Lincolnshire

Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Part 1

Evidence base

Version 1.0

Foreword

Lincolnshire County Council is pleased to present the Lincolnshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

This is one of a number of needs assessments currently being undertaken in the County that are the first stage in developing strategic plans to improve the quality of life for Lincolnshire's residents.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Child poverty in Lincolnshire is lower than national levels and also lower than some of our benchmark local authorities. According to the latest figures there are just over 142,950 children and young people aged between 0 and 19 living in Lincolnshire, of which 22,730 (15.9%) live in poverty; of the total of those aged under 16 (121,636), 16.5% live in poverty. These figures are below the national averages of 21.6% for under 16s and 20.9% for 0-19s. However, there is evidence that, in some parts of the County, the proportion of children living in poverty is much higher.

Lincolnshire County Council and its partners are committed to reducing child poverty in the County and to improving the life chances of those that are at risk of exclusion as either a direct or an indirect result of household income.

Background

The Child Poverty Act, which received Royal assent on 25th March 2010, conferred on Local Authorities a requirement to "reduce and mitigate the effect of child poverty in their local areas" 12. In order to have a thorough understanding of the local situation the first task, therefore, has been to conduct a needs assessment that will inform the local strategy, help to shape the nature of services provided and highlight priority areas for targeting resources.

Since the introduction of the Child Poverty Act the political and economic environment has changed and is continuing to change but the commitment to reducing child poverty remains a priority.

"The purpose of the Act is to enshrine in law the Government's commitment to end child poverty by 2020."13

 $^{^{12}}$ A guide to Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010: duties of local Authorities and other bodies in England. 13 http://www.disabilityalliance.org/childact.htm

Lincolnshire context

Over the last 30 years Lincolnshire has had one of the fastest growing populations in Europe, albeit from a relatively low base. Latest estimates for 2009 place the county population at 698,000 people, which represents an increase of almost 8% since 2001. However, as the fourth largest county in England (at 5,921 sq. km), Lincolnshire still has a population density of only 118 people per sq. km compared to 398 nationally despite this level of population growth; this has led to Lincolnshire being classified as one of the most rural counties in England by Defra.

The extreme rural nature of much of the County presents very real issues in terms of creating critical mass in an area to make service delivery efficient and viable. The size and nature of the county network (9,000 km of roads, in the main characterised by minor roads and very few trunk roads), also makes it difficult to deliver an all encompassing, inclusive and effective public transport system. Together these issues mean that there are areas of the county where access to healthcare, sport and leisure facilities, learning provision and employment can be problematic for some.

Lincolnshire's economy is characterised by low skill and low wages, with a high proportion of people of working age yet to achieve their first full Level 2¹⁴ qualification which, according to the "Leitch Review of Skills: Prosperity for all in the global economy-world class skills"¹⁵, which was published in December 2006, is "...... a platform of skills for entry into, and retention and progression within, work and the labour market."

The approach taken in this needs assessment has been to:

- Identify areas of the county where there are high numbers of children living in poverty to enable targeted intervention
- cross cutting themes, i.e. common factors displayed by children living in poverty regardless of their residential environment

¹⁵ In 2004 the British Government commissioned Lord Sandy Leitch, Chairman of the National employment Panel, to conduct a review of the UK's long term skills need.

¹⁴ Full Level 2 equates to NVQ 2, 5 GCSEs grades A* to C, GNVQ Intermediate, City & Guilds Craft level, BTEC 1st Diploma

The prime data used in this needs assessment is the headline national indicator for Child Poverty (NI 116) and is drawn from the datasets produced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for 2007 and 2008¹⁶. As a national indicator, however, NI 116 uses a national definition of child poverty based on income, regardless of the variation in the cost of living in different parts of the country.

Child Poverty in Lincolnshire – key points

Child poverty in Lincolnshire is lower than national levels and also lower than some of our benchmark local authorities. However, there is evidence that in some parts of the county the proportion of children living in poverty is high.

Areas of higher child poverty in Lincolnshire tend to be concentrated in pockets of urban areas, which are also recognised by other measures as being more deprived. There are also concentrations on the coast as well as pockets in more rural, isolated areas of the county.

It is likely that both the contributing factors and successful approaches to tackling child poverty will be different in each of these three situations. There are also likely to be changes in the characteristics of people experiencing child poverty in the future, brought about by a combination of the recession and subsequent national spending cuts which mean that more people are being pushed towards poverty that do not fit the historic profile. The locations of these groups and the approaches that are appropriate are also likely to be different to those in other situations.

Of the children living in poverty in Lincolnshire:

- 25% live in 30 LSOAs spread across the county; these LSOAs have been analysed in detail as part of this needs assessment (see Appendix A)
- 61% are age 0 10

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HMRC 2007 and 2008 ward and lower super output area (LSOA) data at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/Isoa-ward.xls. The term "All Children" refers to all dependent children under the age of 20. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, so aggregating the individual estimates may not sum to the given totals for an area. This does not change the outcome of the analysis.

- 63% live in Lone Parent families
- 71% live in families in receipt of either Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or Income Support (IS)
- 50% live in Lone Parent Families in receipt of either JSA or IS

The approach taken in this needs assessment has been to identify:

- pockets of high levels of child poverty that might benefit from coordinated, targeted intervention by multi agencies
- cross cutting themes that need to be addressed wherever there are children living in poverty regardless of geography

The next step will be to:

- continue to develop a sound evidence base for Lincolnshire
- consider the evidence and develop a strategy for tackling child poverty in the county
- consult and work with partners to identify best practice and to develop innovative approaches
- agree and implement a shared programme of work that pilots these approaches and monitors success of initiatives in order to maximise their effectiveness in successfully addressing child poverty in Lincolnshire.

Employment status

Almost 1/3rd of children living in poverty live in working families that are in receipt of tax credits because of low wages. Lincolnshire's economy is characterised by low skill low pay. Of those in employment:

- 23% work in process, plant, machine operative and elementary occupations
- the average weekly gross earnings are £455.70, which is below the national average of £501.80
- the average gross weekly earnings are as low as £396.70 in some districts

The greatest contributory factor to household income is the employment status of the adults of working age of which 14% are in receipt of benefits. Of the 62,500 benefit claimants in Lincolnshire in February 2010:

- 25% were in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA); this was as high as 35% in some LSOAs
- 44% were in receipt of Employment Support Allowance
 (ESA)/Incapacity benefit (IB); this was as high as 55% in some LSOAs
- 9% were in receipt of Lone Parent's benefit; this was as high as 24% in some LSOAs

Barriers to obtaining higher skilled, well paid employment

Barriers to obtaining highly skilled, well paid employment generally relate to either availability or accessibility.

- Availability is affected by the extreme rural nature of a large part of Lincolnshire and the poor transport infrastructure which tends not to attract large industry to the county.
- Much of the work available is seasonal, particularly in the coastal areas
 of the east and the agricultural areas of the south.
- The work available in these areas does not demand a high level of skill and wages are low.

Accessibility is also affected by lack of transport, affordable childcare, skills and qualification, ill health, a history of offending and substance misuse.

Transport

The public transport network is limited. Data relating to vehicle ownership¹⁷ suggests that:

- 20% of households in Lincolnshire are without either a car or a van
- this is as high as 59% in one LSOAs in the Lincoln district and 55% in one LSOA in the Boston district

¹⁷ Neighbourhood Statistics, Cars or Vans UV 62 (Census 2001)

Childcare

The recent Childcare Sufficiency Needs Assessment suggests that:

- across the county, there are enough places to meet demand apart from a shortfall in the Under 2s and 5 – 10 age groups.
- In some Wards there are insufficient places in all age groups, although this is usually compensated for in other Wards within the Ward Community.
- According to the most recent data available for NI 118 (Take up of formal childcare among low income families)¹⁸ there has been a steady increase in the rate of take up in Lincolnshire from 13.6% in 2004-05 to 17.2% in 2007-08. Detailed occupancy at low level area is not currently available.

Skills and qualifications

A lack of relevant skills and qualifications limits employment opportunities and career progression. According to the Census 2001:

 51.3% of adults age 16 – 74 in Lincolnshire had yet to achieve their first full Level 2 qualification

Recent data available from Lincolnshire County Council shows that:

- Key Stage 4 data for 2010 shows that 58.6% of young people in Lincolnshire left full time education with 5 GCSEs grade A* - C, including Maths and English.
- 41.4% of young people left full time education without a full Level 2
 qualification that included the key skills of Maths and English

The number of adults of working age without a full Level 2 qualification is, therefore, continually being "topped up"

Health

People experiencing poor health can have great difficulty accessing employment. The benefit claimant figures for May 2010 show that:

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¹⁸ www.pat.communities.gov.uk

- 27,350 people of working age claimed either ESA or IB; this represents
 6.3% of the working age population
- 26.9% of those that claimed either ESA or IB live in the district of East Lindsey
- 4,810 people of working age claimed Disability Living Allowance; this represents 1.1% of the working age population

NI 150 measures employment outcomes for adults age 18 – 69 with mental illness, i.e. those that are in contact with Secondary Mental Health Services (SMHS) and are on the Care Programme Approach (CPA). The following information relates to 2008-09:

- 20,899 people age 18+ accessed SMHS
- 21% of those accessing SMHS lived in the district of East Lindsey
- 0.7% of those accessing SMHS were in employment
- This is below the average for England which was 3.4%

For the same period adults with learning disabilities in employment in Lincolnshire was 4.3%, which was below the national average of 6.8%.

History of offending

"Fifty percent of people under supervision of probation and of those leaving prison are unemployed.......Not only is the unemployment and consequent social exclusion problematic, but it is likely to increase reoffending and hence raise the crime rate."

It is not the intention here to examine, in detail, the issue of how a history of offending relates to subsequent difficulties in obtaining employment but rather to illustrate how this may contribute to child poverty. Detailed information regarding the number of offenders not being able to obtain employment is limited, particularly at local level. However, data relating to the number of assessments carried out by the Probation trust between June 2009 and July 2010 shows that:

¹⁹ Metcalf H., Anderson T. and Rolfe H. (2001) "Barriers to employment for offenders and ex-offenders" (DWP Research Report No 155), http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_155.asp

- 3824 individuals were assessed in Lincolnshire
- 67% of those individuals lived in the 30 LSOAs listed in Appendix A

Substance misuse

Relating to the section above regarding offenders and ex offenders, In their research into barriers to employment, Metcalfe and Anderson point out that 45% of those under supervision of probation are misusing either alcohol or drugs. A recent needs analysis carried out by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team in Lincolnshire found that:

- 332 young people sought treatment for drug and alcohol addiction in 2009-10
- 20% of those young people lived in the wards that include the 30 LSOAs listed in Appendix A

Other factors affecting household income

A major issue for households in poverty is poor financial management. The following information is an extract from "A Financial Inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire "²⁰:

"People who are financially excluded face many disadvantages, including:

- finding it hard to get a job as more and more employers require bank accounts for direct credit of wages or salaries;
- paying more for utilities due to lack of access to discounts available for Direct Debit and other automated payment methods;
- having to pay extremely high rates of interest to borrow from doorstep lenders or other providers of 'alternative' credit, or worse, facing extortion, intimidation and violence at the hands of illegal lenders or 'loan sharks';

²⁰ "A Financial Inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire" produced by Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards in

- lacking the financial buffer provided by a small sum of saving, or the security provided by simple insurance, meaning that unexpected financial pressures are difficult, if not impossible, to manage; and
- not being able to access the impartial advice, particularly on debt problems, that can help people avoid significant financial distress.
- ultimately, suffering poor physical and mental health, family breakdown and social isolation."

The strategy further points out that "...the rural nature of the county exacerbated problems.." with:

- Poor or no access to affordable and responsible credit across the whole of Lincolnshire despite a high demand - Lincoln ranks the third worst in the country for this.
- Poor access and take up of basic banking services Over twice the national average of "un-banked" adults.
- Low levels of saving
- Overstretched debt advice services, difficult to access in rural parts of Lincolnshire.

Data recently obtained from the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in West Lindsey and Boston support these findings. The following information relates to West Lindsey as an illustration:

- The total of combined priority and non priority debt for the district is over £3.5 million of which £1.9 million is in households with dependent children
- The total of combined priority and non priority debt for the Gainsborough East Ward is over £1 million, of which 72% is in households with dependent children
- 24.3% of those seeking debt advice are clients with dependent children that live in the Gainsborough East and Gainsborough North Wards

Many people do not claim the benefits to which they are entitled. There is no national indicator that measures this and data is not available below national level so local comparisons cannot be made. Data available from the Department of Work and Pensions for 2008-09 provides the following information regarding the take up rate of key benefits:

- Income Support (IS) and Income related ESA was between 78-98%
- Pension Credits was between 62-73%
- Housing Benefits was between 77-86%
- Council Tax Benefit was between 63-70%
- Income Based JSA was between 47-59%

The take up of Child benefit for 2007-08 was estimated to be around 97%.

Impact of Child Poverty

Children that grow up in poverty are at greater risk then their peers of:

- poor health
- exposure to crime
- under achievement

This can then lead to them not obtaining the skills and qualifications they need in order to be able to secure well paid employment, which then results in their not having the money they need to support their own families; a cycle of poverty is then created.

The Marmot Review of health inequalities in England post 2010²¹ states that "Disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates through life.....Action to reduce health inequalities must start before birth and be followed through the life of the child. Only then can the close links between early disadvantage and poor outcomes throughout life be broken".

Marmot further states that "Inequalities in educational outcomes affect physical and mental health, as well as income, employment and quality of life."

²¹ "Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review", a strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010

Data for Lincolnshire shows that:

- in 2007 there were 465 low weight live births in the county
- 20% of these were in the East Lindsey district
- The Boston district had the highest proportion of low birth weights per live births at 8.3%, followed by the East Lindsey district with 7.8%

In a study of children's cognitive scores Marmot found that children with low cognitive scores at age 22 months growing up in families of higher socioeconomic position tend to improve their scores by the age of 10, whereas the scores of children that are relatively high at a similar age but who grow up in families of low socioeconomic position tend to worsen.

Local figures for these early cognitive scores are not available; the earliest data accessible is for NI 72 which measure performance in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile²². The data for Lincolnshire shows that:

- 42.3% of children did not achieve a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL
- This was as high as 90.5% in one LSOA of the Mablethorpe East Ward
 of the East Lindsey district; this LSOA is one of the 30 LSOAs with the
 highest number of children living in poverty listed in Appendix A

Key Stage 4 (KS4) results in Lincolnshire for 2010 show that:

- 58.6% achieved 5 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English
- In the Fenside Ward in the Boston district 9% achieved 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including Maths and English

The most recent figures showing those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) show that:

 17% of the NEET group in the 2010 cohort reside in three wards in the Lincoln district (Birchwood, Glebe and Minster)

NI 72 assesses the number and percentage of pupils achieving 78 points or more across the 13 Foundation Stage profile (FSP) assessments and Level 6+ in all Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) and Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)

 ⅓ of NEETs live in ten wards in the county (see Table 7.4b), 5 of which are in the Lincoln district

The following table shows values for the Wards with the highest and lowest proportions of children not living in poverty (Boston Fenside: lowest, South Kesteven Green Hill: highest):

Description of measure	Lincolnshire	Lowest value (BO Fenside)	Highest value (SK Green Hill)	Difference in % points
% children not living in poverty	16.5%	59.3%	97.3%	38.0
EYFS scores (achievement of 78+ pts plus 6+ pts in PSED and CLL) in relation to above	58.2%	44.6%	76.3%	31.7
KS4 results (achievement of 5 GCSEs A* - C inc. Maths and English) in relation to above	58.6%	8.8%	82.7%	73.9
NEET				

Key messages

- there are pockets of high deprivation across Lincolnshire
- 25% of children living in poverty live in 30 LSOAs
- 50% of children living in poverty live in Lone Parent households in receipt of JSA/IS
- the gap in achievement between children from low and high socio economic positions widens as they grow older
- the number of working age adults without a full Level 2 qualification is continually being topped up
- household poverty is exacerbated by lack of well paid employment and poor money management

 many households defined as living in poverty are also in debt; the problem for those people, therefore, is much greater than child poverty data alone would suggest



1 BACKGROUND

The previous Government set itself a target to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The Child Poverty Act, which received Royal assent on 25th March 2010, confirmed their commitment to eradicate child poverty. The Coalition Government has also confirmed its commitment to this bold ambition and to tackling its root causes.

National Indicator (NI) 116 measures the proportion of dependent children living in households with an income below 60% of the contemporary national median, taking account of the household composition, e.g. single parent with one or more children. The most recent NI 116 data available suggests that, according to these criteria, 1 in 4 children in the UK live in poverty, which is a startling figure and one of the highest in the industrialised world.²³

As commissioners and providers of services, local authorities and their partners have a vital role in delivering services that will contribute to the reduction of child poverty.

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²³ http://www.disabilityalliance.org/childact.htm

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Responsibility of the statutory partners

The Act places a duty on responsible local authorities to:

- put in place arrangements to work with key partners, named in The Act, to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area
- prepare and publish a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and
- prepare a joint Child Poverty Strategy for their local area

Key partners are listed in The Act as statutory partners and are, therefore, placed under a duty to cooperate with the responsible local authority. They include district councils, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), Jobcentre plus, Police, Probation and Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and Transport. Other recommended partners include those that can add value to local cooperation arrangements, such as the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), the Housing Sector, schools and colleges, employers and business organisations.

2.2 Lincolnshire context

Over the last 30 years Lincolnshire has had one of the fastest growing populations in Europe, albeit from a relatively low base. Latest estimates for 2009 place the county population at 698,000 people, which represents an increase of almost 8% since 2001. However, as the fourth largest county in England (at 5,921 sq. km), Lincolnshire still has a population density of only 118 people per sq. km compared to 398 nationally despite this level of population growth; this has led to Lincolnshire being classified as one of the most rural counties in England by Defra.

The extreme rural nature of much of the county presents very real issues in terms of creating critical mass in an area to make service delivery efficient and viable. The size and nature of the county network (9,000 km of roads, in the main characterised by minor roads and very few trunk roads), also makes it difficult to deliver an all encompassing, inclusive and effective public transport

system. Together these issues mean that there are areas of the county where access to healthcare, sport and leisure facilities, learning provision and employment can be problematic for some.

Lincolnshire's economy is characterised by low skill and low wages, with a high proportion of people of working age yet to achieve their first full Level 2²⁴ qualification which, according to the "Leitch Review of Skills: Prosperity for all in the global economy-world class skills"²⁵, which was published in December 2006, is "...... a platform of skills for entry into, and retention and progression within, work and the labour market."

The approach taken in this needs assessment has been to:

- Identify areas of the county where there are high numbers of children living in poverty to enable targeted intervention
- cross cutting themes, i.e. common factors displayed by children living in poverty regardless of their residential environment
- consider poverty of access and of aspiration as well as poverty of economy

The next step will be to:

- continue to develop a sound evidence base for Lincolnshire
- consider the evidence and develop a strategy for tackling child poverty in the county
- consult and work with partners to identify best practice and to develop innovative approaches
- agree and implement a shared programme of work that pilots these approaches and monitors success of initiatives in order to maximise their effectiveness in successfully addressing child poverty in Lincolnshire.

²⁵ In 2004 the British Government commissioned Lord Sandy Leitch, Chairman of the National employment Panel, to conduct a review of the UK's long term skills need.

²⁴ Full Level 2 equates to NVQ 2, 5 GCSEs grades A* to C, GNVQ Intermediate, City & Guilds Craft level, BTEC 1st Diploma

This is the first in a series of four documents that will support the alleviation of child poverty in Lincolnshire and constitutes Part 1 of the needs assessment, which is the evidence upon which the later documents will be based; Part 2 will focus on current provision and short term developments, identifying gaps in relation to the findings in Part 1.

The prime data used in Part 1 of the needs assessment is the headline national indicator for Child Poverty (NI 116) and is drawn from the datasets produced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for 2007 and 2008²⁶. As a national indicator, however, NI 116 uses a national definition of child poverty based on income, regardless of the variation in the cost of living in different parts of the country.

Although the method of conducting the needs assessment is non prescriptive, the recommendation is that it includes both quantitative and qualitative information, using the following "building blocks" identified by C4EO in their published toolkit:

- employment and skills
- family and life chances
- financial support
- place and delivery

and while this needs assessment does not strictly follow the building block format, each element has been addressed.

A further recommendation is that specific attention is paid to at risk groups, such as teenage parents, Looked After Children, ethnic minority communities and workless households; however, there is very little detailed information available that is broken down into specific groups and this is an issue that needs to be addressed by data collectors in the future.

HMRC 2007 and 2008 ward and lower super output area (LSOA) data at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/Isoa-ward.xls. The term "All Children" refers to all dependent children under the age of 20. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, so aggregating the individual estimates may not sum to the given totals for an area. This does not change the outcome of the analysis.

Partners are keen to ensure that this needs assessment is not viewed in isolation but that it links with others in the county including:

- the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- the Local Economic Assessment
- Drivers of Child Health Inequalities
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- The Young Person's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Services
 Needs Assessment.
- Children's Centres Self Evaluation Framework (SEF)

Furthermore, it is in the intention of Partners to develop an "intelligence hub" that will serve as a repository for information relating to the child poverty agenda and that it will be added to and updated on an on-going basis and also to carry out primary research in local communities over the forthcoming year.

2.3 Sources of information

Information from the following sources have been used in the preparation of this needs assessment:

- HMRC NI 116 2007 and 2008, Ward and Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)
- Census 2001
- NOMIS
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) Neighbourhood Statistics
- eoasys (electronic offender assessment system)
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Lincolnshire County Council Performance Team
- Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards
- Citizen's Advice Bureaux (Boston and West Lindsey)

Information gathered by consulting with the following groups will be included in Part 2:

- key stakeholders
- parents and young people living in target areas



3 CHILD POVERTY IN LINCOLNSHIRE

3.1 Prevalence of child poverty

NI 116 measures the proportion of dependent children in a local authority area that are living in households where the equivalized income is below 60% of the contemporary national median.

NB: data in this section is rounded either up or down in multiples of 5. Totals may appear to be inconsistent between tables.

This section focuses on the headline measure of child poverty. For the purpose of this indicator, a 'child' is defined as a person age 0 to 16 or between 16 and 19 and who is:

- living with parents
- either in full time, non-advanced education or in unwaged
 Government training
- neither married nor living in a civil partnership

Table 3.1a below shows the number of children living in poverty by district in 2007 and 2008:

Area		20	007			20	800	
	U16s	%	All	%	U16s	%	All	%
England	2,141,690	22.4%	2,397,645	21.6%	2,068,970	21.6%	2,341,975	20.9%
Lincolnshire	20,445	16.8%	23,010	16.2%	20,100	16.5%	22,730	15.9%
County Child Pov	erty totals by	district:						
-								
Boston	2,220	10.9%	2,465	10.7%	2,215	11.0%	2,465	10.8%
East Lindsey	4,620	22.6%	5,305	23.1%	4,500	22.4%	5,215	22.9%
Lincoln	3,975	19.4%	4,465	19.4%	3,930	19.5%	4,390	19.3%
North Kesteven	1,900	9.3%	2,160	9.4%	1,820	9.1%	2,100	9.2%
South Holland	2,280	11.2%	2,520	10.9%	2,215	11.0%	2,450	10.8%
South Kesteven	3,040	14.9%	3,415	14.8%	3,035	15.1%	3,405	15.0%
West Lindsey	2,410	11.8%	2,680	11.6%	2,385	11.9%	2,705	11.9%

The proportion living in poverty does not appear to have varied greatly from 2007 to 2008 and suggests that the proportion of children living in poverty in

Lincolnshire is lower than the national average. However, Lincolnshire is a diverse county with pockets of deprivation, which is highlighted even at district level, i.e. 22.9% of children living in poverty live in East Lindsey, compared with 9.2% in North Kesteven. In order to gain a clearer picture it is necessary to analyse information available at lower levels, including Ward and Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).

In the following tables the information is presented by ward, using the 2007 Electoral ward boundaries, of which there are 180 in total.

Table 3.1b below shows the ten Wards ranked by the highest proportion of children living in poverty in 2008:

	proportion of childr		
Ward	District	Proportion of children	No. of children
Fanaida	David	10.70/	540
Fenside	Boston	40.7%	510
Ingoldmells	East Lindsey	40.3%	130
Mablethorpe Central	East Lindsey	39.1%	145
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	37.0%	810
Mablethorpe East	East Lindsey	36.6%	140
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	35.8%	670
Trinity	East Lindsey	35.6%	210
Trusthorpe & Mablethorpe South	East Lindsey	35.5%	85
Mablethorpe North	East Lindsey	34.6%	130
Glebe	Lincoln	34.2%	715
Total no. of children			3545

The data in the table above shows that while the proportion of children living in poverty in a Ward may be high, this does not necessarily mean there are high numbers, e.g. Fenside, which has the highest proportion of children living in poverty at 40.7% and where the number is also fairly high at 510, compared with Ingoldmells, which has the second highest proportion at 40.3% but a much lower number of 130. The total number of children living in poverty in these Wards (3545) represents 15.6% of all children living in poverty in Lincolnshire in 2008.

Data presented in percentages is useful for making comparisons and where the objective is to identify where child poverty is more likely to occur; if, on the other hand, the objective is to target resources where they are likely to make the greatest impact by volume, it is essential to analyse data by numbers.

Table 3.1c below shows the ten Wards with the highest number of children living in poverty in 2008:

Table 3.1c: Wards ranked by the highest number of children living in poverty, 2008					
Ward	District	No. of children	Proportion of children		
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	810	37.0%		
Glebe	Lincoln	715	34.2%		
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	670	35.8%		
Birchwood	Lincoln	655	30.5%		
Moorland	Lincoln	610	32.9%		
Fenside	Boston	510	40.7%		
Minster	Lincoln	465	28.5%		
Park	Lincoln	460	26.5%		
Abbey	Lincoln	450	25.7%		
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	380	23.8%		
Total no. of children		5725			

The data in the table above shows that high numbers of children living in poverty reside in the district of Lincoln. The total number of children living in poverty in these Wards (5725) represents 25.2% of all children living in poverty in Lincolnshire in 2008; those that live in the wards in the Lincoln district represent over ½ of the 5725. This has implications for the targeting of resources.

Table 3.1d below provides a comparison between Wards where there are high and low numbers of children living in poverty:

Table 3.1d: Compariso	n between children li	ving in poverty a	ind those not liv	ing in poverty	
Ward	District	No. living in poverty	% living in poverty	No. not living in poverty	% not living in poverty
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	810	37.0%	1,379	63.0%
Glebe	Lincoln	715	34.2%	1,376	65.8%
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	670	35.8%	1,202	64.2%
Birchwood	Lincoln	655	30.5%	1,272	69.5%
Moorland	Lincoln	610	32.9%	1,106	67.1%
Fenside	Boston	510	40.7%	743	59.3%
Minster	Lincoln	465	28.5%	1,167	71.5%
Park	Lincoln	460	26.5%	1,276	73.5%
Abbey	Lincoln	450	25.7%	1,301	74.3%
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	380	23.8%	1,217	76.2%
Saxonwell	South Kesteven	25	4.9%	485	95.1%
Lincrest	South Kesteven	25	4.7%	507	95.3%
Hillsides	South Kesteven	25	4.5%	531	95.5%
Loveden	South Kesteven	25	3.7%	651	96.3%
Green Hill	South Kesteven	25	2.7%	901	97.3%
Tetford	East Lindsey	20	5.9%	319	94.1%
North Hykeham	North Kesteven	20	4.0%	480	96.0%
Sudbrooke	West Lindsey	20	3.1%	625	96.9%
Leasingham	North Kesteven	15	4.8%	298	95.2%
Witham Valley	South Kesteven	15	4.1%	351	95.9%

The data above shows that:

- the Wards with the highest (Earlesfield) and lowest (Witham Valley) numbers of children living in poverty are both in the district of South Kesteven.
- even in wards where the number of children living in poverty is high,
 e.g. Earlesfield (810), the number of children not defined as living in
 poverty can be much higher (1379); this highlights the need to ensure that, where resources are limited, they are carefully targeted. In order to do this, it is necessary to examine data available at a much lower level, e.g. Lower Super Output Level (LSOA)²⁷.

The Wards listed in Table 1d can be further broken down into 46 LSOAs and, in some cases, this highlights contrasting areas in close geographical proximity. Table 3.1e below shows contrasting LSOAs for 5 of the Wards listed in Table 3.1d:

²⁷ LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 residents.

Table 3.1e: Contrasting LSOAs						
South Kesteven	Earlesfield	E01026312	290	53.6%		
		E01026309	60	17.8%		
Lincoln	Birchwood	E01026129	335	50.8%		
		E01026130	15	6.9%		
West Lindsey	Gainsborough East	E01026374	190	42.0%		
		E01026376	150	36.0%		

Table 3.1e above shows that where Ward level might suggest high numbers of children living in poverty, there are pockets within the Wards where numbers are much lower, e.g. Birchwood.

Lincolnshire is broken down into 413 LSOAs. Table 3.1f below shows the 30 LSOAs in Lincolnshire with the highest numbers of children living in poverty. Wards and districts have been included to show geographical spread:

Table 3.1f: C	hildren living in poverty b	v LSOA		
10.010 01111				
LSOA	Ward	District	No.	%
E01026129	Birchwood		335	50.8%
E01026011	Fenside		310	38.3%
E01026173	Moorland		290	53.7%
E01026312	Earlesfield		290	53.6%
E01026152	Glebe		275	47.6%
E01026308	Earlesfield		225	43.9%
E01026108	Trinity		210	35.6%
E01026010	Fenside		200	45.3%
E01026083	St Clement's		190	42.7%
E01026374	Gainsborough East		190	42.0%
E01026156	Glebe		175	38.2%
E01026270	Spalding St Paul's		175	40.1%
E01026026	Skirbeck		165	32.0%
E01026123	Abbey		165	34.2%
E01026154	Glebe		165	37.8%
E01026168	Minster		165	39.8%
E01026328	Harrowby		165	37.2%
E01026375	Gainsborough East		165	41.4%
E01026378	Gainsborough North		165	33.2%
E01026019	Kirton		160	25.7%
E01026377	Gainsborough East		160	27.0%
E01026127	Birchwood		155	37.2%
E01026376	Gainsborough East		150	36.0%
E01026072	Mablethorpe Central		145	39.1%
E01026310	Earlesfield		145	37.2%
E01026073	Mablethorpe East		140	36.6%
E01026150	Castle		140	41.8%
E01026183	Billinghay		140	23.7%
E01026092	Scarborough		135	34.2%
E01026094	Scarborough		135	38.1%
Total			5,625	

The total number or children living in poverty in the 30 LSOAs listed above represent 25% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire. This provides an interesting comparison to data included in Table 3.1d which lists the 10 Wards with the highest numbers of children living in poverty and which represents 46 LSOAs. Targeting LSOAs listed above, however, may require additional resources as they are scattered across a much wider area.

More recently the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has made available data regarding the number of children age 0 -18 living in "out-of-work benefit claimant households"; data is available at Ward and LSOA level.

As this data is based on different criteria to NI 116 it is not possible to make direct comparisons. However, using ranking as way of ordering Wards and LSOAs by the highest number of children living in such households it is possible to show how they relate to each other over a period of time. Table 3.1g below shows the ranking of 15 Wards over the period 2007 – 2010:

3.1g: Wards ranked by the highest number of children living in poverty, 2007 to 2010						
Ward	District	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	1	1	2	1	
Glebe	Lincoln	2	2	1	2	
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	3	3	3	4	
Birchwood	Lincoln	4	4	4	3	
Moorland	Lincoln	5	5	5	5	
Fenside	Boston	6	6	6	6	
Park	Lincoln	7	8	7	8	
Abbey	Lincoln	8	9	10	7	
Minster	Lincoln	9	7	13	10	
Harrowby	South Kesteven	10	13	9	11	
Gainsborough South	West Lindsey	11	14	11	13	
Scarborough	East Lindsey	12	11	14	12	
Castle	Lincoln	13	12	12	14	
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	14	10	8	9	
St Clement's	East Lindsey	15	15	15	15	

The information above shows that these Wards have remained in the top 15 for having the highest number of children living in poverty over the four year period.

Table 3.1h below shows the position of four LSOAs in Lincolnshire in relation to 32,477 nationally:

Table 3.1h: Rank of LSOAs in national table of children living in poverty, 2010						
LSOA	Ward	District	Position			
E01026129	Birchwood	Lincoln	44=			
E01026011	Fenside	Boston	284=			
E01026312	Earlesfield	South Kesteven	249=			

All of the LSOAs listed above are in the top 1% for having the highest number of children age 0 - 18 living in poverty.

3.2 Family type

Analysis of the NI 116 data for 2008 shows that 63% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire live within a Lone Parent family; whilst this is below the national average of 68%, in some parts of the county the figure is 75%.

Furthermore, the data shows that 50% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire live in a Lone Parent family in receipt of JSA; whilst this is below the national average of 58%, in some parts of the County the figure is 68%.

Table 3.2a below shows the proportion of children living in poverty by family type of each district in the County:

Table 3.2a: Children living in poverty by family type					
Area	Couple	Lone Parent			
Lincolnshire	37.0%	63.0%			
Boston	39.4%	60.6%			
East Lindsey	44.2%	55.8%			
Lincoln	31.6%	68.4%			
North Kesteven	38.3%	61.7%			
South Holland	36.2%	63.8%			
South Kesteven	30.2%	69.8%			
West Lindsey	37.6%	62.4%			

3.3 Age of children

Table 3.3a below shows the number of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire by age group:

Table 3.3a: Children living in poverty by age group						
Area	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-19		
Lincolnshire	30.3%	31.0%	27.0%	11.7%		

The data above shows that 61% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire are age 0 - 10.

The pattern varies across the County however; for example:

- in LSOA E01026308 (Earlesfield Ward, South Kesteven district) 50% of children living in poverty were age 0-4
- in LSOA E01026154 (Glebe Ward, Lincoln district) 35% of children living in poverty were age 11-15; 17.6% of children living in poverty were age 16-19

This further emphasises that needs of different communities vary and that services need to be tailored in order to provide the support required.

4 CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS

4.1 Employment status

This section looks at those factors that are considered to be ones that are most likely to contribute to low levels of household income; the most obvious factor that influences household income is the employment status of parents.

Lincolnshire is characterised by a low skill, low pay based economy.

Furthermore, the employment opportunities available in the extreme rural nature of some areas and on the coastal strip tend to be of a seasonal nature, so securing a consistent income can be a challenge.

4.2 Employment opportunities in Lincolnshire

Sufficiency of suitable employment that offers high pay and progression routes is likely to be a contributory factor in alleviating poverty. Table 4.2a below shows employment by sector, where known, by district for 2008²⁸:

Table 4.2a: Emple	Table 4.2a: Employment by sector, 2008							
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Area	Banking/ Finance	Agriculture/ Fishing	Transport/ Communic ations	Public Sector	Distribution/ Hospitality	Construction	Other	
Boston	18.4%	6.3%	3.6%	26.4%	26.1%	2.7%	3.1%	
East Lindsey	10.9%	4.9%	3.4%	26.6%	31.9%	4.8%	6.2%	
Lincoln	18.6%	N/K	4.3%	33.2%	24.8%	3.2%	4.1%	
North Kesteven	14.0%	4.4%	3.7%	28.3%	24.4%	8.4%	3.4%	
South Holland	14.7%	8.2%	7.5%	15.7%	24.7%	6.1%	2.5%	
South Kesteven	13.0%	1.4%	3.4%	27.4%	26.6%	5.2%	5.2%	
West Lindsey	10.8%	5.5%	4.5%	28.1%	24.0%	8.3%	5.2%	

The data above shows that the public sector organisations employ a large proportion of the workforce in Lincolnshire: particularly in districts where there are major conurbations, e.g. Lincoln, Boston, South Kesteven and West Lindsey; the second largest employment sector is distribution and hospitality, which is typical of a large, rural county with a coastline. What also needs to be borne in mind is that much of the work in the coastal strip and in the more

²⁸ Data available from Lincolnshire research Observatory. Data for Energy & Water sector not available at district level

remote rural areas is of a seasonal nature, so the better paid opportunities are not necessarily available all year round.

Reliance on public sector organisations as major employers is problematic in the current climate owing to the high risk of job reductions.

4.3 Overall employment rate

4.3.1 Labour supply

Table 4.3.1a below shows data relating to the labour supply for the period April 2009 to March 2010 and includes the number of people that are either in employment or self employed; data presented as numbers refers to people age 16 and over; data presented as percentages refers to people age 16 to 64²⁹:

Table 4.3.1a: Labour supply in Lincolnshire, April 2009 – March 2010					
Area	In employment		Self employed		
Great Britain		76.5%		8.0%	
East Midlands		77.4%		9.0%	
Boston	25,600	80.9%	3,000	8.8%	
East Lindsey	61,600	68.6%	11,000	11.4%	
Lincoln	43,000	70.0%	4,200	6.6%	
North Kesteven	51,400	76.4%	6,300	9.4%	
South Holland	36,900	72.5%	5,300	10.0%	
South Kesteven	67,400	76.2%	11,400	11.7%	
West Lindsey	38,700	66.0%	4,700	7.7%	

The data in Table 4.3.1a shows that Boston was the district with the highest proportion of people of working age either in employment or self employment for the period. However, in a recent report published by Experian regarding regional resilience³⁰, Boston was described as the district with the lowest average earnings in England.

Data available from NOMIS, which is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and provides access to the most up to date UK labour market statistics from official sources.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/nol/shared/spl/hi/uk/10/experian/xls/resilience.xls

4.4 Median gross weekly earnings

Based on NI 116 criteria and national median weekly pay for full time employees as at April 2010, household income needs to be in the region of £15,568 (£299.40 per week) for children to be living above the poverty threshold. Table 4.4a below shows the median gross weekly pay by workplace for the years 2006-7, 2007-08, 2008-09³¹ and by residence for 2009³². The end column shows the difference between 2008-09 earnings by workplace and 2009 earnings by residence:

Table 4.4a: Median gr	oss weekly earnings					
		Workplace		Residence	Difference	
Area	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009		
England	£452.30	£463.60	£483.90	£502.85	£18.95	
East Midlands	£421.60	£421.60	£445.10	£471.79	£26.69	
Lincolnshire	£383.00	£385.60	£402.50	£445.73	£43.23	
Boston	£375.90	£374.40	£369.90	£391.23	£21.33	
East Lindsey	£362.40	£339.60	£376.60	£423.13	£46.53	
Lincoln	£401.40	£409.60	£417.40	£438.15	£20.75	
North Kesteven	£365.90	£389.50	£382.10	£445.62	£63.52	
South Holland	£382.00	£404.50	£407.60	£442.12	£34.52	
South Kesteven	£374.80	£377.10	£433.10	£474.71	£41.61	
West Lindsey	£408.90	£375.00	£404.00	£457.77	£53.77	

NB: the data above needs to be treated with caution as it uses inconsistent time frames

The data in Table 4.4a shows that median income in Lincolnshire has been consistently lower than the regional and national averages by workplace since 2006-07 and that in all districts median gross weekly earnings are below the national average by residence, with Boston being the lowest. In all areas, median earnings by residence are higher than by workplace, which suggests that people travel to work outside of their usual area of residence.

Table 4.4b below shows median earnings in the district of Boston from 2002 to 2009 compared with those for Great Britain and the East Midlands:

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³¹ Data available from http://www.pat.communities.gov.uk/pat/

Data available from the Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO)

Table 4.4b: Median weekly earnings in Boston by residence					
Year	Boston	East Midlands	Great Britain		
2002	£322.30	£369.60	£392.70		
2003	£340.10	£385.70	£406.20		
2004	£338.90	£391.60	£421.30		
2005	£357.00	£412.20	£432.80		
2006	£376.60	£423.10	£445.90		
2007	£397.50	£430.00	£460.00		
2008	£373.20	£450.20	£480.00		
2009	£369.30	£460.50	£491.00		

The data in Table 4.4b shows that median weekly earnings in the district of Boston has been consistently lower than the regional and national averages for a number of years and that by 2009, earnings by residence had not quite reached the national average for 2002. While this suggests that household income in the Boston district has a bigger impact on child poverty than in other parts of the country, it is necessary to explore other factors before an assessment can be made; for example, other factors contribute to the financial status of a household, such as house prices and the general cost of living. Table 4.4C below shows details of house prices and monthly mortgage repayments together with median gross monthly earnings in order to illustrate how this might impact on a household's disposable income. The number of mortgage repossessions has also been included:

Table 4.4c: Housing costs and repossessions 2009					
Area	Mean average house prices (Q1)	Monthly mortgage repayments ³³	Median gross monthly earnings	% of gross earnings	Mortgage repossessions (no. per 1000)
England & Wales	£178,100	£1,066.92	£2,179.00	48.96%	3.17
East Midlands	£134,600	£806.33	£2,044.42	39.44%	3.23
Lincolnshire	£132,100	£791.35	£1,931.50	40.97%	3.03
Boston	£106,400	£637.40	£1,695.33	37.60%	5.00
East Lindsey	£126,600	£758.40	£1,833.56	41.36%	2.87
Lincoln	£115,700	£693.11	£1,898.65	36.51%	2.95
North Kesteven	£144,100	£863.24	£1,931.02	44.70%	2.21
South Holland	£125,000	£748.82	£1,915.85	39.09%	3.86
South Kesteven	£146,400	£877.02	£2,057.08	42.63%	2.73
West Lindsey	£139,700	£836.88	£1,983.67	42.19%	2.78

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 $^{^{33}}$ Mortgage rates based on 90% of the property value and a 2 year discounted tracker, variable rate (5.29% interest)

The data in Table 4.4c does not factor in income tax, National Insurance payments and other committed expenditure, e.g. loans and credit card payments. However, it does serve as an illustration of how the cost of covering the normal major item of expenditure in a household, i.e. the house itself, varies depending on its location and thus impacts on the level of disposable income.

Table 4.4d below shows the average price by property type in 2009:

Table 4.4d: Average property price by type, 2009					
Area	Detached	Semi detached	Terraced	Flat/maisonette	
England & Wales	£235,991	£144,363	£118,243	£141,528	
East Midlands	£190,997	£102,768	£80,152	£86,492	
Lincolnshire	£168,497	£100,857	£78,565	£74,763	

The data above shows the considerable difference between house prices across the country, with those in Lincolnshire being below both the regional and national averages.

4.5 Worklessness

The greatest contributory factor to household income is the employed status of the resident adults of working age. Department of Work and pensions (DWP) data available from NOMIS³⁴ for February 2010 showed that approximately 14% of adults of working age in Lincolnshire were in receipt of benefits. This compares with 12.9% nationally.

Table 4.5a below shows the 30 Wards listed in Table 3.1f, i.e. those with the highest number of children living in poverty (representing the upper quartile) and how these wards match with LSOAs ranked in a similar way in relation to key benefit claimants, i.e. LSOAs in the upper quartile of the numbers in receipt of JSA, ESA/IB and Lone Parent's Benefit³⁵:

³⁴ Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics, ONS, to give you free access to the most detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources. https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp

³⁵ Claimants are categorized by the highest level of benefit claimed, i.e. a claimant in receipt of ESA/Incapacity Benefit and Lone Parent Benefit will be counted as an ESA/Incapacity Benefit claimant.

Table 4.5a: LSOA	s where children live in	n poverty (up	per quartile)	
LSOAs in upper quartile	Ward	All benefit claimants	JSA	ESA/IB	Lone Parent benefit
Boston					
E01026010	Fenside	√ √	√ √	√	√
E01026011	Fenside	√	√ √	√	V
E01026019	Kirton	√ √		√ √	$\sqrt{}$
E01026026	Skirbeck	√		√	$\sqrt{}$
East Lindsey					
E01026072	Mablethorpe Central	√		√	
E01026073	Mablethorpe East	√		√	
E01026092	Scarborough	V	V	V	
E01026094	Scarborough	√		V	
E01026083	St Clement's	√	1	√	V
E01026108	Trinity	√	1	√	V
Lincoln					
E01026123	Abbey	A			V
E01026127	Birchwood	1		1	V
E01026129	Birchwood	V	√	1	V
E01026150	Castle	1	V	1	V
E01026152	Glebe	1			V
E01026154	Glebe				V
E01026156	Glebe				V
E01026168	Minster	1	V		V
E01026173	Moorland	V	1	√	V
North Kesteven					
E01026183	Billinghay	1		√	
South Holland					
E01026270	Spalding St Paul's		√		V
South Kesteven					
E01026308	Earlesfield	V	√	V	V
E01026310	Earlesfield				
E01026312	Earlesfield	V	√		V
E01026328	Harrowby	V		√	
West Lindsey					
E01026374	Gainsborough East	V	V	V	V
E01026375	Gainsborough East	V			V
E01026376	Gainsborough East		V		,,
E01026377	Gainsborough East	√	V		V
E01026378	Gainsborough North	V			V

 $[\]sqrt{\ }$ = represented in upper quartile count of benefit claimants

This supports the information in Table 3.1g which shows that East Lindsey has the lowest proportion of children living in poverty in Lone Parent families.

Table 4.5b below shows the proportion of claimants by key benefit type for each district:

Table 4.5b: Benefit claimants by district					
Area	All claimants	JSA	ESA/IB	Lone Parent Benefit	
Boston	5830	24%	46%	10%	
East Lindsey	15430	21%	48%	7%	
Lincoln	11040	29%	41%	12%	
North Kesteven	6770	23%	43%	8%	
South Holland	6710	27%	43%	9%	
South Kesteven	9270	28%	40%	11%	
West Lindsey	7460	26%	44%	9%	
Total	62510				

NB: data above does not include Disability Living Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Carers Benefit; also numbers are rounded to nearest

This information shows that:

- almost ½ of benefit claimants in the East Lindsey district are in receipt of Employment Support Allowance/Incapacity Benefit (ESA/IB)
- almost 25% of ESA/IB claimants in Lincolnshire live in the East Lindsey district

This has implications for targeted support for those out of work and requires more in depth analysis to identify the most appropriate support for each area.

5 BARRIERS TO WELL PAID EMPLOYMENT

Barriers to obtaining highly skilled, well paid employment generally relate to either availability or accessibility.

Availability

- availability is affected by the extreme rural nature of a large part of Lincolnshire and the poor transport infrastructure, which tends not to attract large scale industries to the County
- much of the work is seasonal, particularly on the coastal strip and in the agricultural areas of the south
- the work that is available in these areas does not demand a high level of skill

Accessibility

Factors limiting accessibility include:

- poor transport links
- availability of affordable childcare
- lack of the appropriate skills and qualifications
- a history of offending
- poor health
- substance misuse

5.1 Availability

According to the most recent Local Economic Assessment³⁶ (LEA), 85% of businesses in the county employ 10 or fewer people, a further 12% employ 11-49 people; therefore, 97% of the county's employers employ 50 people or less and are categorized as Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs tend to present a barrier to personal career advancement for their workforce for the following reasons:

³⁶ Lincolnshire – a Local Economic Assessment 2011: http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Local-Economic-Assessment.aspx

- in-house training is preferred as release from the work place can seriously affect capacity
- in-house training tends to meet their needs

In a recent audit of skills in the East Lindsey Coastal Zone³⁷, the Warwick Institute for Employment Research reported that "the occupational structure is...skewed towards less skilled jobs, which is a reflection of the limited demand for skills and training". This together with the predominance of agriculture and related occupations in the south means that much of the work is seasonal; unemployment rises considerably in the eastern and southern areas during the winter months.

In areas where there are vacancies and where recruitment is a challenge for employers, the Local Economic Assessment reports that, when asked about this problem, businesses have suggested that a dependence on benefits means that labour, both skilled and unskilled, is difficult to attract. The Local Economic Assessment also points out that, over the last ten years, there has been little change in areas where worklessness is high, which suggests that the problem is deep rooted in the community.

5.2 Accessibility

5.2.1 Transport

An important consideration for Lincolnshire residents, particularly in the more remote rural areas, is access to transport. The county is the fourth largest in England and covers 5,921 square kilometres; it is also sparsely populated: in 2007 the population density was approximately 118 people per sq km compared with the national average of 398 people per sq km.

Although the road network in the county is extensive it is dominated by A and B roads; there is no motorway. Movement around the county can, therefore, be time consuming.

³⁷ "East Lindsey Coastal Zone Skills Audit", Warwick Institute for Employment Research (IER), University of Warwick, June 2010

The rural nature of Lincolnshire means that people living in the more remote areas either have to rely on pubic transport, which is limited, or own a vehicle, which is expensive.

National indicator 176 measures the percentage of people of working age (aged 16 to 74 years) living within the catchment area of a location with more than 500 jobs by public transport and/or walking.

Table 5.2.1a below shows the proportion of the working age population in the East Midlands region living within the catchment area of a location with more than 500 jobs accessible by either public transport or walking. Data is available at county, regional and national level for two calendar years:

Table 5.2.1a: Working age people in the East Midlands with access to employment				
Area		CY 2008	CY 2009	
National		82%	82%	
Regional		81%	81%	
Lincolnshire		77%	78%	

Many of the county's railway lines and stations closed during the 1960s following the Beeching Report in 1963. Travel by bus across the County is possible via the InterConnect and CallConnect services; however, this is a part scheduled, part demand led service with limited capacity and so cannot be relied upon as a travel to work method.

As there is vey little data available at lower level in relation to NI 176, Table 5.2.1b below shows the proportion of people in employment by the mode of transport to the work place and the average distance to the fixed place of work measured in kilometres³⁸. Data has been included for four wards, including those in rural and urban areas, where the proportion of out of work benefit claimants is high:

³⁸ Neighbourhood Statistics: Travel to Work (KS15) <u>www.neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk</u>; data extracted from the Census 2001

Table 5.2.1b: Mode of	Table 5.2.1b: Mode of transport and distance travelled (Census 2001)						
Mode of transport	England	Lincs	G'boro E	Earlesfield	Moorland	Binbrook	Bardney
			0.00.0 =				
Work from home	9.2%	10.6%	5.5%	5.8%	6.3%	13.8%	15.2%
U'ground, metro, light rail	3.2%	0.06%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Train	4.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Bus, mini bus, coach	7.5%	3.3%	3.8%	7.3%	8.8%	1.0%	1.0%
Motorcycle, moped, scooter	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%	1.6%	2.0%	0.6%
Car, van	54.9%	60.0%	53.0%	48.0%	54.0%	66.0%	67.0%
Passenger	6.1%	6.8%	9.0%	10.3%	9.7%	6.0%	5.8%
Taxi, mini cab	0.5%	0.4%	1.0%	2.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Bicycle	2.8%	5.5%	5.9%	4.9%	10.2%	1.0%	2.9%
On foot	10.0%	10.9%	20.4%	19.3%	7.2%	8.0%	6.3%
Other	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%	0.6%
Average distance to fixed place of work	13.2km	15.1km	13.6km	9.9km	12.3km	21.3km	19.1km

Some long distance commuting does take place from Lincolnshire ad there is a good link to the East Coast Main Line, which skirts the western edge of the County. However, commuters tend to be highly skilled people that work in the Business and Finance sectors.

5.2.2 Childcare

The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to conduct a childcare sufficiency assessment in accordance with regulations. In August 2010 Lincolnshire County Council commissioned QA Research to undertake some of this work³⁹, the results of which supplement data already available from the in-house Performance Team.

A survey of households was conducted as part of the assessment using a sample size of 400 of which:

- 66% were in employment
- 12% were self employed
- 3% were unemployed
- 1% were actively seeking employment
- 1% were unable to work

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³⁹ Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011, undertaken by QA Research, commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council

The remaining 17% were in other categories, e.g. full time parent/carers, on maternity/paternity leave, in full time education, etc.

Collated responses to the survey revealed the following:

- 1/3 of parents using childcare were not accessing any form of financial support
- Over 37% of parents reported that the cost of formal childcare restricts the hours of work to which they can commit
- Over 58% using informal childcare reported that the cost of using formal childcare prohibits their ability to work
- 89% of respondents were either married or living with a partner

Respondents from the travelling community reported that they do not tend to use formal childcare but that this for cultural reasons rather than because of a lack of availability.

QA Research also contacted a number of employers, of which:

- 46% were SMEs
- 48% employed 50-199 people
- 2/3 were not providing any support regarding childcare, financial or otherwise, to their employees

Research regarding availability carried out by Lincolnshire County Council's Performance Team suggests that:

- across the county, there are enough places to meet demand apart from a shortfall in the Under 2s and 5 – 10 age groups.
- In some Wards there are insufficient places in all age groups, although this is usually compensated for in other Wards within the Ward Community⁴⁰.

According to the most recent data available for NI 118 (Take up of formal childcare among low income families)⁴¹ there has been a steady increase in

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 $^{^{}m 40}$ A Ward Community is a cluster of Wards usually served by the same Children's Centre

⁴¹ www.pat.communities.gov.uk

the rate of take up in Lincolnshire from 13.6% in 2004-05 to 17.2% in 2007-08. Detailed occupancy at low level area is not currently available.

Further research is needed into:

- The reasons why Lone Parents are not taking up formal childcare
- The reasons why people that are unemployed are not taking up formal childcare
- Occupancy rates at either Ward or LSOA level

5.2.3 Skills and qualifications

In the "Leitch Review of Skills: Prosperity for all in the global economy-world class skills"⁴², which was published in December 2006, Lord Leitch states that:

"It is essential that all adults are able to achieve a platform of skills for entry into, and retention and progression within, work and the labour market. The Review recommends that the UK commit to exceeding 90 per cent of the adult population qualified to at least Level 2 by 2020, up from 69 per cent in 2005, and achieving the world class level of 95 per cent as soon as possible".

Leitch also reported that:

- 70% of the 2020 workforce had already left compulsory education
- One third of adults did not hold the equivalent of a school leaving qualification
- One half of adults (17 million) had difficulty with numbers
- One seventh (5 million) were not functionally literate

Since the Leitch review, achievement of a full Level 2 qualification has become the benchmark for a number of initiatives, including Train to Gain⁴³

⁴² In 2004 the British Government commissioned Lord Sandy Leitch, Chairman of the National employment Panel, to conduct a review of the UK's long term skills need.

⁴³ Train to Gain is the national skills service for employers aimed at improving the skills base of nationa's work force: http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/

and Next Step⁴⁴. National indicator 163 measures the proportion of the working age population (age 19-64 for males, 19-59 for females) that has achieved a full Level 2 qualification (e.g. five GCSEs at A*-C, NVQ Level2, GNVQ Intermediate, City & Guilds Craft, BTEC First).

Table 5.2.3a below shows the proportion of people of working age that have yet to achieve their first full Level 2 qualification, by district in 2009 compared with data from the Census 2001 which shows the number of people age 16-74 that had not achieved their first full Level 2 qualification:

Table 5.2.3	Table 5.2.3a: Proportion of working age with <l2 qualifications<="" th=""><th></th></l2>								
	GB	East Midlands	Boston	East Lindsey	Lincoln	North Kesteven	South Holland	South Kesteven	West Lindsey
Census 2001			59%	55.7%	48.3%	47.2%	57.8%	46.3%	48.1%
NOMIS 2009	36.1%	34.6%	44.1%	40.3%	40.4%	26.9%	39.9%	32.6%	38.2%

As the above data uses two different sets of criteria, direct comparisons cannot be made and recent data at sub district level is not currently available. However, Census 2001 data is available at LSOA level and shows that the number of people age 16-74 yet to achieve their first full Level 2 qualification is as high as 73% in some areas. This suggests that, even if the improvement since 2001 has occurred at a similar rate to the district average, the proportion of working age people without a full Level 2 qualification is still high.

People that have learning difficulties and/or disabilities also face barriers to securing employment, well paid or otherwise. Table 5.2.3b below shows the proportion of adults with learning disabilities in employment during 2008-09:

Table 5.2.3b: Adults with learning disabilities in employment		
Area	%	
England	6.8%	
East Midlands	6.4%	
Lincolnshire	4.3%	

⁴⁴ Next Step is the national careers service for adults http://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/

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An additional concern is that the number of people of working age with either no or low level qualifications is continually being "topped up" by young people leaving full, time, compulsory education without having achieved 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, including the key skills of Maths and English.

Achievement at KS4 is addressed in Section 7.

5.2.4 Health

A lot of research has been carried out in recent years regarding the relationship between health and employment, including Dame Carol Black's review⁴⁵ which highlighted:

- the detrimental effects on health of poor health management by employers
- the role support agencies, such as Occupational Health providers, can play in helping people maintain a healthy working life
- the risks to health of long term unemployment

More recently, the Marmot review of health inequalities points out the importance to Britain's economy of reducing health inequalities and states that:

"Being in good employment is protective of health. Conversely, unemployment contributes to poor health."

In 2003, the Government introduced the "Pathways to Work" pilots in some areas of the country. This service, for those in receipt of either Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Income Support (IS) paid because of illness and/ or disability, is designed to help people return to the workplace. The programme includes a range of support including initial assessment, work focussed interviews and condition management. The programme has been gradually extended nationally and support is now provided through Jobcentre Plus and other providers.

⁴⁵ Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working age population "Working for a healthier tomorrow", TSO, 2008

The national roll out of Pathways to Work coincided with the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), which replaced IB for new claimants from October 2008.

The Condition Management aspect of the programme is designed to help people make necessary adjustments to their work place and/or working patterns to enable them to enter employment. Most conditions fall under the following categories: cardio vascular, musculo skeletal or mental illness. Research has shown that many people that initially have to leave their work place because of either cardio vascular or musculo skeletal related conditions are at risk of developing a mental illness, such as depression, if their absence from the work place goes on for a long period. The Pathways to Work programme, therefore, aims to support people in managing their conditions before they become chronic and lead to long term illness and possibly to disability.

NI 150 measures the employment outcomes for mentally ill adults age 18-69. Adults that are defined as mentally ill for the purpose of this indicator are those that are in contact with secondary mental health services (SMHS) and are on the care programme approach (CPA). Employment is categorised as follows:

- working full-time as an employee or self-employed (16 or more hours per week);
- working as an employee or self-employed (5 to 15 hours per week);
- working as an employee or self employed (1 to 4 hours per week).

Categories 1-3 above are combined to report on the employment rate for this group.

There is very little information available at low level. Table 5.2.4a below shows the proportion of adults in employment that are in contact with SMHS for Lincolnshire with regional and national comparisons:

Table 5.2.4a: Mentally ill adults in employment			
Area	%		
England	3.4%		
East Midlands	3.8%		
Lincolnshire	0.7%		

In spite of the range of support available, however, the proportion of benefit claimants in receipt of either IB or ESA is higher than for other benefits (see Table 4.3g). Table 5.2.4b below shows the LSOAs with the highest number of IB/ESA claimants in February 2010:

Table 5.2.4b: ESA/IB	Table 5.2.4b: ESA/IB benefit claimants by LSOA					
LSOA	Ward	District	No. of ESA/IB claimants	% of all claimants		
		Lincolnshire	27360	43.8%		
E01026073	Mablethorpe East	East Lindsey	240	55.2%		
E01026069	Ingoldmells	East Lindsey	230	50.5%		
E01026109	Trusthorpe & Mablethorpe	East Lindsey	220	53.6%		
E01026126	Abbey	Lincoln	210	43.3%		
E01026083	St Clement's	East Lindsey	205	50.6%		
E01026093	Scarborough	East Lindsey	205	42.3%		
E01026072	Mablethorpe Central	East Lindsey	185	50.0%		
E01026074	Mablethorpe North	East Lindsey	185	50.7%		
E01026129	Birchwood	Lincoln	180	37.1%		
E01026173	Moorland	Lincoln	180	40.0%		

The information above shows there are areas where the proportion of ESA/IB claimants is higher than the county average; five of the LSOAs listed in Table 5.2.4b also appear in the 30 LSOAs with the highest number of children living in poverty; a further four are neighbouring.

5.2.5 History of offending

"Fifty percent of people under supervision of probation and of those leaving prison are unemployed.......Not only is the unemployment and

consequent social exclusion problematic, but it is likely to increase reoffending and hence raise the crime rate."⁴⁶

It is not the intention here to examine, in detail, the issue of how a history of offending relates to subsequent difficulties in obtaining employment but rather to illustrate how this may contribute to child poverty. Detailed information regarding the number of offenders not being able to obtain employment is limited, particularly at local level. However, data relating to the number of assessments carried out by the Probation Trust between June 2009 and July 2010 shows that:

- 3824 individuals were assessed in Lincolnshire
- 67% of those individuals lived in the 30 LSOAs listed in Appendix A

Table 5.2.5a below shows the Wards with the highest numbers of individuals completing assessments during the period:

Table 5.2.5a: Number of individuals completing Probation Trust assessments				
Ward	District	No. of individuals	No. of assessments	
Abbey	Lincoln	167	494	
Park	Lincoln	135	418	
Carholme	Lincoln	102	311	
Scarborough	East Lindsey	90	255	
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	86	255	
Castle	Lincoln	72	260	
Moorland	Lincoln	72	204	
Gainsborough S.West	West Lindsey	68	200	
Glebe	Lincoln	67	169	
Birchwood	Lincoln	64	183	

5.2.6 Substance misuse

In relation to the section above regarding offenders and ex offenders, in their research into barriers to employment, Metcalfe and Anderson point out that 45% of those under supervision of probation are misusing either alcohol or

⁴⁶ Metcalf H., Anderson T. and Rolfe H. (2001) "Barriers to employment for offenders and ex-offenders" (DWP Research Report No 155), http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_155.asp

drugs. A recent needs analysis carried out by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) in Lincolnshire⁴⁷ found that:

- 332 young people sought treatment for drug and alcohol addiction in 2009-10
- 20% of those young people lived in the wards that include the 30 LSOAs listed in Appendix A

Table 5.2.6a below shows the number and proportion of young people seeking treatment services by district:

Table 5.2.6a: Young people seeking treatment services by district				
District	No. o	of young people	% of total	
Boston		32	9.6%	
East Lindsey		55	16.6%	
Lincoln		40	12.0%	
North Kesteven		43	13.0%	
South Holland		25	7.5%	
South Kesteven		75	22.6%	
West Lindsey		23	6.9%	
Unknown		39	11.8%	
Total		332		

The information above shows that the district with the highest proportion of young people seeking treatment was South Kesteven, followed by East Lindsey. Table 5.2.6b below shows a breakdown of the ten wards with the highest number of young people seeking treatment

Table 5.2.6b: Young people seeking treatment services by ward				
Ward	District	% of total		
*				
Abbey	Lincoln	4.2%		
Sleaford Quarrington & Mareham	North Kesteven	2.4%		
St Anne's	South Kesteven	2.4%		
Grantham St John's	South Kesteven	2.4%		
Harrowby	South Kesteven	2.1%		
Sleaford Castle	North Kesteven	2.1%		
All Saints	South Kesteven	1.8%		
Castle	Lincoln	1.8%		
Scarborough	East Lindsey	1.8%		
St Mary's	South Kesteven	1.8%		

 $^{^{47}}$ Lincolnshire Young Person's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Services Needs Assessment 2011/12, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Lincolnshire County Council

The information above shows that:

- half of the ten wards with the highest rates of young people seeking treatment are in the district of South Kesteven.
- Four of the wards have LSOAs listed in the Table 3.1f; this does not, in itself, suggest a correlation and further analysis needs to be carried out

In compiling their report, the DAAT Team point out that of major concern is the exclusion of substance misusers from education and include the following information for 2009-10:

- There was a total of 75 exclusions from school for either drug or alcohol related issues
- This equated to 266 school days lost and resulted in 7 permanent exclusions
- Alcohol exclusions were evenly dispersed throughout the school age although Y8 had the highest rate of incidences
- Y10 had the highest rate of drug related exclusions

Steps are now being taken to develop better engagement strategies with these groups, particularly around early intervention.

A further group of concern are young people age 16 – 24. In 2009-10 there were 1776 young people in this age group in Lincolnshire that were affected by substance misuse. Of these, the highest rate of incidences were in the Birchwood and Glebe Wards (Lincoln district) and the Earlesfield Ward (South Kesteven).

The report relating to Adults and substance misuse for 2009-10 was not available at the time of completing this needs assessment; however, early indications suggest the following:

- 55% of treatment service users were parents, with 1 in 5 having children living with them
- From this it can be assumed that at the very least 200 children lived in a household with parental substance misuse

This figure could have been higher as the data did not indicate where a
parent had more than one child living with him/her; neither did it include
those that were not accessing treatment services



6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

A major issue for households in poverty is poor financial management. The following information is an extract from "A Financial Inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire "48:

"People who are financially excluded face many disadvantages, including:

- finding it hard to get a job as more and more employers require bank accounts for direct credit of wages or salaries;
- paying more for utilities due to lack of access to discounts available for Direct Debit and other automated payment methods;
- having to pay extremely high rates of interest to borrow from doorstep lenders or other providers of 'alternative' credit, or worse, facing extortion, intimidation and violence at the hands of illegal lenders or 'loan sharks';
- lacking the financial buffer provided by a small sum of saving, or the security provided by simple insurance, meaning that unexpected financial pressures are difficult, if not impossible, to manage; and
- not being able to access the impartial advice, particularly on debt problems, that can help people avoid significant financial distress.
- ultimately, suffering poor physical and mental health, family breakdown and social isolation."

The strategy further points out that "...the rural nature of the county exacerbated problems.." with:

- Poor or no access to affordable and responsible credit across the whole of Lincolnshire despite a high demand - Lincoln ranks the third worst in the country for this.
- Poor access and take up of basic banking services Over twice the national average of "un-banked" adults.
- Low levels of saving
- Overstretched debt advice services, difficult to access in rural parts of Lincolnshire.

⁴⁸ "A Financial Inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire" produced by Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards in

6.1 Debt management

Data recently obtained from the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in West Lindsey and Boston support the findings detailed above. Table 6.1a below shows details of household type seeking debt advice during 2009-10 and the level of combined priority and non priority debt⁴⁹ for the wards listed in Table 3.1f.

Table 6.1a: Debt advice provided by the CABs in West Lindsey and B	oston	
Household type seeking debt advice (% relates to total for district)	Boston	West Lindsey
No. receiving full debt advice/counselling service	338	222
No. of couples with dependent children	72 (21%)	53 (24%)
No. of single persons with dependent children	61 (18%)	44 (20%)
Total no. with dependent children seeking debt advice	133 (39%)	97 (44%)
No. seeking debt advice in Fenside	44 (13%)	
No. seeking debt advice in Kirton	40 (12%)	
No. seeking debt advice in Skirbeck	22 (7%)	
No. with dependent children in Fenside seeking debt advice	18 (5%)	
No. with dependent children in Kirton seeking debt advice	15 (4%)	
No. with dependent children in Skirbeck seeking debt advice	6 (2%)	
No. seeking debt advice in Gainsborough East		59 (27%)
No. seeking debt advice in Gainsborough North		36 (16%)
No. with dependent children in Gainsborough East seeking debt advice		38 (17%)
No. with dependent children in Gainsborough North seeking debt advice		16 (7%)
Level of debt (% relates to total for district)		
Total debt for district	£6,863,956	£3,780,536
Total debt for households with dependent children	£2,114,226 (31%)	£1,929,661 (51%)
Total debt for Fenside	£542,370 (8%)	
Total debt for Kirton	£1,017,314 (15%)	
Total debt for Skirbeck	£292,381 (4%)	
Total debt for households with dependent children in Fenside	£183,280 (3%)	
Total debt for households with dependent children in Kirton	£244,980 (4%)	
Total debt for households with dependent children in Skirbeck	£97,444 (1%)	
Total debt for Gainsborough East		£1,077,547 (29%)
Total debt for Gainsborough North		£588,172 (16%)
Total debt for households with dependent children in Gainsborough East		£775,270 (20%)
Total debt for households with dependent children in Gainsborough North		£248,251 (7%)
Total debt for flousefloids with dependent children in Gainsborough North		£240,201 (170)

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⁴⁹ Priority debts are those where the debtor is at risk of loss of liberty, livelihood, housing or other life essentials (eg council tax, rent arrears, gas/electricity); non priority debts include credit cards, loans, etc.

The information in Table 6.1a shows that:

- In the Boston district 39% of clients seeking debt advice are from households with dependent children
- Over half of the debt in the West Lindsey district is with clients with dependent children
- The total debt for Gainsborough East Ward is over £1 million, of which
 72% relates to clients with dependent children

Further analysis of the CAB information shows that:

- The average debt per client in Boston is £20,308; the average client debt for those with dependent children is £15,896
- The average client debt in West Lindsey is £17,029; the average client debt for those with dependent children is £19,893
- The average client debt for those with dependent children in the Gainsborough East Ward of West Lindsey is £20,402

Of major concern is household debt where there is a risk that the client may be at risk of losing a "life essential", e.g. liberty, livelihood, housing, gas/electricity); this is referred to as "priority debt".; non priority debt includes credit cards, loans and door stop collectors. Analysis of priority and non priority debt shows that:

- The level of priority debt represents 11% of the total debt in the district of Boston and 21% of the total debt in the district of West Lindsey
- The level of priority debt in the Gainsborough East Ward of west Lindsey is £199,749, which represents 25% of the total priority debt for the district for families with dependent children
- In the West Lindsey district the level of priority debt for clients that are single with dependent children is £274,870; this represents 34% of the total priority debt for the district
- In the West Lindsey district the total non priority debt for clients with dependent children is £1,433,189; this represents 38% of the total debt for the district

6.2 Take up of benefits

There is no national indicator that measures the rate of take up of key benefits; however, it is estimated that many do not claim benefits to which they are entitled, which contributes to low levels of income for many households. Data is not available below national level so local comparisons cannot be made.

Table 6.2a below shows the estimated take up of income related benefits by case load⁵⁰:

Table 6.2a: Estimate of take up rate of income related benefits by caseload			
Benefit	2007 - 08	2008 - 09	
Income Support and income related Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	78-88%	78-90%	
Pension credits	61-70%	62-73%	
Housing Benefits (inc local housing allowance)	80-87%	77-86%	
Council Tax Benefit (CTB)	62-68%	63-70%	
Income based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	52-60%	47-59%	

The data in the table above shows that not all people that are unemployed claim JSA.

Table 6.2b below shows the take up of Child benefit in the UK:

Table 62bc: Take up of Child benefit				
Year	Caseload take up rate			
	Lower bound	Central estimate	Upper bound	
2006 – 07	95%	96%	97%	
2007 - 08	95%	97%	98%	

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 $^{^{\}rm 50}$ Data available from the Department of Work and pensions (DWP)

7 IMPACT OF CHILD POVERTY

7.1.1 Fuel Poverty - national

A family is considered to be living in fuel poverty if more than 10% of the household income is spent on maintaining an acceptable temperature throughout the house; this is usually defined as 21 degrees for the main lliving areas and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms. A number of studies have concluded that the health of infants, children and adolescents may be compromised as a result of their not living in houses where there is adequate heating:

- Infants and children are at risk of respiratory illness because of living in damp conditions where fungal spores may be allowed to grow
- Poor weight gain may be a result of what Professor Christine Liddel⁵¹
 describes as "heat or eat" (where limited resources are used for either
 heating or food but not both)
- Infants and children burn calories to maintain body heat which diverts energy from growth and the development of their immune system; this then leads to further health problems and may also affect cognitive development⁵²
- Adolescents are more inclined to experience mental health problems as a result of not having warm private space; this is thought to lead to disaffection at a time when young people are often at odds with their families
- According to information published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) 2008⁵³:
- 15.6% of the population are living in fuel poverty
- 9.9% of couples with children live in fuel poverty
- 7% of lone parents with children live in fuel poverty
- 16.9% (i.e. 9.9% + 7%) of those with children live in fuel poverty
- 58.4% of those either on means tested benefits, in receipt of tax credits or with an income of below the threshold (CLG definition) are living in fuel poverty

⁵¹ The Impact of Fuel Poverty on Children by Professor Christine Liddel on behalf of Save the Children

Further research is currently being undertaken to establish possible links between fule poverty and cognitive development

Full reporst available at www.ddecc.gov.uk

- 33.6% of those in fuel poverty live in Council Tax Band A properties

7.1.2 Fuel poverty in Lincolnshire

According to research carried out by the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP)⁵⁴

- the number of households in fuel poverty has increased since fuel price rises in 2008.
- Many homes in the County do not have access to cheaper fuels, e.g.
- Many homes in the County are not suitable for traditional and cost effective insulation techniques, e.g. cavity wall insulation

A further challenge is that while there is a need to provide support to householders experiencing fuel poverty, this has to be balanced with a requirement to reduce CO² emissions, which is of particular relevance to Lincolnshire as over one third of the County lies within flood plains.

In 2009 the councils in Lincolnshire carried out private Sector Stock Condition Surveys, which revealed that fuel poverty levels had risen across the County. Table 7.1.2a below shows levels of fuel poverty by district with regional and national comparisons:

Table 7.1.2a: % of Lincolnshire households in fuel poverty (private sector stock) 2009		
Area	% of households	
England	16.0%	
East Midlands	21.0%	
Boston	18.3%	
East Lindsey	40.5%	
Lincoln	25.9%	
North Kesteven	18.8%	
South Holland	32.4%	
South Kesteven	17.4%	
West Lindsey	23.7%	

The information above shows that, in all districts, the percentage of households in fuel poverty is higher than the nation average and that four of the seven districts the percentage is higher than the regional average.

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⁵⁴ "Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2016"

7.2 Health

The Marmot Review of health inequalities in England post 2010⁵⁵ states that "Disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates through life.....Action to reduce health inequalities must start before birth and be followed through the life of the child. Only then can the close links between early disadvantage and poor outcomes throughout life be broken".

Marmot further states that "Inequalities in educational outcomes affect physical and mental health, as well as income, employment and quality of life."

Data for Lincolnshire shows that:

- in 2007 there were 465 low weight live births in the county
- 20% of these were in the East Lindsey district
- The Boston district had the highest proportion of low birth weights per live births at 8.3%, followed by the East Lindsey district with 7.8%

7.3 Achievement

One of the main routes out of the cycle of poverty is educational achievement; this can then lead to well paid employment and thus reduce the risk of benefit dependency.

Statistical analysis shows a correlation between wards where there is a high proportion of children living in poverty and:

- those where there is a high proportion of children not achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL
- those where there is a high proportion of young people not achieving 5
 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English

The analysis also suggested a correlation between wards where there is a high proportion of children not achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL and those where there is a high proportion of young people not achieving

⁵⁵ "Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review", a strategic review of health inequalities in England post 2010

5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including Maths and English, although this was slightly weaker.

7.3.1 Early Years

Local figures for these early cognitive scores are not available; the earliest data accessible is for NI 72 which measures performance in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile⁵⁶. A degree of caution is required when interpreting data, however, as scoring of the EYFS is subjective, leading to some inconsistency.; this can be a particular issue where the local cohort is small and where a school can, therefore, have a considerable influence on the child community. The data for Lincolnshire shows that:

- 42.3% of children did not achieve a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL
- This was as high as 90.5% in one LSOA of the Mablethorpe East Ward
 of the East Lindsey district; this LSOA is one of the 30 LSOAs with the
 highest number of children living in poverty listed in Appendix A

Table 7.3.1a below shows the ten wards with the highest proportion of children not achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL:

Table 7.3.1a: Proportion of children not achieving 78pts in EYFS profile + 6 pts in PSE and CLL			
Area	District	%	No.
Lincolnshire		42.3%	2998
Mablethorpe East	East Lindsey	90.5%	19
Trusthorpe & Mablethorpe South	East Lindsey	90.0%	9
Mablethorpe Central	East Lindsey	73.3%	11
Staniland North	Boston	73.3%	11
Alford	East Lindsey	73.0%	27
Legbourne	East Lindsey	69.2%	9
Mablethorpe North	East Lindsey	68.4%	13
Winthorpe	East Lindsey	67.8%	40
Central	Boston	66.7%	16
Kirton	Boston	66.7%	34

The information above shows that:

⁵⁶ NI 72 assesses the number and percentage of pupils achieving 78 points or more across the 13 Foundation Stage profile (FSP) assessments and Level 6+ in all Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) and Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)

- seven of the ten wards listed in Table 7.3.1a are in the East Lindsey district
- While %'s are high (90.5% in Mablethorpe East, 90.0% in Trusthorpe & Mablethorpe South), the numbers are relatively low when compared to those in Table 7.3b
- The % of children not achieving across the EYFS profile in Mablethorpe East (90.5%) is more than twice the rate of non achievement in the county as a whole (42.3%)
- The number of children in the ten wards listed in Table 7.3a (189) represents 6.3% of those that did not achieve across the EYFS profile

Table 7.3.1b below shows the ten wards with the highest number of children not achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL:

Table 7.3.1b Number of children not achieving 78pts in EYFS profile + 6 pts in PSE and CLL			
Area	District	No.	%
Lincolnshire		2998	42.3%
Birchwood	Lincoln	72	54.1%
Glebe	Lincoln	70	53.8%
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	68	53.1%
Abbey	Lincoln	56	59.6%
Coningsby & Tattershall	East Lindsey	51	55.4%
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	49	51.0%
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	43	53.1%
Bracebridge	Lincoln	42	48.3%
Moorland	Lincoln	42	52.5%
Park	Lincoln	42	53.2%

The information above shows that:

- The children in the ten wards listed in Table 7.3b (535) represent
 17.8% of those that did not achieve across the EYFS profile
- six of the ten wards listed in Table 7.3b are in the Lincoln district
- although in table 7.3b the emphasis is on numbers, the proportions are all higher than the county average (42.3%)

7.3.2 Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 (KS4) results in Lincolnshire for 2010 show that:

- 57.2% achieved 5 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English
- The ward with the highest proportion of young people achieving 5
 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English was Scotter in the
 West Lindsey district at 92% (24 young people)
- The ward with the highest number of young people achieving 5 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English was Welton in the West Lindsey district with 76 (80%)
- In the Fenside Ward in the Boston district 9% achieved 5 GCSEs grades A* C, including Maths and English

Table 7.3.2a below shows the ten wards with the highest proportion of young people that did not achieve 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including Maths and English:

Table 7.3.2a Proportion of young people not achieving 5 GCSEs grade A* - C (including Maths and English)			
Area	District	%	No.
Lincolnshire		41.4%	3619
Fenside	Boston	91.2%	52
Mabelthorpe Central	East Lindsey	78.3%	18
Sutton on Sea North	East Lindsey	72.2%	13
Sutton on Sea South	East Lindsey	72.0%	18
Staniland North	Boston	71.4%	15
Staniland South	Boston	70.0%	21
Mablethorpe North	East Lindsey	68.0%	17
Central	Boston	67.9%	19
Scarborough	East Lindsey	66.1%	37
Spilsby	East Lindsey	65.4%	17

The information above shows that while the proportion of young people not achieving 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C (inc Maths and English) are high, the actual numbers are relatively low when compared with those listed in Table 7.3.2b below, with the exception of Fenside in the Boston district.

In all wards listed above, the performance at KS4 was poorer than the county average (42.8%).

Table 7.3.2b below shows the actual numbers of young people not achieving 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C including Maths and English:

Table 7.3.2b: Number of young people not achieving 5 GCSEs grade A* - C (including Maths and English)			
Area	District	No.	%
Lincolnshire		3619	41.4%
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	72	54.1%
Glebe	Lincoln	69	56.6%
Birchwood	Lincoln	67	60.4%
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	65	64.4%
Moorland	Lincoln	65	56.5%
Harrowby	South Kesteven	62	57.9%
Minster	Lincoln	56	55.4%
Fenside	Boston	52	91.2%
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	51	63.0%
Boultham	Lincoln	51	53.1%

Achievement of 5 GCSEs grade A* - C equates to a full Level 2 qualification and Mathematics and English are considered to be key skills. Non achievement of these qualifications has the effect of "topping up" the number of adults of working age without a full level 2 qualification (see section 5).

In a study of children's cognitive scores Marmot found that children with low cognitive scores at age 22 months growing up in families of higher socioeconomic position tend to improve their scores by the age of 10, whereas the scores of children that are relatively high at a similar age but who grow up in families of low socioeconomic position tend to worsen.

In order for this to be tested at local level it would be necessary to be able to analyse the scores at EYFS and KS4 a single cohort. At present, this data is not available.

Table 7.3.2c below shows the difference in percentage points between the proportion of children achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL and the proportion of young people achieving 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including

Maths and English. Wards listed in Table 3.1d have been used for comparative purposes:

Table 7.3.2c: Variance between EYFS and KS4 achievement by ward				
Ward	District	% achieving 78 pts across EYFS profile (+ 6 pts in PSE and CLL)	% achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C (inc M&E)	Variance
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	46.9%	45.9%	-1.0%
Glebe	Lincoln	46.2%	43.4%	-2.8%
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	49.0%	35.6%	-13.4%
Birchwood	Lincoln	45.9%	39.6%	-6.3%
Moorland	Lincoln	47.5%	43.5%	-4.0%
Fenside	Boston	43.9%	8.8%	-35.1%
Minster	Lincoln	53.8%	44.6%	-9.2%
Park	Lincoln	46.8%	44.0%	-2.8%
Abbey	Lincoln	40.4%	43.2%	2.8%
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	46.9%	37.0%	-9.9%
Saxonwell	South Kesteven	80.8%	87.0%	6.2%
Lincrest	South Kesteven	68.4%	75.9%	7.5%
Hillsides	South Kesteven	73.3%	53.3%	-20.0%
Loveden	South Kesteven	60.9%	66.7%	5.8%
Green Hill	South Kesteven	76.3%	82.7%	6.4%
Tetford	East Lindsey	65.2%	47.6%	-17.6%
North Hykeham Forum	North Kesteven	88.0%	70.3%	-17.7%
Sudbrooke	West Lindsey	71.4%	78.3%	6.9%
Leasingham & Rauceby	North Kesteven	46.2%	75.0%	28.8%
Witham Valley	South Kesteven	58.8%	80.8%	22.0%

The information above appears to support Marmot's view that educational performance declines in areas where children are living in families of low socioeconomic position; however, as it is not possible to directly compare achievement with household status, it is not possible to conclude, from the data available, that there is a direct link. In order to do this it would be necessary to conduct research with the same cohort which would then, by definition, become a longitudinal study.

7.4 NEET

NEET (not in education, employment or training) refers to young people age 16 – 19 (up to 24 for young people with a either a learning difficulty or disability). These figures are of concern as NEET is considered to be a major predictor of unemployment, low income and poor mental health in adulthood.

Data relating to the NEET group is published annually, usually in the November following the June when the cohort left compulsory education. The following information includes destination information from the 2010 cohort.

Table 7.4a below shows the proportion of young people in the 2010 cohort (i.e. those that left compulsory education in June 2010), that were known to be NEET as at November 2010 count:

Table 7.4a: Proportion of young people designated as NEET, 2010 cohort			
-			
Area	District	% of area cohort	No.*
Lincolnshire		2.8%	233
Gainsborough South West	West Lindsey	15.2%	7
Birchwood	Lincoln	12.7%	15
Wragby	East Lindsey	11.8%	4
Wold View	East Lindsey	10.5%	4
Minster	Lincoln	10.4%	11
Glebe	Lincoln	10.2%	13
Trusthorpe & Mablethorpe	East Lindsey	8.7%	-
Grantham St John's	South Kesteven	7.1%	5
Spilsby	East Lindsey	7.1%	-
Caistor	West Lindsey	7.0%	-

^{*} numbers <5 are considered to be disclosive and are therefore not included

The information above shows that:

- The NEET group of 233 young people in the County represents 2.8%
 of the cohort
- In some areas the NEET group represents a much higher proportion of the local cohort, e.g. Gainsborough South West (15.2%), Birchwood (12.7%)

Table 7.4b below shows the number of young people in the 2010 cohort (i.e. those that left compulsory education in June 2010), that were known to be NEET as at November 2010 count:

Table 7.4b: Number of young pe	ople designated as NEET,	2010 cohort	İ
Area	District	No.	% of area cohort
Lincolnshire		233	2.8%
Birchwood	Lincoln	15	12.7%
Glebe	Lincoln	13	10.2%
Minster	Lincoln	11	10.4%
Gainsborough South West	West Lindsey	7	15.2%
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	6	6.0%
Moorland	Lincoln	6	5.3%
Abbey	Lincoln	5	5.5%
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	5	3.8%
Grantham St John	South Kesteven	5	7.1%
Heighington & Washinborough	North Kesteven	5	5.4%

The information above shows that:

- 17% of the NEET group in the 2010 cohort reside in three wards in the Lincoln district (Birchwood, Glebe and Minster)
- ¹/₃ of NEETs live in ten wards in the county (see Table 7.4b), 5 of which
 are in the Lincoln district

8 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- there are pockets of high deprivation across Lincolnshire
- 25% of children living in poverty live in 30 of 413 LSOAs in the County
- 50% of children living in poverty live in Lone Parent households in receipt of JSA/IS
- The highest proportion of children living in poverty are age under 16
- Employment opportunities in some parts of the County are limited,
 particularly in East Lindsey and South Holland, where much of the work is seasonal
- household poverty is exacerbated by benefit dependency, lack of well paid employment and poor money management
- 97% of the County's employers employ 50 people or less and are categorised as Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs); these small organisations tend to present a barrier to career progression
- lack of transport and the cost of transport present barriers to accessing employment in the county, particularly for people living in remote rural areas
- the number of working age adults without a full Level 2 qualification is continually being topped up
- the number of people with either learning difficulties/disabilities or mental illness in employment in Lincolnshire is lower than the national average
- substance misuse among young people in the county is high in wards where children are living in poverty
- many households defined as living in poverty are also in debt; the problem for those people, therefore, may be much greater than the child poverty data alone would suggest
- the latest data shows that the % of households in fuel poverty in all districts of Lincolnshire is higher than the national average
- the gap in achievement between children from low and high socio economic positions widens as they grow older
- ½ of NEETs live in ten wards in the county (see Table 7.4b), 5 of which are in the Lincoln district

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Lincolnshire Research Observatory

West Lindsey Citizen's Advice Bureau