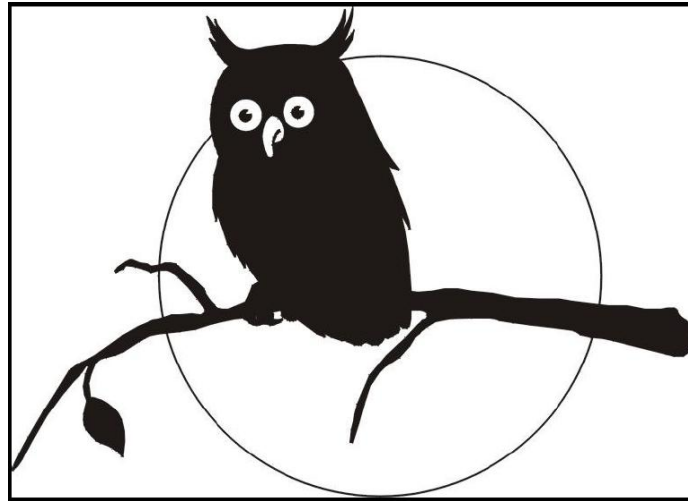


Homeless Watch 2006

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

18th September to 1st October 2006



Broxtowe Borough Council Mini Report

HLG Resource Service

Mar 2007

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at

www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

Background:

The local authorities in Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham City) together identified the need for a third annual survey of homelessness in Nottinghamshire; intended to further the knowledge and understanding of homelessness in the county and the housing and support needs of those people who present as homeless.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2006 was commissioned as a result. The survey findings will be used to inform the review of Homelessness Strategies for each of the eight local authority areas in the County. The findings will also be used by other statutory agencies, including for example the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to inform complementary strategies.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2006 and the development of this report have been undertaken under the supervision of the Homeless Watch Steering Group, which comprises representatives from each of the local authorities in Nottinghamshire including the unitary authority Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the voluntary sector. The format of the survey has been developed by the steering group, based on a form used successfully in previous surveys of this type.

The 2006 survey provides an opportunity both to identify, analyse and understand levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Nottinghamshire at present and to build on the surveys undertaken in the two previous years to identify and analyse trends and changes in homelessness in the county in the last three years.

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, summarising the main findings for each of the eight local 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.

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 report for Broxtowe Borough Council are based on presentations by people who were either recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in the Broxtowe area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Broxtowe.

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.

Total numbers of homeless people including children

Table 1: Homeless people in Broxtowe or with a connection to the borough

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	47
Children	23
Total	70

There were a total of 47 presentations by homeless adults in Broxtowe with no duplicates. Table One shows a total of 70 presentations by homeless people including 47 adults and 23 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 57 in 2005, including 48 adults and 9 dependent children; showing a notable increase in the numbers of homeless children compared to the survey findings last year.

Presenting area and local connection

Table 2: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Broxtowe	11	55	18	72	1	50	30	64
Gedling	1	5	1	4	0	0	2	4
Mansfield	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	2
Nottingham City	7	35	6	24	1	50	14	30
Total	20	100	25	100	2	100	47	100

Table Two shows that 17 people had a connection with Broxtowe but were in another local authority area when they requested advice; the majority of these (82%) were in Nottingham City when they sought advice about their homelessness. However, it should be noted that a person could have a connection with more than one local authority area, and of the 14 people with a connection to Broxtowe who were in Nottingham City when they sought advice, five are also recorded as having a local connection with Nottingham City.

Gender

Table 3: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Female	25	53
Male	20	44
Not Stated	2	3
Total	47	100

Table three shows that the majority of individuals (53%) who presented as homeless in Broxtowe, or with a connection to the borough were women. This is notably

different to the figures for Nottinghamshire as a whole where 40% were women (with 2% where gender was not stated).

Age

Table 4: Age of presenting adults

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	2	5	0	7
18-24 Years Old	6	6	1	13
25-40 Years Old	8	7	0	15
41-59 Years Old	4	5	0	9
60 years old and over	0	0	0	0
No Date of Birth Supplied	0	2	1	3
Total	20	25	2	47

Table Four shows that 15% of those presenting as homeless in Broxtowe or with a connection to the district (excluding dependent children) were under 18, compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire and 13% for Broxtowe in 2005. More than twice as many under 18's were young women than men. Homeless adults aged under 25 represented 42.5% of total individuals presenting compared with 40% for the county.

Ethnic Origin

Table 5: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Men		Women		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
White: British	15	75	18	72	1	50	34	72
Mixed Other	1	5	2	8	0	0	3	6
Black/ Black British: Caribbean	1	5	2	8	0	0	3	6
White Other	2	10	0	0	0	0	2	4
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1	5	1	4	0	0	2	4
Asian/Asian British: Other	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	2
Other	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	2
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	1	50	1	2
Total	20	100	25	100	2	100	47	100

According to the UK Census data from 2001, 6.8% of the population of Broxtowe are of a non White British ethnic origin. The County wide Homeless Watch survey report 2006 highlights the fact that people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities are over-represented among those who presented as homeless. This is clearly reflected in the data for Broxtowe where around 25% of homeless people presenting in or with a connection to the borough are recorded as being people of a non White British ethnic origin. This compares with a figure of only 10% in 2005.

Whilst the actual numbers of people from particular black and minority ethnic groups are low, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions about over-representation

amongst specific ethnic groups, there does appear to a notable issue here that might merit further investigation.

Household Type

Table 6: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	34	72	76
Single Parent With Children	7	15	12
Couple With Children	3	6	4
Childless Couple	1	2	5
Not Stated	2	4	3
Total	47	100	100

The data within table six shows that 72% of presentations were by single people compared with 76% for Nottinghamshire and 15% of presentations were of single parents with children compared with 12% for the county as a whole. The proportion of single parents with children at 15% compares with a figure of 13% for Broxtowe in 2005.

Children

Table 7: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	6
5 – 10 Years Old	8
11 – 15 Years Old	6
16 & 17 Years Old	2
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	23

Table seven shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 23 dependent children were recorded within the data for Broxtowe compared with only 9 in 2005, indicating a notable increase. The largest number of children were between five and ten years old.

Though not shown within table six, two households reported that the women members of the household were pregnant at the time of the survey.

The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families has been highlighted nationally by Shelter in 2006, the 40th anniversary of the BBC film 'Cathy Come Home'. Shelter report the fact that across England, almost 130,000 homeless children are having their health, education and future chances seriously damaged by the lack of a safe, permanent home.

Care leavers

Table 8: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	0
22 Years Old and Over	3
No Date of Birth Provided	0
Total	3

Table Eight shows that a total of three care leavers presented as homeless in Broxtowe or with a local connection to the borough (6% of individuals presenting, compared with 11% for Nottinghamshire). Of these one had been in care in Nottingham City, one in Nottinghamshire and one outside the county. In 2005, 11 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person, indicating a notable decrease this year.

The issue of homelessness amongst care leavers is highlighted in the main report.

Support needs

Table 9: Support needs

Support Needs	Men		Women		Not Stated		Total		Nottinghamshire
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	%
Alcohol Abuse	8	40	3	12	0	0	11	23	18
Domestic Violence	0	0	8	32	0	0	8	17	10
Drug Abuse	4	20	3	12	0	0	7	15	29
Ex-Offender	6	30	0	0	0	0	6	13	22
Mental Health	3	15	2	8	0	0	5	11	17
Physically Disabled	1	5	2	8	0	0	3	6	4
Learning Difficulties	3	15	0	0	0	0	3	6	8
Other	3	15	8	32	1	100	12	26	9
Total	28	N/A	26	N/A	1	N/A	55	N/A	N/A

Table Nine records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. Please note that people could record more than one support need.

As can be seen from the data the support needs of those in or connected to Broxtowe vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. For example, there is a noticeably lower proportion presenting with a drug support need and a higher proportion of people presenting with an alcohol support need than

for the county as a whole. In 2005, those indicating a drug support need represented 31% of presentations for Broxtowe.

The proportion of people requesting support due to domestic violence at 17% is noticeably higher than for Nottinghamshire as a whole where the figure is 10%.

A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for eight presentations (17% of the total) the person specifically stated no support needs.

Where people spent the previous night

Table 10: Previous night's accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Men		Women		Not Stated		Total		Nottinghamshire
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	%
Friend's Home	10	50	3	12	1	50	14	30	25
Parent's Home	1	5	8	32	0	0	9	19	11
Slept Rough	6	30	2	8	0	0	8	17	27
Own Home	1	5	3	12	0	0	4	9	9
Other Relative's Home	1	5	3	12	0	0	4	9	6
Partner's Home	1	5	1	4	0	0	2	4	2
Grandparent's Home	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	2	1
Hostel	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	2	5
Emergency Bed	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	2	1
Other	0	0	2	8	0	0	2	4	3
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	1	50	1	2	3
Total	20	100	25	100	2	100	47	100	100

Table Ten provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Broxtowe or with a local connection to the district (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night.

The percentage of rough sleepers is lower at 17% than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire. The proportion of rough sleepers is also noticeably lower than the 31% figure for Broxtowe in 2005. The percentage that spent the previous night at a friend's home is higher at 30% than the 25% recorded for the County. 19% spent the previous night at their parent's home compared with 11% for the county. There was no-one recorded as spending the previous night in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Rough sleeping in Broxtowe

Table 11: Nature of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping in Open Air	5	63	55
Don't Know/Not Stated	3	37	10
Total	8	100	

Table 12: Time spent rough sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	0	0	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	0	0	19
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	0	0	16
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	2	25	23
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	1	13	12
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	3	38	7
More Than 12 Months	0	0	14
Not Stated/Don't Know	2	25	5
Total	8	100	100

Data contained within table ten indicates that eight people slept rough the night before they presented for advice.

Tables eleven and twelve provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Broxtowe. The total number of rough sleepers at eight compares with a figure of 15 in 2005. This represents a notable reduction though remains a relatively high number. Table eleven indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Broxtowe are more likely to sleep in the open air than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. Table twelve indicates that 38% of rough sleepers in or with a local connection to Broxtowe have slept rough for between six and twelve months compared with only 7% overall, though since the actual number is only three it is difficult to draw any particular conclusions from this statistic.

Table 13: 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Emergency Bed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Friend's Home	1	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	14
	Grandparent's	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Other Relative's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Own Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Parent's Home	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Sleeping Rough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	8
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	1	0	3	10	3	0	1	2	4	9	1	7	0	3	3	47	

For the 2005 Survey, a new question was introduced to enable comparison of where a person spent the previous night with data about their expected housing circumstances the coming night and the question was repeated this year. Table thirteen summarises these responses. Please note that these figures are for all presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than individuals. With the exception of those who spent the previous night in the home of a friend it shows little movement for homeless people in Broxtowe between the night prior to contacting an agency for advice and the night immediately following.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of the recommendations in this year's report repeat or restate those from last year. It is clear from the analysis of this year's survey findings, set out below, that many of the issues and problems highlighted reflect or repeat those highlighted in the survey reports for 2004 and 2005. Whilst this is not a surprise, in that it would not be sensible to expect radical change in the profile of homelessness in Nottinghamshire in one year, or even two, it is a cause for concern. The recommendations in this report focus on issues highlighted in previous years but seek to develop new approaches aimed at finding solutions to persistent problems.

Recommendation One

The County Housing and Homeless Network takes responsibility for monitoring the implementation of county-wide recommendations from this year's survey, developing action plans and involving county-wide bodies such as the County Council, Supporting People and the DAAT as necessary. In the City, the Homelessness Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) takes responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the report.

Recommendation Two

The findings of the 2006 Homeless Watch survey are used to inform the review of each local authority's Homelessness Strategy and each Supporting People Administering Authority's Five Year Strategy and Annual Action Plan.

Recommendation Three

Local Authorities utilise the recommendations made in the 'Causes of Homelessness Amongst Ethnic Minority Populations' (ODPM 2005) to assess the extent of ethnic minority homelessness in their district and work with local community organisations to ensure the housing and support needs of homeless people from ethnic minority backgrounds are recognised and addressed in their local homelessness strategies (Districts and City).

Recommendation Four

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Children's Services use the following recommendations of the Joseph Rowntree report 'Life after Care' to assess the effectiveness of their leaving care services in preventing care leavers from becoming homeless and make changes to services as needed (County and City):

- Local authorities should create employment opportunities for care leavers, offering trainee/apprenticeship positions within the authority.
- A multi-agency approach must be adopted to develop a strategy that ensures young people receive the support they need to maintain tenancies.
- To enable them to make an informed decision, young people should be provided with user-friendly information detailing post-care housing options.
- Pathway planning should pay equal attention to a young person's capacity to manage independently and leaving care services should invest more time and resources in skill-building programmes. Focused/tailored approaches to budgeting, which take account of different scenarios in which young people may find themselves, are important. Also, follow-up support to settle young people in their new environment would ensure that young people don't feel abandoned and isolated, and are given practical advice that could be applied to their own situation.

Recommendation Five

A county-wide multi-agency approach to meeting the support needs of people with multiple needs is developed, which can be implemented at a local level as part of local homelessness strategies (County Wide Group).

Recommendation Six

Supporting People Authorities and DAATs work with local authorities to review the services available to prevent homelessness amongst drug users and to ensure homeless drug users can access and maintain accommodation, support and treatment services and incorporate unmet needs into future plans. (County Wide Group)

Recommendation Seven

Local Authorities review the accommodation and support needs of homeless people with substance misuse difficulties as part of the review of the local homelessness strategies (Districts and City)

Recommendation Eight

The definition of rough sleeping used in the Homeless Watch survey is broader than that used by the DCLG and so more people will define themselves as rough sleeping in this survey than will be counted in rough sleepers' street counts. Nevertheless the mismatch between local rough sleeper counts and the number of people self defining as rough sleeping is unhelpful particularly in securing resources and planning services. This should be investigated further to enable a more accurate analysis of the problem and an effective strategic response. (Districts and City)

Recommendation Nine

Each local authority and Supporting People Authority should include appropriate direct or quick access services for people at the point of homelessness and access to move on accommodation as part of their strategies. (Districts and City and Supporting People Authorities)

Recommendation Ten

All local authorities should have access to a mediation service for young people. Authorities should explore opportunities for joint-commissioning of mediation services. (Districts and City).

Recommendation Eleven

Local Authorities should review the impact of the new Sanctuary schemes and the effect on the numbers of homelessness presentations on the grounds of domestic violence (Districts and City)