

# **Homeless Watch 2005**

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

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



## **Bassetlaw 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)

# Homeless Watch 2005 – Bassetlaw District Council Mini Report

## 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 Bassetlaw District Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

- a. Recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness within the Bassetlaw area.
- b. Recorded as not seeking advice in Bassetlaw (i.e. they sought advice in another Nottinghamshire authority area), but were recorded as having a local connection with 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, 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

162 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were significant numbers of duplicate presentations in the Bassetlaw data, and therefore the table below records the actual number of individuals who presented to one or more agencies during the Homeless Watch fortnight, namely 144. In addition, there were 72 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.

Within the overall figures, just 9 people (5 female, 3 male and 1 where no gender was stated) are shown as having a connection with Bassetlaw but requesting advice in another local authority area. In other words 135 of the 144 adults recorded, approached agencies about their homelessness within the Bassetlaw district.

Table One: Homeless People In Bassetlaw 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>	144
<b>Children</b>	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>

### 3. Gender

In common with the 2004 Homeless Watch Survey, the figures for Bassetlaw, show a different gender profile for homelessness than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. The 2005 survey shows that across the County, 60% of those recorded as homeless were male (this is calculated after removing those cases where no gender has been specified) whereas for Bassetlaw just 43% are male (if we exclude those cases where no gender data has been supplied). Please note that these figures are for adults only and do not include dependent children who were part of a presenting family.

Table Two: Gender

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Female</b>	79	55
<b>Male</b>	60	42
<b>Not stated</b>	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4. Age

The figures (see table three on the next page) show that there is a roughly even split between those aged under 25 and those over this age. Of those cases where an age has been supplied 48% are aged under 25, which is consistent with the findings for Nottinghamshire as a whole. The proportion of 16 and 17 year olds is also consistent with the County wide findings.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 & 17 Years old	3	11	1	15
18 -24 Years Old	17	26	1	44
25 – 40 Years Old	20	22	0	42
41 - 59 Years Old	9	8	1	18
60 years old and over	2	1	0	3
No Date Of Birth Supplied	9	11	2	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>144</b>

## 5. Ethnic Origin

Very low numbers of people from Black and Minority ethnic communities are recorded for Bassetlaw, as can be seen from table four. In percentage terms, if we exclude those cases where no ethnic origin has been stated, the figure for those from non White: British ethnic groups is 4.3%, which is above the 2.7% figure which we would expect given the UK 2001 Census profile. However, the actual numbers are so small that caution should be exercised in drawing in any firm conclusions. Nevertheless, in line with the recommendation within the main County wide Homeless Watch report it is suggested that Bassetlaw District Council monitor levels of homelessness among Black & Minority Ethnic communities both through existing data collection (e.g. P1E returns) and establishing new mechanisms to collate this data, such as asking local services to record this data over a longer time period to see if those from Black and Minority ethnic communities are over-represented among local homeless people .

Table Four: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	132	91.7
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	2	1.4
White: Other	1	0.7
White: Irish	1	0.7
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	0.7
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1	0.7
Not Stated	6	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6. Presentations By Household Type

There is some inconsistency in the data recorded by agencies, because there are different household types recorded for the same person. This makes it difficult to remove any duplicates from the household types and therefore the figures shown are for the full 162 presentations. Compared to the household type breakdown for Nottinghamshire, the figures for Bassetlaw show a lower percentage of single people (63% compared to 77% for the County) and a higher proportion for all the other groups. The corresponding

percentage figures for Nottinghamshire are shown in the last column of table five for comparative purposes.

Table Five: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage Across Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	102	63	77
Single Parent With Children	32	20	13
Childless Couple	14	9	5
Couple With Children	13	8	4
Not Stated	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 7. Children

A total of 72 dependent children were recorded within the data for Bassetlaw. This figure has been adjusted to take account of duplicate presentations by one family. In addition, six households (there were no duplicates) recorded that a member of the household was pregnant. Of these six, one woman was 16 years old, two were 18 years old, one was 20 years old and another was 24 years old. No date of birth was recorded for the other pregnant women.

Table Six: Age & Number Of Dependent Children

Age Of Children	Number Of Children In this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	24
5 -10 Years Old	24
11 – 15 Years Old	15
16 & 17 Years Old	8
18 years old and over	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

## 8. Care Leavers

25 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. Of these, 18 are recorded as being in care in Nottinghamshire, six outside of Nottinghamshire and no area has been stated for one person. The age ranges of care leavers are shown in table seven.

Table Seven: Age Of Care Leavers

Age	Number Of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	3
18 -20 Years Old	13
21 and over	6
No Date Of Birth Provided	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## 9. Presenting Support Needs

Table eight 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 162 presentations rather than the 145 individuals. Please note that people could record more than one support need. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs, shows that for 45 presentations (28%) the person specifically recorded that they had no support needs.

As can be seen from Table eight the support needs of those in, or connected to, Bassetlaw vary in many respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. The proportion of people requesting support due to domestic violence is noticeable higher than for Nottinghamshire, although this is partly explained by the greater proportion of women who presented in Bassetlaw. The percentage of people requesting support due to drug abuse and in particular offending behaviour is noticeable lower than for Nottinghamshire.

Table Eight: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	38	23	32
Domestic Violence	30	19	10
Alcohol Abuse	27	17	18
Mental Health	23	14	17
Ex-Offender	12	7	23
Learning Difficulties	11	7	8
Physically Disabled	2	1	4
Other	18	11	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 10. Previous Night

As this could change during the course of the two week survey period, the figures shown in table nine are for all 162 presentations. The number of rough sleepers recorded is the fourth highest in the County, after Nottingham City, Mansfield and Rushcliffe, although as can be seen in Table Nine the percentage of rough sleepers at 13% is under half of the percentage recorded for the County as a whole. It should also be noted that the rough sleeping figures include three people who have a local connection with Bassetlaw, but who presented for advice in another local authority area – two in Mansfield and one in Newark & Sherwood. The proportion of people who spent the previous night in B& B Lodgings is three and half times that for Nottinghamshire, and the proportion that spent the previous night with parents and other relatives is also noticeable higher than for the County.

Table Nine: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent The Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Bassetlaw	Percentage- Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	44	27	24
Parents' Home	24	15	10
Slept Rough	21	13	27
Own Home	19	12	9
Other Relative's Home	18	11	6
B&B Lodgings	12	7	2
Hostel	4	2	7
Partner's Home	3	2	2
Grandparents' Home	3	2	1
Custody	3	2	1
Social Services	2	1	1
Hospital	1	1	1
Emergency Bed	1	1	1
Other	5	3	4
Not Stated	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 11. 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 human habitation. These categories are based on a definition of rough sleeping used by the Office Of The Deputy Prime Minister. The figures show that most rough sleepers in the area (or with a connection to Bassetlaw) are sleeping in a building or structure not designed for habitation, although it should be noted that no data has been supplied in a third of cases. If we exclude those cases where no data has been supplied, this shows that 79% of rough sleepers slept in a building or structure not designed for habitation. This compares to 36% for the County as a whole, where the majority of rough sleepers were recorded as sleeping in the open air.

Table Ten: Type Of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	11	52	30
Sleeping In Open Air	3	14	55
Don't Know/Not Stated	7	33	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</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 eleven on the next page. In Nottinghamshire 53% of those rough sleeping were recorded as doing so for longer than one month, whereas in Bassetlaw this percentage is 33%, although the percentage of

people recorded as rough sleeping for more than six months in Bassetlaw is higher at 33% than for the County, which recorded 23%.

Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage - Bassetlaw	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	1	5	7
More than a night up to 1 week	7	33	17
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	3	14	16
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	4	19	21
More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	0	0	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	3	14	9
More than 12 mths	2	10	14
Not Stated	1	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## 12. Comparison Of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation.

Agencies were asked to record details of where a person was likely to spend the coming night. Table twelve 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.

The table highlights a number of areas of interest for Bassetlaw. It was noted in the previous night section (see table nine) that the percentage of people in B&B lodgings was 3.5 times the figure for Nottinghamshire. This trend is replicated in the data on where people were expected to be the coming night. Table twelve shows that over 10% of people were expected to be in B&B lodgings after contact with an agency, compared to under 3% of people in the County.

In terms of rough sleeping, table twelve shows that 2 fewer people were expected to be sleeping rough the coming night than the previous night. However, this overall reduction masks a greater level of activity relating to rough sleepers. Five of the original 21 rough sleepers are recorded as likely to spend the coming night in a different accommodation situation, but this reduction is partly offset by 3 cases where people were expected to be rough sleeping the coming night, but who were not doing so the previous night.

Table Twelve: 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	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	12
	Custody	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Emergency Bed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Friend's Home	2	0	0	34	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	44
	Grandparents	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Other Relative	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	18
	Own Home	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	19
	Parents' Home	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	16	0	2	0	1	1	24
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
	Sleeping Rough	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	1	21
	Social Services	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>		