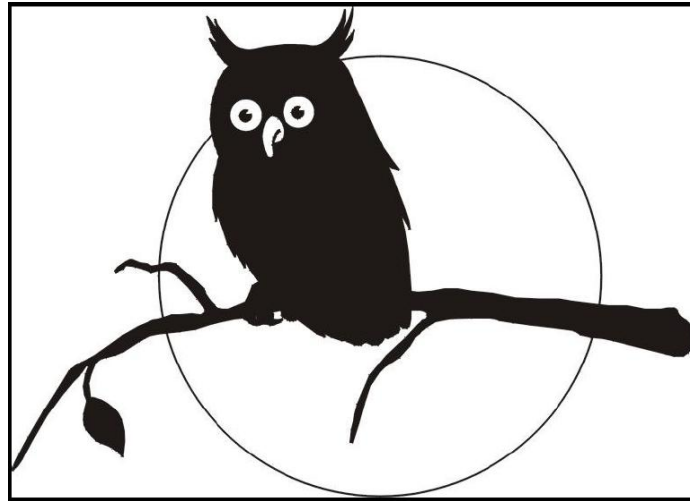


Homeless Watch 2006

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

18th September to 1st October 2006



Gedling 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 Gedling 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 Gedling area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Gedling.

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 Gedling or with a local connection to the borough

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	57
Children	43
Total	100

There were a total of 61 presentations by homeless adults in Gedling or by those with a local connection to the borough as defined above, with 4 duplicate presentations. After removing duplicates, Table One shows a total of 100 presentations by homeless people including 57 adults and 43 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of only 58 in 2005, including 45 adults and 13 dependent children; showing a notable increase particularly in numbers of homeless children compared to the survey findings last year.

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

Presenting area and local connection

Table 2: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Gedling	19	70	28	85	0	0	47	77
Nottingham City	5	19	3	9	0	0	8	13
Rushcliffe	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	2
Newark & Sherwood	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	2
Mansfield	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	2
Not Stated	2	7	0	0	1	100	3	5
Total	27	100	33	100	1	100	61	100

Table Two shows that 11 presentations were made by homeless adults with a connection to Gedling in a different local authority area. The majority of these (8 presentations) were made in Nottingham City. It should be noted that a person could have a connection with more than one local authority area, and of the 8 people with a connection to Gedling who were in Nottingham City when they sought advice, one person is also recorded as having a local connection with Nottingham City.

Please note that this table includes all presentations by adults including the four duplicates since some people presented more than once in different areas.

Age

Table 3: Age of presenting adults

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	7	5	0	12
18-24 Years Old	4	6	0	10
25-40 Years Old	8	12	1	21
41-59 Years Old	6	5	0	11
60 years old and over	1	0	0	1
No Date of Birth Supplied	0	2	0	2
Total	26	30	1	57

Table Three shows that 21% of those presenting as homeless in Gedling or with a connection to the district (excluding dependent children) were under 18, compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire and 11% for Gedling in 2005. Homeless adults aged under 25 represented over 38% of total individuals presenting compared with 40% for the county.

Ethnic Origin

Table 4: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	51	89
Black/Black British: Caribbean	3	5
White Irish	1	2
Other	1	2
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1	2
Total	57	100

According to the UK Census data from 2001, 6.1% of the population of Gedling are of a non White British ethnic origin. The County wide Homeless Watch survey report 2006 highlights the fact that 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 Gedling where 11% 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 nearly 9% 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, this does appear to be an issue that merits further investigation.

Household Type

Table 5: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	32	56	76
Single Parent With Children	20	35	12
Couple With Children	3	5	5
Not Stated	2	4	3
Total	57	100	100

The data within table five shows that 56% of presentations were by single people without children compared with 76% for Nottinghamshire and 35% of presentations were of single parents with children compared with only 12% for the county as a whole. The proportion of single parents with children at 35% compares with a figure of 24% for Gedling in 2005.

The figures for homelessness amongst single parents with children in Gedling indicated by the survey findings for this year and last are worryingly higher than for Nottinghamshire as a whole and suggest the need for further investigation.

Children

Table 6: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range	Percentage
0 - 4 Years Old	10	23
5 – 10 Years Old	16	37
11 – 15 Years Old	9	21
16 & 17 Years Old	5	12
18 Years Old and Over	3	7
Total	43	100

Table six shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 43 dependent children were recorded within the data for Gedling compared with only 13 in 2005. As noted above with reference to single parents this shows a noticeable and worrying increase suggesting the need for further investigation.

The largest number of children was between five and ten years old and almost a quarter were aged under five years.

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 7: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	2
18 – 21 Years Old	1
22 Years Old and Over	4
No Date of Birth Provided	
Total	7

Table Seven shows that a total of seven care leavers presented as homeless in Gedling or with a local connection to the borough (12% of individuals presenting, compared with 11% for Nottinghamshire). Of these two had been in care in Nottingham City; four in Nottinghamshire and one outside the county. In 2005, seven people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person.

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

Support needs

Table 8: Support needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	8	13	29
Domestic Violence	8	13	10
Mental Health	7	11	17
Ex-Offender	5	8	22
Alcohol Abuse	4	7	18
Learning Difficulties	4	7	8
Physically Disabled	3	5	4
Other	3	5	9
Not Stated	3	5	1
Total	45	N/A	N/A

Table Eight 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 Gedling vary considerably from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. In most cases the proportions of presentations with particular needs are lower than for the county as a whole. One exception to this is domestic violence with 13% of presentations highlighting this as a support need compared with 10% for Nottinghamshire.

A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for 20 presentations (35% of the total) the person specifically stated no support needs.

Where people spent the previous night

Table 9: Previous night's accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Men		Women		Not Stated		Total		Nottinghamshire
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	%
Friend's Home	6	22	7	21	0	0	13	21	25
Parent's Home	5	19	5	15	0	0	10	16	11
Own Home	3	11	7	21	0	0	10	16	9
Other Relative's Home	3	11	5	18	0	0	8	13	6
Hostel	1	4	6	0	0	0	7	11	5
Slept Rough	4	15	0	0	1	100	5	8	27
Hospital	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
B&B Lodgings	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Not Stated	2	7	1	3	0	0	3	5	3
Other	1	4	2	6	0	0	3	5	3
Total	27	100	33	100	1	100	61	100	100

Table Nine provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Gedling or with a local connection to the district (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night. Since 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 57 individuals who were homeless.

The percentage of rough sleepers is notably lower at only 8% than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire and is also lower than the 14% figure for Gedling in 2005. 16% spent the previous night at their parent's home compared with 11% for the county. 2% of presentations are recorded as spending the previous night in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

Rough sleeping in Gedling

Table 10: Nature of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping in Open Air	2	40	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	20	27
Squat	1	20	8
Don't Know/Not Stated	1	20	10
Total	5	100	100

Table 11: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
One night	0	0	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	1	20	19
More than 1 week up to 1 Months	0	0	16
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	1	20	23
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	1	20	12
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	0	0	7
More than 12 Months	2	40	14
Don't Know/Not Stated	0	0	5
Total	5	100	100

Data contained within table nine indicates that five people slept rough the night before they presented for advice. Of the five rough sleepers, two presented in Gedling and three in areas not stated.

Tables ten and eleven provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Gedling. The total number of rough sleepers at five compares with a figure of seven in 2005. Table Ten indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Gedling are less likely to sleep in the open air than for Nottinghamshire as a whole and more likely to sleep in a squat. Table Eleven indicates that 40% of rough sleepers in or with a local connection to Gedling have slept rough for more than twelve months compared with only 14% overall, though since the actual number is only two it is difficult to draw any particular conclusions from this statistic.

Table 12: Comparison of previous and 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Emergency Bed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Friend's Home	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
	Grandparent's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Other Relative's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
	Own Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Parent's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	10
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sleeping Rough	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
	No Data Supplied	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Totals	2	0	0	14	0	0	10	6	10	8	0	4	0	5	2	61	

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 twelve summarises these responses. Please note that these figures are for all presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than individuals.

The data shows that five people presented as spending the previous night sleeping rough and four expected to sleep rough the coming night and that ten people would spend the coming night in a hostel compared to seven on the previous night.

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)