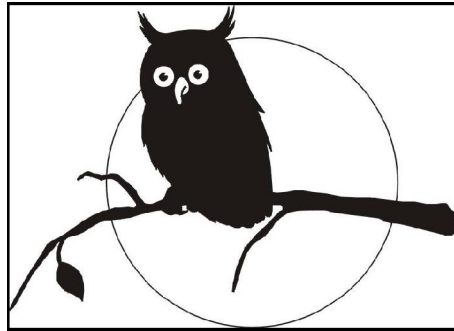


# **Homeless Watch 2005**

## **A Snapshot Survey Of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire**

**19<sup>th</sup> September – 2nd October 2005**



## **Ashfield District Council – Mini Report**

HLG Resource Service  
Mar 2006

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at  
[www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm](http://www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm)

## **1. Background**

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2005 is the second County wide snapshot survey of people who present as homeless during a two week period, which ran from the 19<sup>th</sup> September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005. The survey is co-ordinated by a steering group comprising representatives from the eight local authorities which make up the area, the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, the Supporting People Partnership For Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding for the survey has been provided by the eight district authorities in the County and Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services Department. The survey has been conducted on their behalf by HLG – a Nottinghamshire umbrella organisation for voluntary sector services working with homeless and other vulnerable people.

In addition to the main Homeless Watch report, which covers the results from the snapshot survey for the whole of Nottinghamshire, a series of eight mini reports have been produced, covering the main findings for the eight district authority areas in Nottinghamshire. The main report and the district reports are all available for download from the Homeless Watch website at [www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm](http://www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm).

For the purpose of these mini district reports, figures on the number of presentations and homeless people are calculated using a different methodology than has been used for the area analysis in the main Nottinghamshire wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this mini report for Ashfield District Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

- a. Recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in the Ashfield area.
- b. Recorded as not seeking advice in Ashfield (i.e. they sought advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area), but were recorded as having a local connection with Ashfield. A local connection was defined as: family connection, residence in area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, or employment in the area.

This methodology is consistent with that used in some of the district based homelessness snapshot surveys that have taken place in previous years, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield.

## **2. Overall Numbers**

154 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were 19 instances where the same person presented to two or more agencies and if we exclude these duplicates, the actual number of individuals who presented to agencies during the Homeless Watch fortnight was 135. In addition, there were 54 dependent children recorded as being part of a presenting household – again this figure is calculated after removing any duplicates and any situations where both members of a couple have had their children recorded. Duplicates are identified by matching initials, gender and date of birth information from the presenting adults.

Table One: Homeless People In Ashfield, Or With A Local Connection To The Area

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure To Take Account Of Duplicate Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	135
<b>Children</b>	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>

### 3. Age & Gender

Table two shows the age and gender of people who presented as homeless. Any duplicate presentations have been removed for the purposes of this table. 59% of those who presented were male (compared to 57% for Nottinghamshire) and 58% were aged under 25 years old. Unlike the figures for Nottinghamshire, the majority of 16 and 17 year olds were men.

Table Two: Age

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Gender Not Stated</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years old</b>	10	8	0	18
<b>18 - 24 Years Old</b>	25	20	1	46
<b>25 – 40 Years Old</b>	23	10	1	34
<b>41 - 59 Years Old</b>	10	0	0	10
<b>60 years old and over</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>No Date Of Birth Supplied</b>	10	13	1	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>135</b>

### 4. Ethnic Origin

Table three (see next page) shows the ethnic origin of Ashfield cases. The table excludes cases where duplicate presentations have been made and also excludes those cases where no ethnic origin data was supplied (2 cases). Using this method enables comparison with the ethnic profile for Ashfield as recorded by the 2001 UK Census. The census found that 1.9% of the local population were from a non White: British ethnic origin, whereas the percentage recorded by the Homeless Watch survey was 6.8%, suggesting that people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities are over-represented among people who are homeless. However, making firm statements about over-representation among specific ethnic groups is problematic, due to the very low actual numbers which have been recorded.

Table Three: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	124	93.2
Mixed Other	3	2.3
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	2	1.5
White: Other	2	1.5
White: Irish	1	0.8
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	0.8
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100</b>

## 5. Household Type

There is one case where a different household type has been recorded for the same person. As there is no way of knowing which is correct both have been included, but apart from this case, all other duplicate presentations have been removed. Compared to the household type breakdown for Nottinghamshire (see column four), the figures for Ashfield show a higher percentage of single parents and a slightly lower percentage of single people.

Table Four: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Ashfield	Percentage Across Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	100	74	77
Single Parent With Children	23	17	13
Childless Couple	6	4	5
Couple With Children	6	4	4
Not Stated	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6. Children

A total of 65 dependent children were recorded within the data for Ashfield. This figure has been adjusted to take account of duplicate presentations and any cases where both members of a couple presented and details about their children were recorded twice. Table five shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children.

Table Five: Age & Number Of Dependent Children

Age Of Children	Number Of Children In this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	24
5 -10 Years Old	19
11 – 15 Years Old	8
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 years old and over	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

## 7. Care Leavers

15 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person. This figure takes account of duplicate presentations by care leavers and equates to 11% of the individuals who presented as homeless. Table six shows the age of care leavers when they were recorded by the survey and this shows that over half were aged 21 and under. Of those aged 21 and under, all but one person was recorded as being in (or had been) in care in Nottinghamshire, with the remaining person recorded as being (or has been) in care in Nottingham City.

Table Six: Age Of Care Leavers

Age	Number Of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	5
18 - 21 Years Old	3
22 and over	6
No Date Of Birth Provided	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

## 8. Presenting Support Needs

Table seven records the support needs of people who presented during the survey fortnight. As different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person, these figures are based on the full 154 presentations rather than the 135 individuals. The two percentage columns show the percentage of presentations (i.e. 154 for Ashfield and 1187 for Nottinghamshire) where this support need was identified.

Please note that people could record more than one support need, which is why the total in table seven is greater than the number of presentations. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs, shows that for 42 presentations (27%) the person specifically recorded that they had no support needs.

As can be seen from table seven (see next page) the support needs of those in, or connected to, Ashfield vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. The proportion of people requesting support for most categories is lower than was recorded for Nottinghamshire, with the exception of learning difficulties and physical disability. The learning difficulties percentage at 19% is particularly high. Sometimes such anomalies are caused by the particular remit of an agency which has made a significant proportion of the Homeless Watch returns in one area. However, this is not the case in this instance, as 16 different agencies identified people with learning difficulties.

Table Seven: Support Needs

<b>Support Needs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage Of Presentations - Ashfield</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Drug Abuse</b>	42	27	32
<b>Learning Difficulties</b>	30	19	8
<b>Ex-Offender</b>	25	16	23
<b>Mental Health</b>	18	12	17
<b>Alcohol Abuse</b>	15	10	18
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	11	7	10
<b>Other</b>	9	6	11
<b>Physically Disabled</b>	9	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 9. Previous Night

As the place where a person was staying the previous night could change during the course of the two week survey period, the figures shown in table eight (see next page) are for all 154 presentations, rather than the 135 individuals who were homeless. In percentage terms, the figures for Ashfield differ from the findings for the County as a whole. The percentage of rough sleepers is lower at 20% than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire, but the percentage who spent the previous night in their own home is higher at 16% than the 9% recorded for the County.

It is of note that of the 31 recordings of people sleeping rough in the Ashfield figures, only 6 people are recorded as being in Ashfield when they presented for advice. Of the 25 cases who had a connection with Ashfield but sought advice as a rough sleeper whilst in another local authority, 18 were in Mansfield, 6 in Nottingham City and 1 in Newark & Sherwood. It should be remembered that a person could have a connection with more than one local authority area and if we take the 18 people who presented as rough sleeping whilst in Mansfield as an example, 13 of these had a connection with Mansfield as well as Ashfield.

Table Eight: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent The Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Ashfield	Percentage- Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	33	21	24
Slept Rough	31	20	27
Own Home	25	16	9
Parents' Home	17	11	10
Hostel	11	7	7
Other	8	5	4
Other Relative's Home	7	5	6
B&B Lodgings	6	4	2
Custody	3	2	1
Partner's Home	3	2	2
Hospital	3	2	1
Emergency Bed	2	1	1
Grandparents' Home	2	1	1
Not Stated	2	1	3
Social Services	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 10. Profile Of Rough Sleeping

Agencies were asked to record whether people sleeping rough, were sleeping in the open air, or in a building or structure not designed for habitation. These categories are based on a definition of rough sleeping used by the Office Of The Deputy Prime Minister. The figures show that if we exclude the cases where no information was recorded, there was a roughly even split between those sleeping in the open air and those sleeping in a structure not designed for habitation (e.g a shed, barn etc).

Table Nine: Type Of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping In Open Air	13	42	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	14	45	30
Don't Know/Not Stated	4	13	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Agencies were also asked to record the approximate amount of time that a person had been rough sleeping. A summary of this data is shown in table ten. In Nottinghamshire 53% of those rough sleeping were recorded as doing so for longer than one month, whereas for Ashfield this percentage is higher at 58%. However, the percentage for those people rough sleeping for more than twelve months is noticeable lower at 6% than the 14% recorded for the County. It should be noted that there are some discrepancies in the data on time spent rough sleeping, with different agencies recording different periods for the same person. Given this, the data in table ten should be treated as a broad indicator of the duration of rough sleeping.

Table Ten: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

<b>Time Rough Sleeping</b>	<b>Number In This Category</b>	<b>Percentage - Ashfield</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>1 night</b>	1	3	7
<b>More than a night up to 1 week</b>	5	16	17
<b>More than 1 week and up to 1 month</b>	5	16	16
<b>More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths</b>	7	23	21
<b>More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths</b>	3	10	9
<b>More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths</b>	6	19	9
<b>More than 12 mths</b>	2	6	14
<b>Not Stated</b>	2	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### **11. Comparison Of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation.**

Agencies were asked to record details of where a person was likely to spend the coming night. Table eleven on the next page summarises these responses and enables comparison between where people spent the previous night, with information about their likely accommodation circumstances the night after contact with an agency. Please note that these figures are for all presentations, rather than individuals.

The figures for rough sleeping show 65% of those recorded as rough sleeping were expected to still be rough sleeping the coming night. Although this reduction is welcome, the gains are partly offset by 5 cases where a person was expected to be rough sleeping the night after contact with an agency, but spent the previous night in different accommodation circumstances. It is of note that there are four instances where people who were sleeping rough are recorded as likely to spending the coming night in hospital. Further analysis shows that one of these was a duplicate presentation and that all three individuals presented for advice to agencies whilst in Nottingham City.

Table Eleven: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friends Home	Grandparents	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative	Own Home	Parents Home	Partner's Home	Sleeping Rough	Social Services	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	6
	Custody	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Emergency Bed	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Friend's Home	0	0	2	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	33
	Grandparents	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	11
	Other Relative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Own Home	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	20	0	1	0	0	1	1	25
	Parents' Home	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	17
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
	Sleeping Rough	1	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	3	31
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	8
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>		