

NE LINCOLNSHIRE JSNA INDICATOR SUMMARY

TITLE:	EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN
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SUBTITLE:	2.8 Average total difficulties score for all looked after children aged between 4 and 16 (inclusive) at the date of their latest assessment, who have been in care for at least 12 months on 31st March
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Domain:	Domain 2: Health improvements
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Frequency of Availability:	Annually
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Time Period Of Data Analysis:	2011/12 to 2015/16
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AVAILABLE COMPARISONS

TYPE	AVAILABLE
National, Regional or Peer Group	Yes
Electoral Ward / NELCCG Practice	No
Neighbourhood	No
Socioeconomic Differences	No
Targets, Trends & Projections	Yes

KEY POINTS

- With good performance being a low score, NE Lincolnshire has the 3rd highest SDQ score of the 11 local authorities in its statistical neighbour group.
- NE Lincolnshire's score of 14.2 in 2015/16 has moved the authority above the "normal" range that all local authorities should be aiming for and into the "Borderline Cause for Concern" range.
- Trend data between 2011/12 and 2015/16 shows an increase in SDQ scores for NE Lincolnshire for the first time in 3 years with 2015/16.
- As at 31st March 2016 NE Lincolnshire's score is above the Statistical Neighbours average, the same as the Yorkshire and Humber region average, and slightly above the England average.

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DESCRIPTION

The mental health of all children is important. With half of adult mental health problems starting before the age of 14, early intervention to support children and young people with mental health and emotional well-being issues is very important. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, local authorities have a duty to co-operate to promote a well-being among children and young people.

The cross Government Mental Health Strategy, 'No Health without Mental Health', identifies looked after children as one of the particularly vulnerable groups at risk of developing mental health problems. Inclusion of this indicator for looked after children will send out a message that this group of young people are a priority for the NHS and local authorities in their new public health role.

Without an indicator covering this group, there would be a risk of an even greater increase in rates of undiagnosed mental health problems, placement breakdown, alcohol and substance misuse, convictions and care leavers not in education, employment or training.

Data is collected by local authorities through a strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) and a single summary figure for each child (the total difficulties score), ranging from 0 to 40, is submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) through the SSDA903 data return.¹

The numerator is the sum of all SDQ scores for an authorities population of looked after children aged 4 to 16 (inclusive), who have been in care continuously for 12 months at 31st March.

The denominator is the number of SDQs that have been completed for looked after children aged 4 to 16 (inclusive), who have been in care continuously for 12 months at 31st March.

Dividing the numerator by the denominator provides an average SDQ score for the local authority. Scores of 0 to 13.99 are regarded as "normal". Scores of 14.00 to 16.99 are classed as "Borderline Cause for Concern" and scores of 17.00 and over are "Cause for Concern".

¹ Source: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency, Part 2: Summary technical specifications of public health indicators, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-lives-healthy-people-improving-outcomes-and-supporting-transparency>

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NATIONAL, REGIONAL OR PEER GROUP

Figure 1

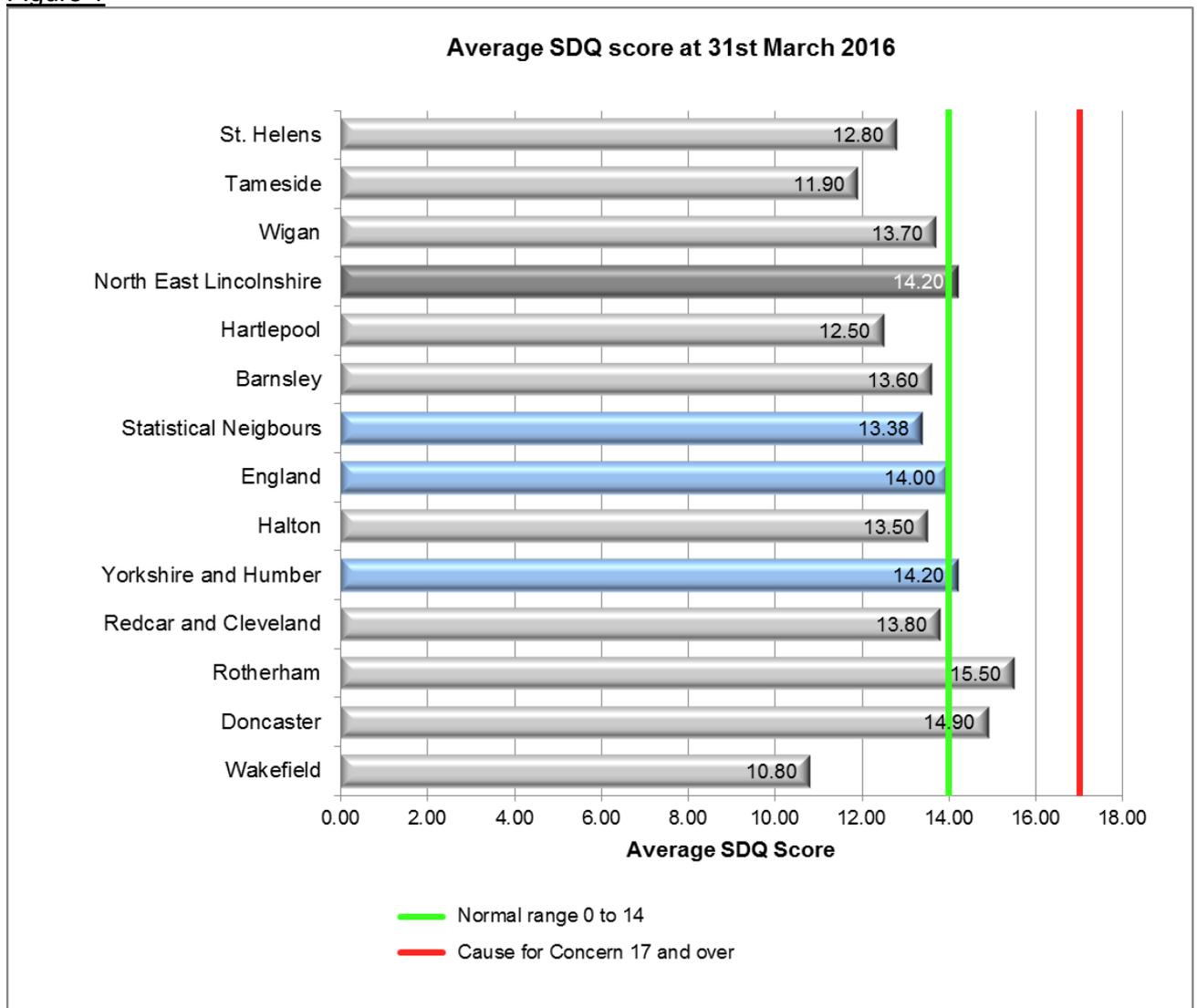


Figure 1 illustrates the emotional well-being of children in care in NE Lincolnshire compared with its statistical neighbours, the average for Yorkshire and Humber and the average for England.

With a low score indicating good performance, NE Lincolnshire has the 9th lowest SDQ score amongst the 11 local authorities in its statistical neighbour group. With a score of 14.20 NE Lincolnshire falls just above the “normal” range of 13.99 but still well under cause concern score of 17 and above.

NE Lincolnshire has slipped above the averages for its statistical neighbours (13.38) and England (14.00), whilst performing in-line with Yorkshire and Humber region (14.20).

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TARGETS, TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

Figure 2

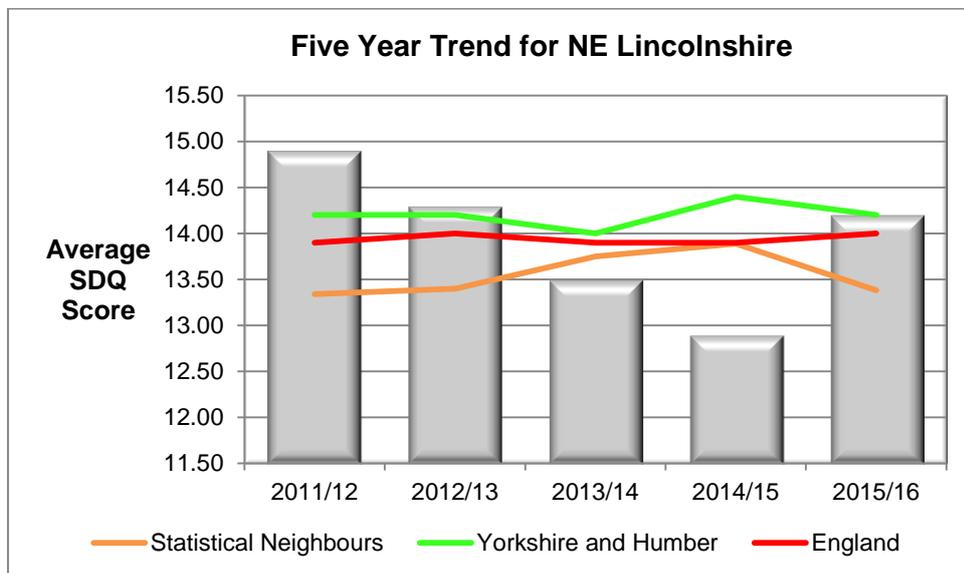


Figure 2 provides a five year trend for NE Lincolnshire's average SDQ score. It shows a constant decline from a high of 14.90 in 2011/12 up until 2015/16 when the score increases back up to 14.20, putting NE Lincolnshire's score at the lower end of the "Borderline Cause for Concern threshold".

Over the 12 months from 2014/15 to 2015/16 the averages for Statistical Neighbours and Yorkshire and Humber have both decreased slightly, although Yorkshire and Humber still remains within the "Borderline Cause for Concern threshold". The England average has seen a slight increase in average score and now also falls just within the "Borderline Cause for Concern" threshold.

Public Data Sources:	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait
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