

## **IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH RAISED ASPIRATIONS – LINCOLNSHIRE’S APPROACH TO TACKLING CHILD POVERTY**

### **Lincolnshire’s vision for children and young people**

“That every child in every part of the County should achieve their potential”

### **The Strategy and Action Plan**

This document sets out the key strategic themes that need to be addressed in order to tackle Child Poverty and to ensure we deliver the vision for all Children and Young People in Lincolnshire. This strategy will be used to inform an action plan with targeted tasks to improve life chances and economic prosperity for Lincolnshire citizens.

It is essential to understand that this Child Poverty Strategy is not a Children’s Services Strategy, nor that of any other single agency; it is fundamentally a joint strategy that will require all stakeholders to work together in an integrated way to target shared priorities and eliminate duplication of effort.

### **What is child poverty?**

Child poverty is one of the key risk factors that can negatively influence a child’s life chances. Children that live in poverty are at greater risk of social exclusion which, in turn, can lead to poor outcomes for the individual and for society as a whole.

In Lincolnshire, we consider that poverty is not only a matter of having limited financial resources but that it is also about the ability of families to access the means of lifting themselves out of poverty and of having the aspiration to do

so. The following four key strategic themes have emerged from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and will form the basis of this strategy: Economic Poverty, Poverty of Access, Poverty of Aspiration and Best Use of Resources.

### Definitions of Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Act received Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and at this point the national definition of Child Poverty was based on the National Performance Indicator NI 116: The proportion of Children living in Poverty.

This technical definition of child poverty measures the proportion of children living in households with an equivalized income of below 60% of the national median, which is currently around £347 per week for a couple with two children.

NI116 is, therefore, a measure of *relative poverty* as it compares the level of household income to the wider population's average.

Other measures of poverty include:

- Severe poverty, which is similar to the above definition but based on equivalized income of below 50% of the national median.
- Absolute poverty, which identifies a specific value of household income required to sustain life essentials, such as food, shelter and warmth. The value of absolute poverty can vary from country to country.

Relative poverty is considered to be the inability of the individual to:

- Have access to living conditions and amenities considered to be ordinary and
- To be able to participate fully in the society in which he or she lives

Examples of other proxy measures of child poverty include inequalities in Education, Early Years and Health Outcomes, numbers of young people Not in Education Training or Employment (NEET) and number of people of working age that are in receipt of Benefits.

It is understood that NII6 may cease to be reported by the coalition government in the future. If this is confirmed, Lincolnshire will use the number of families with children age 0 – 19 where:

- parents are in receipt of out of work benefits
- parents are in receipt of tax credits because of low wages/salaries

as part of the baseline for child poverty against which this strategy will be measured.

### **Why we need to tackle child poverty**

#### **Social and moral case**

In Lincolnshire, we believe that a child's life chances should not be limited by being born into a family from a low socio economic group but rather he or she should have the same opportunities for economic and social advancement as his or her better off peers.

In the national child poverty strategy<sup>1</sup> produced jointly by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions emphasises the issue of social justice as being the best starting point for long term, sustainable progress and the need to unlock barriers of entrenched poverty.

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<sup>1</sup> "A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" (April 2011),

Children born into poverty are more likely to be at risk of poor educational attainment, poor health with a reduced life expectancy and greater exposure to crime. 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.

### Economic business case

Direct cost to society:

The risk factors associated with living in poverty lead to considerable strain on ever decreasing public sector resources, with tax payers needing to fund ongoing public sector interventions including health, social care, the criminal justice system and benefit payments. These costs run into multiples of millions of pounds.

Cost to society from loss of revenue:

Worklessness not only puts a strain on resources because of direct costs relating to benefit payments but there is also considerable loss of revenue from lack of tax and National Insurance contributions. In 2007 research<sup>2</sup> into the cost of unemployment to the nation was estimated to be £2,810 for every household in Britain, with an average loss to the Treasury of £7,703 per claimant in potential revenue.

### Legal obligation

The Child Poverty Act 2010 places a duty on responsible local authorities, i.e. those with top-tier functions, to put in place arrangements to work with partner authorities named in the Act to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategy for tackling child poverty in their area.

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<sup>2</sup> Daily Mail report 3 January 2007 on the research commissioned by Mark Hoban, Conservative Treasury Spokesman, 2007

## Child Poverty in Lincolnshire

Based on the most recent data available for NI 116 (2008) the rate of child poverty in Lincolnshire is lower than the national levels and also lower than some of our benchmark local authorities<sup>3</sup>. We believe that this success story is, in part, attributable to the positive and pragmatic approach to partnership working arrangements in the County.

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, the data collected as part of our on going needs assessment has identified areas where there are high concentrations of children living in poverty, mainly in pockets within the major conurbations of Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Gainsborough.

The evidence from NI 116 data for 2007 and 2008 together with recent statistics produced by the department for Work and Pensions regarding children living in benefit claimant households shows that the wards with the highest number of children living in poverty have remained constant for the last four years. The table below shows the 15 wards with the highest number of children living in poverty from 2007 to 2010:

Wards ranked by the highest number of children living in poverty from 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

<sup>3</sup> Statistical neighbours: Derbyshire (16.0%), Norfolk (17.5%), Nottinghamshire (16.8%)

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

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

These same wards also show that the numbers of young people not in either education, employment or training are higher than in more affluent areas.

A provisional analysis of health data suggests there may also be correlations in these areas with health inequalities.

As part of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment, NI 116 2008 data relating to high numbers of children living in poverty was analysed at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)<sup>4</sup> level, which showed that 25% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire lived in 30 of 413 LSOAs in the County.

See Annex A for a full list of the 30 LSOAs.

It is likely that both the contributory factors and successful approaches to tackling child poverty will be different in each area, taking account of sub

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<sup>4</sup> LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 residents

district variations and local need; for example, the cost of transport affects people in all parts of the County but the lack of public transport is of particular concern in the coastal and remote rural areas.

It is also important to understand that the future child poverty picture nationally and in Lincolnshire will be influenced by the national economic situation and there is a real risk that the number of children living in poverty will increase. 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 that will result in more people being pushed towards poverty that do not fit the historic profile.

Nevertheless, Lincolnshire is committed to minimising the number of children living in poverty and recognises that proposed solutions will need to take account of the needs of individuals, families and communities in ways that address their emotional and psychological issues, as well as those identified in the key themes detailed later in this document.

This strategy has been developed using findings from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Part 1 – Evidence Base and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). See Annex B for summary key findings.

Information from the evidence base has been shared with a number of key stakeholders across the County. The full ongoing Needs Assessment is also available at <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk> . An assessment of resources is also being completed in order to identify gaps in provision and coordinate services more effectively.

In addition, parents in areas of high child poverty in East Lindsey and Lincoln have been surveyed regarding barriers to learning and employment and how

to make better use of household income. The findings from this have also been used to inform the development of this strategy.

### How can we improve children's life chances?

#### The traditional approach

In economic terms, the only sure way to address child poverty is to increase household income. Previous national government approaches have, therefore, focussed on increasing the value of benefits and reducing the number of unemployed parents. However, it is now broadly acknowledged that if long term outcomes are to be realised and sustained, it is necessary to tackle the root causes of poverty rather than simply increasing benefit payments.

The Governments Work Programme, which seeks to move people from benefit dependency into self sufficient employment, will be critical to reducing pure economic child poverty. The roles of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Employment and Skills Board and Economic Development teams will also be key to ensuring there are sufficient well paid jobs into which people can progress.

However, if we are to break the cycle of poverty, we shall require a much more holistic approach that seeks to improve people's life chances and economic prosperity, not just address household income deficits.

#### A fresh approach

The Child Poverty Act lists key stakeholders that are required to be engaged with this strategy; however, we believe that it is important to work with all stakeholders, not just those listed in statute. We should, therefore, like to hear from anyone that feels they can make a contribution to this agenda.

In Lincolnshire, we recognise that the responsibility for bringing up children rests with the parents. Where families are able, we need to ensure that



support is available for parents to achieve and maintain good levels of health, wellbeing and to develop high aspirations for themselves and their children. In addition, we need to encourage all agencies working with young people and adults to consider the fact that many of their service users and employees are also parents and therefore to take a more holistic approach when planning support.

This strategy must, therefore, be family focused, cut across traditional partnership boundaries and ensure that parents are an intrinsic part of the subsequent action plan.

By using an Early Intervention and Preventative approach to tackling the root causes of poverty, key stakeholders can be more effective by targeting activities in an integrated way and at those families with the greatest needs. This will also increase the probability of improving life chances and economic prosperity.

In particular, families with multiple complex needs are statistically likely to have poorer life chances than those with a single issue problem. It therefore makes economic sense for agencies and stakeholders to work in an integrated way to tackle families with multiple complex needs. This is likely to reduce duplication of effort and increase synergies of operation that will deliver better use of existing resources.

The Lincolnshire Community Budget Pilot: Families Working Together, which addresses the needs of families with complex needs, has already been able to demonstrate that this approach can make a considerable difference to the lives of families and to individual family members. This strategy will need to build on this approach to ensure that those families that require multi agency intervention are provided with services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

This strategy will seek to encourage all stakeholders to target available resources in those localities with identified high levels of child poverty. The second targeting approach will focus on families with multiple complex needs and with a particular emphasis on teenage pregnancy. In this way, we shall ensure that there is a County wide safety net that provides support to those that are most vulnerable.

### Key Strategic Themes

In Lincolnshire, we believe that the following four strategic themes, on which our strategy is based, will provide the foundation for tackling child poverty and improving the life chances of children, young people and their families in our County. Our action plan will identify specific tasks linked to each of these strategic themes in order to improve outcomes.

#### Economic Poverty

Economic poverty is concerned with levels of household income and focuses on whether or not families have the means to access living conditions and amenities that are considered to be ordinary and normal for the society in which they live. Children living in poorer households can be considerably disadvantaged by not having access to the same facilities as their better off peers; for example, poor diet and lack of heating in the home are likely to be affected by low income and can impact on a child's health and development.

The greatest contributory factor to household income is the employment status of the resident adults of working age and the Government is introducing initiatives to support people into employment and to reduce benefits dependency.

The Government's Welfare Reform Bill sets out plans to make work pay and will, undoubtedly, put more pressure on unemployed adults to find work;

however, in the low pay, low skills economy of Lincolnshire and with the high cost of transport in such a rural County, something we need to consider is helping people to think not so much in terms of how much better off they are likely to be but that they should not be worse off by taking a job and reducing their dependency on benefits.

In Lincolnshire, the problem is exacerbated by the low pay, low skills economy, so even where parents of dependent children are in employment, for many the level of wage they earn keeps them below the poverty line; in addition, the seasonal nature of the work on the coastal strip and in the largely rural south result in inconsistent employment opportunities for the local population.

Other factors likely to impact on a household's disposable income include weak financial management skills and high levels of debt: the needs assessment has revealed that many families in debt are those that live in areas where unemployment is high.

Strategies to address economic poverty will need to include:

- attracting business investment in order to increase the number of employment opportunities, particularly where levels of unemployment are high
- increasing the demand for higher level skills and to ensure clear progression routes to enable people of working age to move into well paid employment
- upskilling the present and potential workforce so that people of working age have the appropriate skills and qualifications in order to increase their chances of finding well paid employment
- provision of quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) in relation to learning and work to enable people to make well informed, realistic decision about their future career plans

- ensuring that people have access to information about money management and support with debt, particularly where the latter poses a risk to life essentials (i.e. heating, housing, food, liberty)

Overall, the strategy needs to ensure that services are co-ordinated and, wherever possible, co-located in order to have the greatest impact.

### Poverty of Access

If families are to climb out of poverty we must strive to remove the barriers that prevent them from accessing well paid employment and mitigate the impact of low income.

Factors that contribute to worklessness include poor health, lack of qualifications and skills, childcare commitments, a history of offending, substance misuse and, particularly in a rural County such as Lincolnshire, lack of public transport links. All of these need to be considered if people are to be supported into the work place.

This strategy seeks to overcome the barriers that prevent adults and young people of working age entering education, well paid employment and training. In particular, the key activities and resources of Schools, Academies, the 14 to 19 Partnership, Adult Education providers, Public Health professionals, the Drug and Alcohol Treatment (DAAT) service, prison and probation services and local transport networks will be of significant importance in addressing these barriers.

Our strategy will seek to ensure that the activities of these stakeholders are informed by child poverty intelligence and, wherever possible, ensure activities and resources are targeted on shared priorities and in the areas of greatest need.

Poverty of Access is of particular concern with regard to vulnerable groups that are greater risk of poor outcomes than their peers. Families with multiple complex needs are statistically more likely to have poor life chances so access to additional support is critical. Lessons learnt from Children's Centres and pilot projects, such as Families Working Together are, therefore, key to this strategic theme.

In addition, children and young people that are exposed to multiple risk factors are also likely to have poor outcomes and place greater demand on local and national resources. It is logical, therefore, that stakeholders prioritise provision to these vulnerable people. Annex C provides a list of vulnerable groups of particular concern in the County.

#### Poverty of aspiration

We need to break the cycle of poverty by raising the aspirations of children, young people and their parents/carers in order to prevent today's children themselves becoming the parents of children living in poverty.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership believe in the importance of having high aspirations for the children and young people of Lincolnshire as well as for their families.

“Children will grow into the space we create for them.....”

*Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*

Encouraging Families to have self-belief is, therefore, a key part of our strategy and all stakeholders have a role to play in promoting this message. Low aspirations can be due to a number of factors, including a lack of awareness of what is available and/or achievable, peer pressure, cultural beliefs and a perception that worklessness is the norm.

This strategy needs to look at how parents can be encouraged to consider the long term benefits of learning, training, working and volunteering and how this can improve life chances for themselves and for their children; it is important, however, that longer term career plans are not only aspirational but realistic and achievable.

Sufficient and affordable Childcare is seen as a critical factor in supporting aspirations to become a reality. Childcare Sufficiency including support for vulnerable 2 year olds will therefore be an important strand of this strategy.

Our strategies relating to poverty of aspiration will need to address factors that prevent children, young people and adults from aspiring to and achieving the skills and qualifications that are likely to eventually lead to them obtaining well paid employment; the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will, therefore, be key in helping to drive up the demand for higher level skills and creating more highly paid employment opportunities.

#### Best use of resources

A fundamental part of this strategy is to ensure that all key stakeholders that can contribute to reducing child poverty and improving the life chances of children and young people, operate in a more joined up and co-ordinated way and focus on shared priorities. This will ensure that activities are not duplicated and that resources are utilised more effectively.

In order to drive the agenda at local level we shall establish Child Poverty Champions in each of the priority wards identified in the Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Evidence Base. The role of Child Poverty Champions will be:

- To develop and lead a local Child Poverty network;

- To ensure that all stakeholders work together to address Child Poverty in priority wards;
- To hold all stakeholders to account in addressing Child Poverty;
- To raise awareness of Child Poverty and its impact;
- To promote Child Poverty initiatives in priority wards.

There are already significant resources deployed across the County that address many of the root causes of poverty; for example, The Governments Work Programme, the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership, Public Health expenditure and the work of the voluntary sector. Our Resource Analysis, which is part of the on going Child Poverty Needs Assessment, has highlighted many other activities that are either in progress or planned across Lincolnshire that can further contribute to this agenda.

The benefits of a joined up approach will include:

- joining up existing projects and initiatives and using additional resources to fill gaps in provision
- avoiding duplication of effort
- looking at how existing services can be targeted to ensure that those with the greatest need are prioritized
- ensuring Early Intervention and Prevention to secure improved outcomes and reduced demand on resources
- maximising impact

### **Other key local strategies and Initiatives**

A major piece of work in progress is the development of an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy for Lincolnshire, of which the Child Poverty Strategy will form an important strand.

Prevention is concerned with activities that can help to prevent negative outcomes happening in the first instance; Early Intervention, on the other hand, may do the same but also has a focus on ultimately achieving outcomes that are positive.

Other key local strategies and initiatives linked to this strategy include the Local Economic Assessment,<sup>5</sup> the Lincolnshire Economic Strategy,<sup>6</sup> the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, related Health and Wellbeing Strategies, the Children and Young People's Plan,<sup>7</sup> the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan,<sup>8</sup> the Financial Inclusion Strategy<sup>9</sup> and the Community Budget Pilot: Families Working Together.<sup>10</sup>

### **Governance Arrangements for this Strategy**

Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 requires responsible local authorities and their partners to cooperate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas. The Act places a duty on responsible local authorities, i.e. those with top-tier functions, to put in place arrangements to work with partner authorities named in the Act to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategy for tackling child poverty. The Act requires named partner authorities to cooperate with the local authority in these arrangements.

In Lincolnshire it has been agreed that formal governance arrangements will be established under the Children and Young People's Partnership (C&YPSP).

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<sup>5</sup> Lincolnshire – a Local Economic Assessment 2011: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk>

<sup>6</sup> Lincolnshire Assembly – Lincolnshire Economic Strategy 2008-2012: turning the corner

<sup>7</sup> Lincolnshire Children and Young People's Plan

<sup>8</sup> Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011, undertaken by QA Research, commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council Children's Services

<sup>9</sup> "A Financial inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire" produced by Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards, 2009

<sup>10</sup> Families Working Together: community budget's pilot for families with complex needs



### How will success be measured?

A set of Key Performance Measures have been identified through consultation and will be used as proxy measures to monitor performance in relation to the Child Poverty Strategy. Annex D provides details of these proxy measures. The measures will form a scorecard to help consider performance at a County level and each measure will be owned by the relevant agency. Performance against the scorecard will be monitored via the C&YPSP.

Where possible and affordable scorecards will also be developed for each of the priority Child Poverty wards and performance will be monitored by the C&YPSP and the local Child Poverty networks.

A draft Child Poverty Action Plan has also been developed. The Action Plan identifies key strands of work that will help to address Child Poverty and the impact of Child Poverty. The final action plan will also incorporate outstanding actions from the former “Narrowing the Gap” initiative. Progress against the final Action Plan will also be monitored through the C&YPSP.

### Accountability

Where the C&YPSP consider that performance against the Child Poverty Scorecard or the Child Poverty Action Plan is a concern they may request relevant stakeholders to attend a partnership meeting to enable fuller consideration and to agree appropriate additional actions where necessary.

Child Poverty Champions may also raise areas of good practice or matters of concerns relating to Child Poverty with the C&YPSP who may share this intelligence with wider stakeholders.

## Next steps

- Upon approval of the Child Poverty Strategy formal ongoing governance arrangements for the strategy will be established with the Children and Young People's Partnership;
- The C&YPSP will consider and agree the final Child Poverty Action Plan
- The C&YPSP agree the Child Poverty Scorecard with stakeholders;
- The C&YPSP will monitor progress against the action plan and the Child Poverty Scorecard;
- The C&YPSP will oversee and facilitate any necessary updates to the Child Poverty Action Plan and Scorecard as may be necessary;
- The agreed Child Poverty strategy will be developed in an appropriate format and made publically available.

To find out more about child poverty in Lincolnshire and how you can contribute to reducing its effects in your area please visit <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/aaChild-Poverty.aspx> .

## Glossary

CLL	Communication, Language and Literacy development (relates to assessment modules within the Early Years Foundation Stage)
CYP	Children and Young people
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Treatment
GCSE	General Certificate in Secondary Education
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance (relating to learning and employment)
IS	Income Support
JSA	Job Seeker's Allowance
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LRO	Lincolnshire Research Observatory
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area (area with between 1000 and 3000 residents)
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training (relates to young people age 16 – 19; up to 25 with difficulties and disabilities)
NI	National Indicator
PSE	Personal, Social and Emotional development (relates to assessment modules within the Early Years Foundation Stage)

## Annex A

### Areas with high numbers of children living in poverty

The table below includes data from NI 116 (2008) and shows 30 of the 413 LSOAs in Lincolnshire with the highest numbers of children living in poverty. Wards and districts have been included to show geographical spread:

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

The total number of children living in poverty in the 30 LSOAs listed above represent 25% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire.

### Key findings from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- There are pockets of high deprivation across Lincolnshire
- 25% of children living in poverty live in 30 of 413 LSOAs in the County (NI 116 2008)
- Since 2007 15 wards have consistently had the highest number of children living in poverty, over half of which are in the district of Lincoln
- 50% of children living in poverty live in Lone Parent households in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)/Income Support (IS)
- 29% of Children living in poverty live in households where there parents are in employment
- 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
- 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 by young people leaving school without having achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grade A\* - C
- 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
- There are variations in health outcomes for Children & Young People across Lincolnshire. In particular:
  - Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks ranges across Children’s Centre Reach Areas from 22.2% to 69.6%
  - The number of Hospital Admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to CYP ranges across Children’s Centre Reach Areas from 0% to 55.74%
  - The prevalence of Obesity in Reception ranges across Children’s Centre Reach Areas from 4.2% to 25%

## Vulnerable groups

In Lincolnshire, we recognise that there are vulnerable children and young people are likely to require intensive support if they are to achieve positive outcomes. The following at risk groups are of particular concern:

- Looked After Children & Young People and Care Leavers;
- Children and Young People that either are or have been subject to a Child Protection plan;
- NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training)
- Teenage parents ;
- Young offenders;
- Children with Additional Educational Needs;
- Children and Young People that have either been excluded or are at risk of being excluded from school/Academies;
- Children with disabilities;
- Children with Mental Health problems;
- Young carers;
- Children and Young People from transient communities

In planning services, children and young people in these groups will be considered as priority.



## Proposed Key Performance Proxy Measures for Child Poverty Scorecards

Proposed Measure	Proposed Owner
Child Poverty 0-19 (NI 116) or Alternative Proxy Measure	C&YPSP
Unemployed claimants	Jobcentre Plus
Fuel Poverty (families with children 0-18)	District Councils
NEETs	LCC
Low birth weight	Public Health
Breastfeeding initiation	Public Health
Breastfeeding 6 - 8 wks	Public Health
Childhood overweight/obesity (Reception)	Public Health
Childhood overweight/obesity (Y6)	Public Health
Under 18 conception rate (CS148) or alternative proxy measure	Public Health
Percentage of 16-19 teenage mothers in EET (CS117)	Public Health
EYFS (achieving 78 pts + 6 pts in CLL and PSDL) or alternative proxy Measure	LCC
KS2 (achieving Level 4 in M & E)	CFBT
KS4 (achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C inc M & E)	CFBT
Adults age 16 - 74 with full L2 qualification	LCC
Childcare sufficiency score	LCC
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (NI111)	YOS
Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training (NI45)	YOS

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