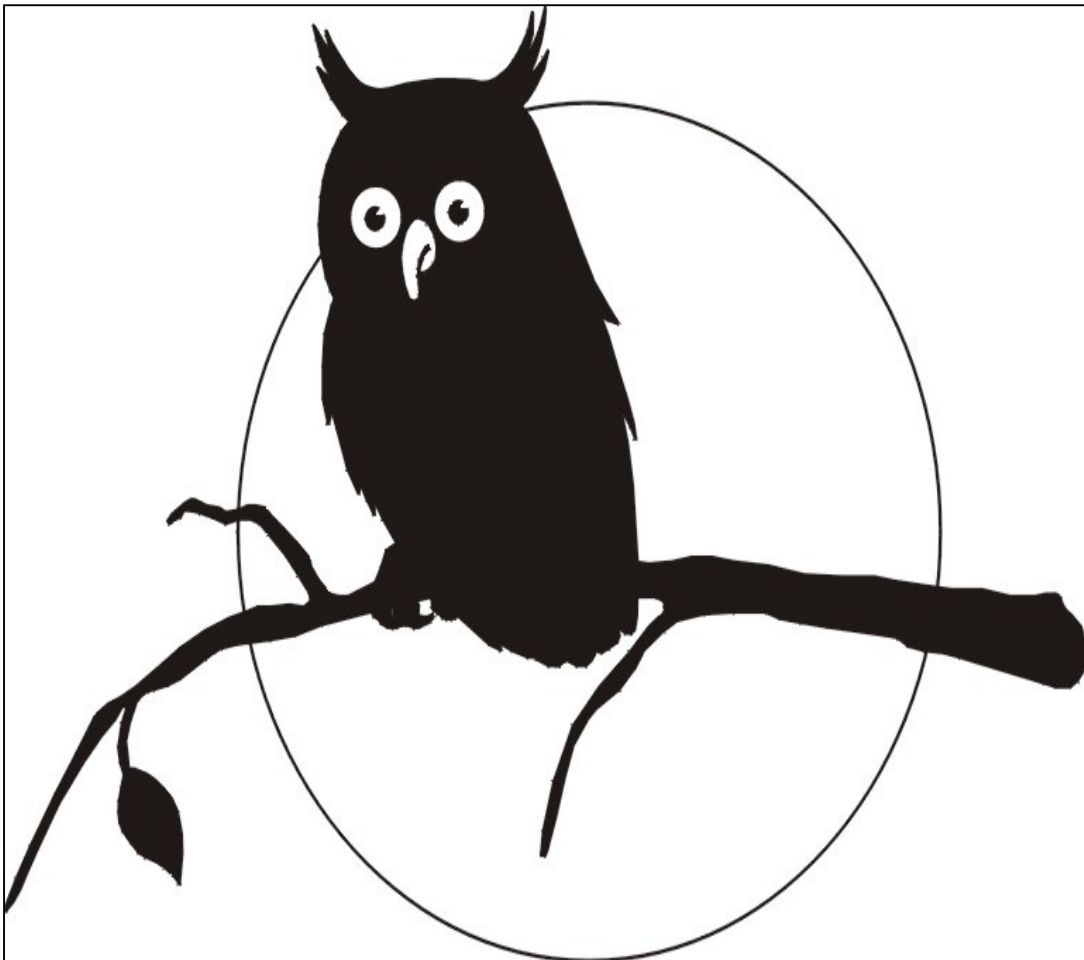


Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

24th September to 7th October 2007



Bassetlaw District Council Mini Report

HLG Resource Service
March 2008

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at
www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

Background:

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2007 is a snapshot survey that records details of everyone who presented as homeless to participating agencies in the County during the two week period from 24th September to 7th October 2007.

For the purposes of the survey and report, homeless people are defined as those people presenting to agencies who were:

- living in something not normally considered to be housing (such as derelict buildings, sheds, vehicles – i.e. sleeping rough)
- living with the insecurity of not knowing where they would sleep tomorrow or over the next 28 days e.g. sleeping on a friends floor for a few days or staying temporarily with relatives
- living in a state of dispossession (i.e. not being able to have their belongings in the same place that they are sleeping).

The main report is complemented by a set of district reports which summarise survey findings for each of the boroughs and districts within the county, including Nottingham City.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the **Bassetlaw** district.

For the purpose of the 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 report for Bassetlaw District Council are based on presentations by people who were either recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2007 as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in the Bassetlaw area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Bassetlaw.

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
- 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.

This is the fourth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report on Bassetlaw district takes the opportunity presented by the availability of four years of data to draw comparisons with survey findings from previous years and where possible identify trends in local homelessness.

[NB: For the purposes of brevity this report generally refers to all presentations by homeless people in or with a connection to Bassetlaw as those 'presenting in Bassetlaw'.]

Table One: Homeless People in Bassetlaw, or with a Local Connection to the area

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	83
Children	43
Total	126

There were a 94 presentations by homeless adults in Bassetlaw including 11 repeat presentations and not including dependent children. Repeat presentations are where individuals presented to more than one agency during the survey fortnight – identified by comparing initials, gender and date of birth information. Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats except where it is useful to show the picture for all presentations and helpful to indicate potential changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period.

After removing repeats and adding in dependent children, **Table One** shows a total of 126 presentations consisting of 83 adults and 43 dependent children.

These figures compare with a total of 173 presentations by homeless people including 109 adults and 64 dependent children in 2006 and 216 in 2005, including 144 adults and 72 dependent children; indicating a continuing and welcome decrease in levels of homelessness in Bassetlaw - numbers recorded for 2007 are less than 60% of those recorded in 2005.

Presentations and Local Connection

Table One (a):

Slept Rough Type	All in Bassetlaw	Bassetlaw - Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Bassetlaw	88	10
Actual Presentations outside Bassetlaw	6	3
Presented in or with a local connection to Bassetlaw	94	13

Table One (a) shows that of the 94 total adult presentations made in Bassetlaw or by those with a connection to the district including repeats, 88 were made in Bassetlaw itself and 6 outside the district. The table also provides a breakdown for rough sleepers showing that of the 13 presentations made by rough sleepers, ten were sleeping rough in Bassetlaw and three outside the district.

Table Two: Area where advice received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Bassetlaw	50	93	36	97	2	67	88	94
Ashfield	1	2	0	0	1	33	2	2
Mansfield	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1
Nottingham City	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	2
Rushcliffe	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	54	100	37	100	3	100	94	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Bassetlaw or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the vast majority (94%) presented in Bassetlaw itself with small numbers in other districts.

Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove any duplicate presentations, using the number of actual individuals rather than presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age by gender

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	5	3	0	8
18-24 Years Old	18	11	1	30
25-40 Years Old	13	11	2	26
41-59 Years Old	7	5	0	12
60 years old and over	1	0	0	1
No Date of Birth Supplied	3	3	0	6
Total	47	33	3	83

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). 38 of those presenting were under 25 compared with 41 in 2006, suggesting a small increase in homelessness amongst under twenty fives in Bassetlaw. The percentage of under twenty fives in Bassetlaw at almost 46% is slightly higher than the 41% for Nottinghamshire as a whole as is the figure for 16 and 17 year olds at over 9% compared to the 8% figure across the county.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	47	57
Female	33	40
Not Stated	3	3
Total	83	100

Table Four shows a roughly 60:40 gender split amongst homeless adults in Bassetlaw. This is very similar to figures for the county as a whole. This is different to last year when the figures were 46% women and 51% men with three percent where gender was not recorded.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	81	98
White: Other	2	2
Total	83	100

Table Five indicates that very low numbers of people from Black and Minority ethnic communities are recorded as homeless in Bassetlaw or with a local connection to the district; with only just over 2% giving their ethnic origin as other than White British. This is the same as data recorded in 2006. The UK 2001 Census profile gives a figure of 2.7% of the general population of Bassetlaw of an ethnic origin other than White British.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	52	63	69
Single Parent With Children	23	28	17
Couple With Children	4	5	7
Childless Couple	3	4	5
Not Stated	1	1	1
Total	83	100	100

The data within Table Six shows that 63% of presentations were made by single people and 28% by single parents with children compared to figures of 69% and 17% for the county as a whole. The proportion of single parents with children at 28% is notably higher than for the county and compares with a figure of 29% for Bassetlaw in 2006 and 20% in 2005.

Table Seven: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	19
5 – 10 Years Old	9
11 – 15 Years Old	5
16 & 17 Years Old	9
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	43

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the child. A total of 43 dependent children were recorded within the data for Bassetlaw compared with 64 in 2006 and 72 in 2005. The 2007 figure is less than 60% of the figure for 2005. The majority of children were under eleven and the largest number under four years old (19 or 44% of the total).

Homeless Care leavers in Bassetlaw

Table Eight: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	5
22 Years Old and Over	3
Not stated	0
Total	8

Table Nine: Where people were in care

	Number
Nottinghamshire	4
Outside Notts	2
Not Stated	2
Total	8

Tables Eight and Nine provide information on homeless care leavers in Bassetlaw or with a connection to the district. Table Eight shows that a total of eight care leavers or just over 9% of total individuals presented as homeless in Bassetlaw or with a local connection to the district - this compares with 19% for Nottinghamshire. The 2007 figure is the same as that recorded for last year and compares with 25 people recorded in 2005 as having been in the care of the local authority – indicating a notable decrease this year.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	13	14	29
Ex-Offender	13	14	27
Domestic Violence	7	7	10
Mental Health	7	7	15
Learning Difficulties	5	5	6
Alcohol Abuse	4	4	15
Physically Disabled	2	2	3
Other	14	15	10
Total	65	N/A	N/A

Table Ten sets out the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. As different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person, these figures are based on all presentations rather than the number of individuals. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 33 (35%) presentations reported no support needs.

The data indicates that the support needs of those in or connected to Bassetlaw are generally lower than those for the whole of Nottinghamshire. For example, the percentage of people requesting support due to drug abuse is less than half that for the county as a whole and for alcohol abuse almost a quarter of the level recorded for the county. The number (13) and proportion (14%) show a continued decrease in the prevalence of drug use amongst homeless people in Bassetlaw when compared to figures of 21 and 20% in 2006 and 38 and 23% in 2005.

The proportion of people requesting support due to domestic violence at 7% continues the downward trend reported last year when 9% indicated a similar support need and compared with the 19% recorded for Bassetlaw in 2005.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	28	30	26
Own Home	14	15	11
Slept Rough	13	14	24
Parents' Home	12	13	12
Other	6	6	4
Other Relative's Home	6	6	6
Partner's Home	4	4	2
B&B Lodgings	3	3	1
Custody	2	2	2
Emergency Bed	2	2	1
Hostel	2	2	6
Grandparents' Home	1	1	2
Hospital	0	0	2
Social Services	0	0	0
Not Stated	1	1	1
Grand Total	94	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Bassetlaw or with a local connection to the district spent the previous night. As the place where a person was staying the previous night could change during the course of the survey period, the figures shown are for all presentations (excluding dependent children) rather than the 83 individuals who were homeless.

The percentage of rough sleepers is lower at 14% than the 24% recorded across Nottinghamshire. The proportion of rough sleepers is the same as the figure last year and very close to the 13% figure for 2005. The percentage that spent the previous night at a friend's home is higher at 30% than the 26% recorded for the County. Three presentations reported spending the previous night in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Rough Sleeping in Bassetlaw

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	7	54	24
Sleeping In Open Air	2	15	53
Squat	0	0	9
Don't Know	4	31	11
Not Stated	0	0	3
Total	13	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night		0	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	2	15	18
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	2	15	17
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	3	23	19
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	1	8	11
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	1	8	14
More than 12 Months	0	0	10
Don't Know	0	0	4
Not Stated	4	31	4
Total	13	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Bassetlaw. The total number of presentations by rough sleepers at 13 compares with 16 last year and 21 in 2005; indicating a small decrease on last year and a welcome and continuing downward trend.

Table Twelve indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Bassetlaw are much less likely to sleep in the open air than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. Table Thirteen indicates that only one rough sleeper was recorded as having slept rough for between three to six months compared to a figure of 24 or 11% for the county as a whole and 25% for Bassetlaw in 2006.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B & B Lodgings	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friend's Home	Grandparents	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative's	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			1	2												3
	Custody		2														2
	Emergency Bed			2													2
	Friend's Home			1	20	1									1	5	28
	Grandparent's					1											1
	Hospital																
	Hostel				1			1									2
	Other Relative's				1				5								6
	Own Home				1					13							14
	Parent's Home								1		11						12
	Partner's Home				1							2				1	4
	Sleeping Rough			1	2								6			4	13
	Social Services																0
	Other				1										4	1	6
	No Data Supplied															1	1
Totals	0	2	5	29	2	0	1	6	13	11	2	6	0	5	12	94	

Table Fourteen provides a comparison of where a person spent the night prior to reporting to the survey with data about their expected housing circumstances the coming night. Please note that these figures are for all presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than individuals.

The most interesting point that can be drawn from the data is that 13 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and only 6 expected to sleep rough the coming night.

Report Written by: Paul Pearson (New Ground Consultancy)
Data Analysis: Luke Keegan (Greendawn Accounting)
Data Entry: Cathy Sutton, Sarah Holden
Administration and co-ordination: Sarah Holden, Matthew Pickles
HLG Resource Service
March 2008