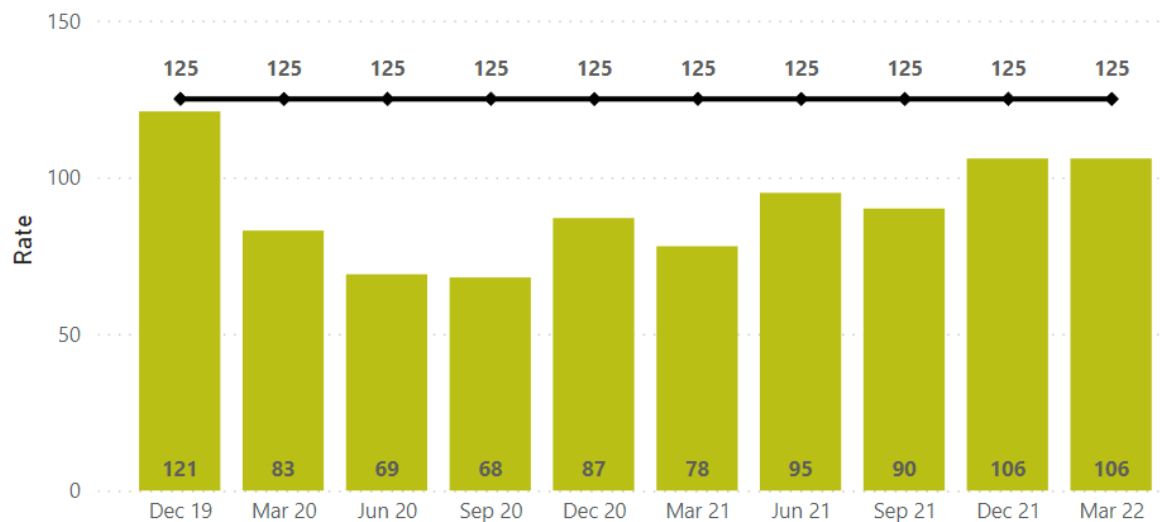
PI 15 - Juvenile first time offenders

Actual 106

Target 125

The rate for Lincolnshire's juvenile first time offenders sits at 106 for the current quarter (rate per 100,000); this has not changed from the previous quarter and still remains below our set target of 125. Similarly, Lincolnshire remains below the National (143), Regional (161) and Youth Offending Team (YOT) Family (117) rates highlighting the continued success of the Joint Diversionary Panel in unnecessarily criminalising our youth population and the work the service does to deter young people from falling into offending behaviours.

● Rate ◆ Target



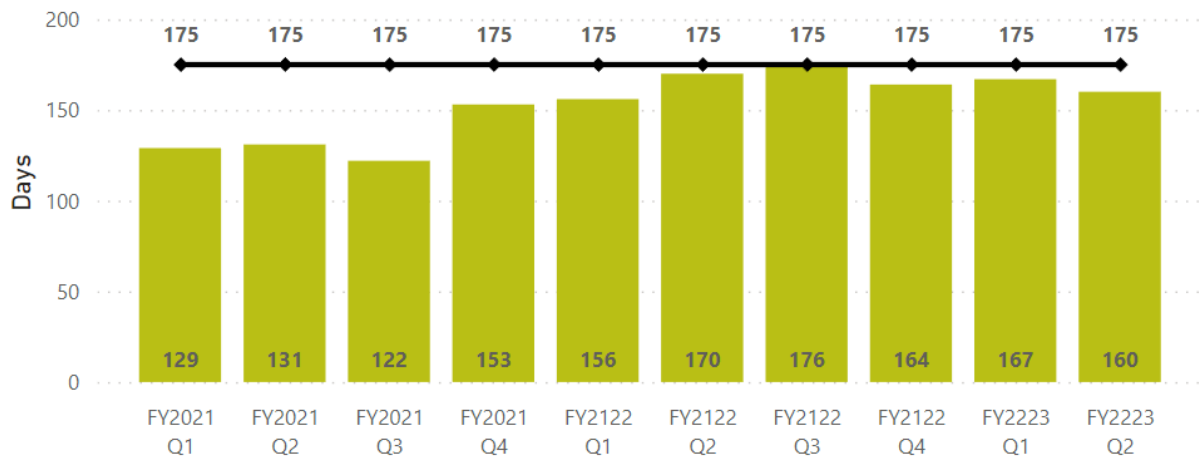
Benchmarking as at June 2021

PI 26 - Average time taken to match a child to an adoptive family ★

Actual 160 days
Target 175 days

Performance in Quarter 2 is continuing to improve and is now better than the target range set at the start of the year. This is due to continued attention to family finding at the earliest opportunity, so that once children are subject to a Placement Order there is, wherever possible, a placement already identified so that practice is timely and effective.

● Days ◆ Target



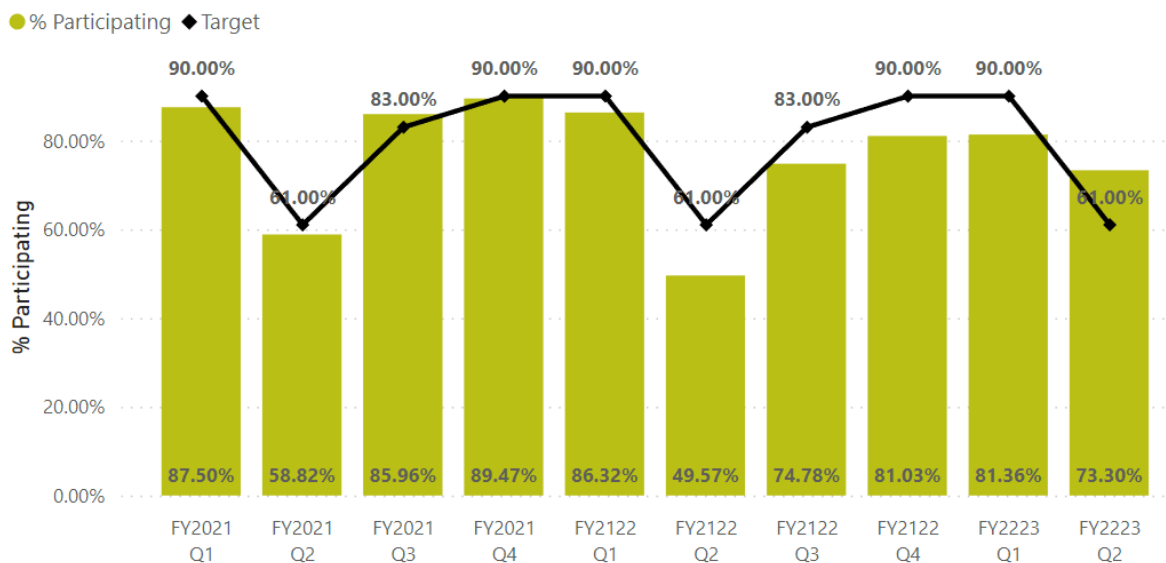
Benchmarking as at March 2020

PI 45 - 16-17 year old Children in Care participating in learning ★

Numerator 66
Denominator 90

Actual 73.3%
Target 61%

The performance is currently showing as better than/exceeding the Quarter 2 target and at 73.3% is showing an improvement on Quarter 2 last year (51.3%). Improved tracking and monitoring of the participation of our young people has likely had some impact here. Also, the hard work of the Virtual School, carers and social workers in supporting young people to visit colleges and other providers is also likely to have supported this improvement. All of our 16 and 17 year olds are supported by the Virtual School through the Personal Education Planning Process. This brings social workers, carers and providers together to focus on educational need and ensures that our young people are supported appropriately while participating in learning. We are currently working to support those currently not participating in learning to ensure that they can access therapeutic support and/or appropriate educational opportunities when they are ready to do so.



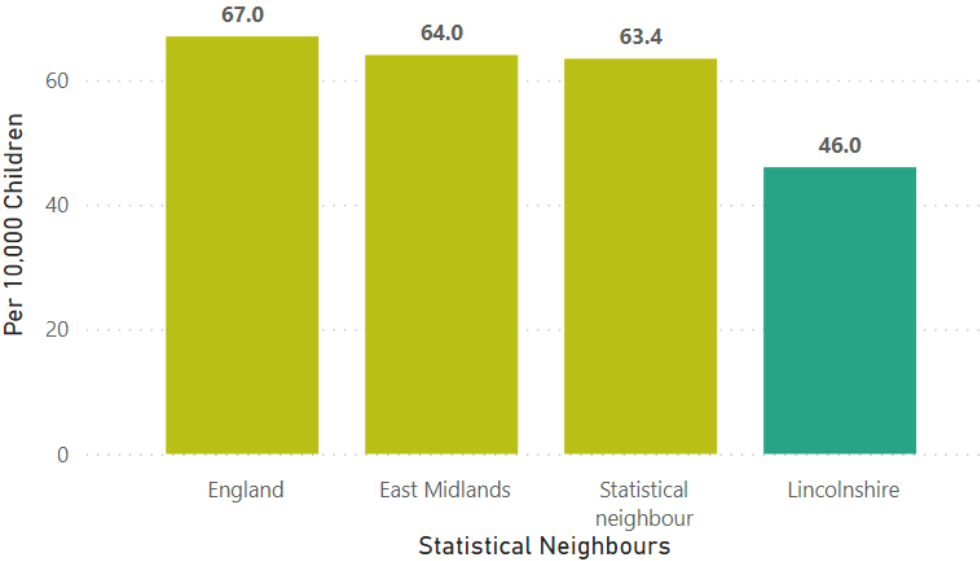
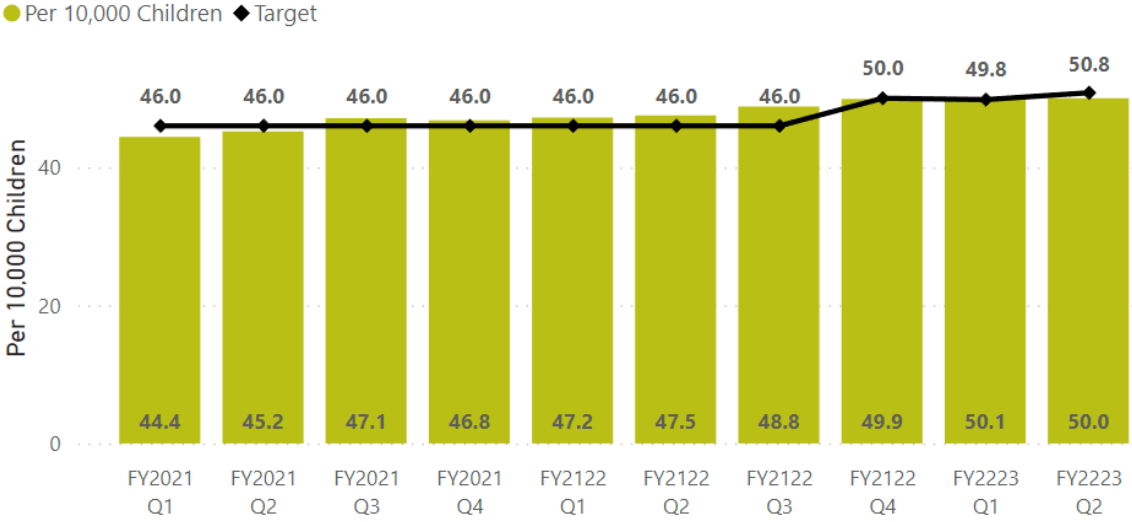
1.2 Measures that Achieved their target

PI 23 – Children in Care ✓

Actual 50%
Target 50.8%

This measure continues to achieve target; however, this target has been revised upward in comparison to recent years to take into account the effects of the National Transfer Scheme and the number of children in care per 10,000 remains at a relatively high level

compared to recent years. However, in Quarter 2 the number of Children in Care (CiC) leavers has increased slightly above the number of CiC starters, so the rate per 10,000 has dropped a little of late. The recent growth in numbers is attributable to the Council’s safeguarding responsibilities and is partly attributable to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have arrived as part of the new temporary mandated National Transfer Scheme. The expectation is that Lincolnshire will take a maximum of 103 children which equates to 0.07% of the general child population and therefore there continues to be a likely impact of growth going forward. Despite the recent growth and the potential for future increase, there continues to be an emphasis on prevention from children coming into care and exit planning from the care system where it can be achieved. However, even with the increase, the Lincolnshire number of Children in Care (CiC) per 10,000 remains significantly below the most recent published figures both nationally and by our statistical neighbours (67 per 10,000 and 63.4 per 10,000 respectively as of 31 March 2021).

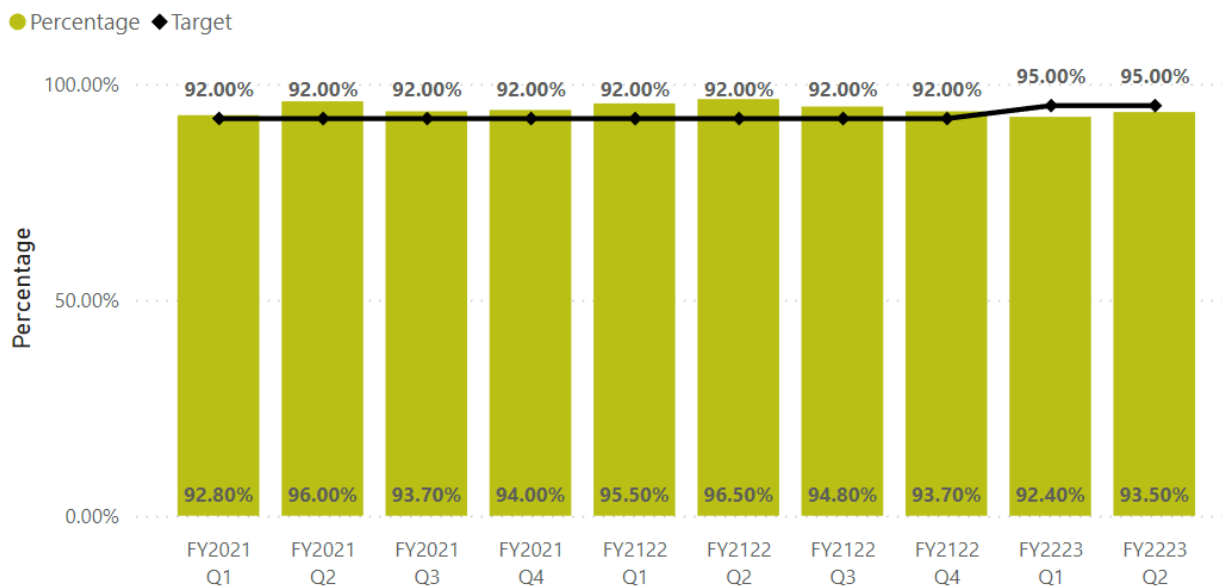


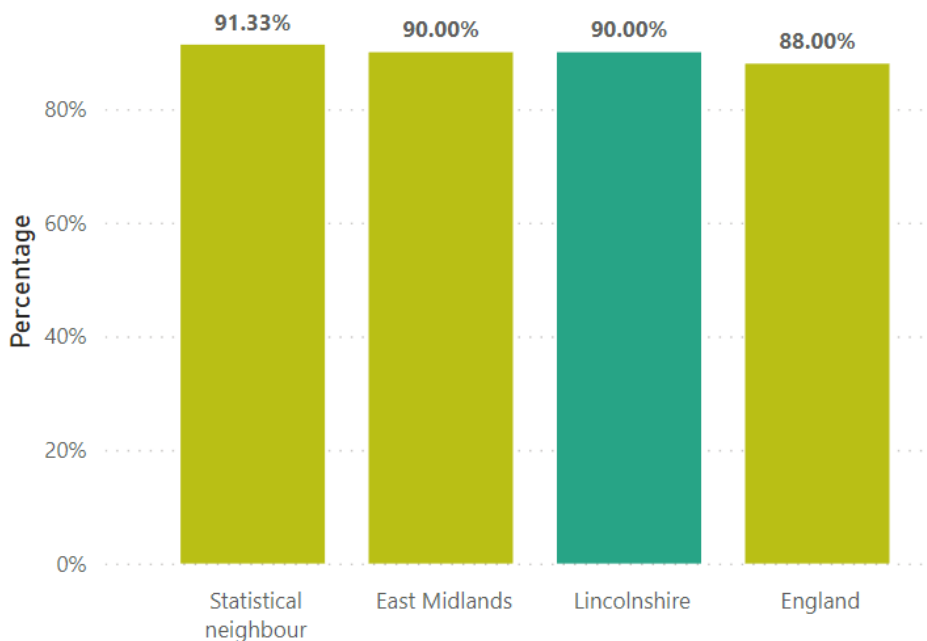
Benchmarking as at March 2021

PI 46 - Care Leavers in suitable accommodation ✓

Actual **93.5%**
Target **95%**

Ordinarily the proportion of young people in suitable accommodation for 19-20 and 21-year-olds runs at between 94% and 95%. The definition of the suitability of accommodation is very strict, and whilst the definition would deem some of the accommodation options unsuitable, the young person might be making an informed choice (as an adult) about where they live and how they live. For example, the monthly tracker identified three young people who are choosing to live with friends and sleep on their sofa. This is deemed unsuitable, but the decision to live on a friends sofa is the informed choice of the young person. We also know of one young person who is choosing to live in a caravan on their ex foster carers driveway. This is by mutual agreement and the young person is very happy there, living close to her support network. This is still deemed as unsuitable. In addition to the above, custody is also always deemed unsuitable. Ironically, being in custody qualifies as being in education, training and employment but is deemed as unsuitable accommodation. The numbers of young people in custody affect this figure and is beyond our control. Lincolnshire has six young people in custody, one of which is serving a life sentence. Lincolnshire has no homeless young people. Everyone has a form of accommodation of their choosing, and if it is deemed unsuitable, each young person is offered support and options to take should they wish to. The Corporate Parenting Manager monitors unsuitable accommodation on a case by case basis every month.





Benchmarking as at March 2021

1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

PI 24 - Children who are subject to a child protection plan ❌

Actual 452

Target 370

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of Quarter 2 in Lincolnshire is 452. This is an increase from Quarter 1 and is outside of the tolerance range for this measure. The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan fluctuates as the decision for a child to be made subject to, or remain on, a child protection plan is based on the risk factors present for the individual child. It is unsurprising to see that the number of children subject to a child protection plan has increased. There are lasting impacts from the public health pandemic and increased pressures and financial hardship upon families at the current time. These pressures are likely to have negatively impacted on parents and their parenting capacity, particularly in families where there are a number of children. Child protection plans create safety, and it is important that risk is recognised and managed through plans where appropriate. Early intervention with families and effective risk management continues to take place to ensure that only the right children are subject to a child protection plan.



Benchmarking as at March 2021

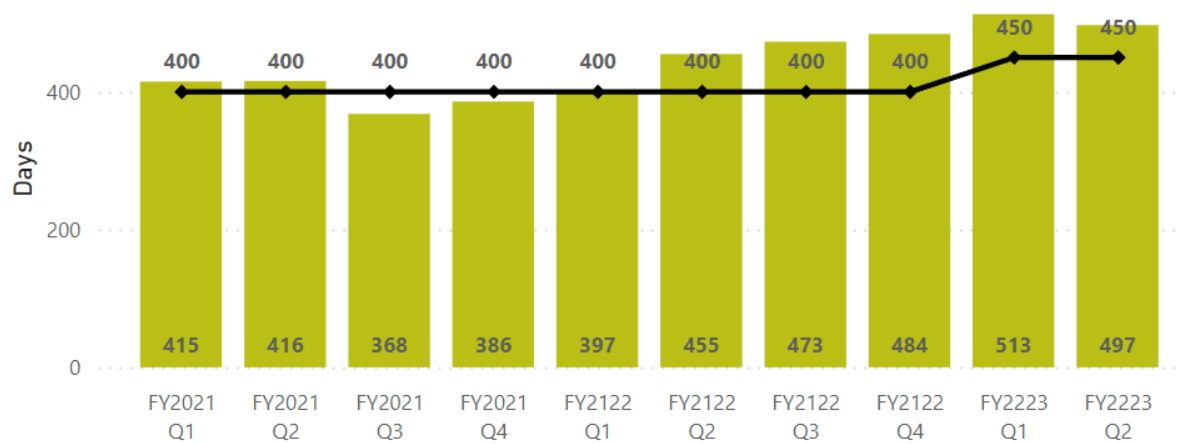
PI 25 - Average time taken to move a child from care to an adoptive family ✖

Actual 497 days

Target 450 days

With the continued delays in cases getting through the court and the gradual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Lincolnshire has failed to meet this target this quarter, as all of the children captured in this data will have been delayed in the Covid pandemic. There has been significant delay in getting cases through the courts during Covid, and this will continue to have some impact on the statistics and data for this year and accounts for the increased timescales. This measure is a 'rolling' three yearly average, and as we have moved forward the calculation has considered more of the period covered by the pandemic, which has in turn increased the rolling average figure. It is important to note that the figure presented includes some rare anomalies which have also adversely affected the overall timescales, such as one case which lasted for over 2000 days due to an unusual amount of disruption. There are also some children later adopted by their foster carers, but this measure does not properly take in to account the time they began living with those families, producing a longer timescale than there was in reality.

● Days ◆ Target



1.4 Measure unable to be reported this quarter

PI 125 - Juvenile Re-offending

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in the production of the Re-offending data published by the Ministry of Justice. They are hopeful that they will be able to release this shortly. This will be retrospectively added in the next iteration of this report.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to review and comment on the report.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jo Kavanagh, who can be contacted on jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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