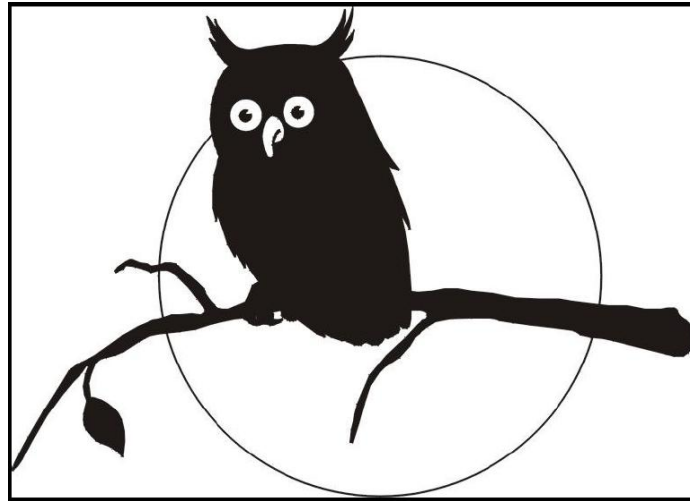


Homeless Watch 2006

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

18th September to 1st October 2006



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

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 Mansfield or with a local connection to the district

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	182
Children	44
Total	226

There were a total of 208 presentations by homeless adults in Mansfield or by those with a local connection to the district as defined above, with 28 duplicate presentations. After removing duplicates, Table One shows a total of 226 presentations by homeless people including 182 adults and 44 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 291 in 2005, including 226 adults and 65 dependent children; indicating a notable reduction in levels of homelessness 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.

Gender

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	120	66
Female	60	33
Not Stated	2	1
Total	182	100

The data at Table two indicates that 66% of homeless individuals presenting in Mansfield during the survey period were men compared with 58% across the county and 33% were women compared to 40% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Age

Table 3: Age of presenting adults

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	4	11	0	15
18-24 Years Old	35	25	1	61
25-40 Years Old	52	18	1	71
41-59 Years Old	25	2	0	27
60 years old and over	0	0	0	0
No Date of Birth Supplied	4	4	0	8
Total	120	60	2	182

Table Three shows that 8% of those presenting as homeless in Mansfield or with a connection to the district (excluding dependent children) were under 18; compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire and 14% for Mansfield in 2005. The clear majority of homeless 16 and 17 year olds were young women. Homeless adults aged under 25 represented 30% of total individuals presenting compared with 40% for the county.

Ethnic Origin

Table 4: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	163	90
Other	4	2
White: Other	3	2
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	1
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	1
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1	1
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	1
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1	1
White: Irish	1	1
Not Stated	6	3
Total	182	100

The UK 200 census found that 3.1% of the local population were from a non White British ethnic origin, whereas the percentage recorded by the Homeless Watch survey was 10%; suggesting that people from black and minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst people who are homeless in Mansfield. This issue was highlighted in the report for 2005 which indicated that 6.5% of homeless individuals were from an ethnic origin other than White British. However, in common with last year, making firm statements about over-representation amongst specific ethnic groups is problematic, due to the low actual numbers recorded.

Household Type

Table 5: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	161	77	76
Single Parent With Children	25	12	12
Couple With Children	10	5	4
Childless Couple	7	3	5
Not Stated	5	2	3
Total	208	100	100

There is some inconsistency in the data recorded by agencies with different household types recorded for the same person. This makes it difficult to remove any duplicates and therefore the figures shown are for the total of presentations (excluding children) rather than individuals. The data within table five shows very similar proportions of different homeless households in Mansfield when compared to Nottinghamshire as a whole; with 77% of presentations by single people compared with 76% for Nottinghamshire and 12% of presentations by single parents compared

with the same figure for the county as a whole. The proportion of single parents with children at 12% compares with a figure of 10% for Mansfield in 2005.

Children

Table 6: Age & number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	26
5 – 10 Years Old	9
11 – 15 Years Old	8
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 Years Old and Over	0
Total	44

Table Six shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 44 dependent children were recorded within the data for Mansfield compared with 65 in 2005 indicating a notable decrease this year. The majority of children (59%) were under five.

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	4
18 – 21 Years Old	7
22 Years Old and Over	13
No Date of Birth Provided	0
Total	24

Table Seven shows that a total of 24 care leavers presented as homeless in Mansfield or with a local connection to the district (13% of individuals presenting, compared with 11% for Nottinghamshire). Six of the care leavers were in care in Nottingham City, fifteen in Nottinghamshire and three outside the county. In 2005, 38 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person indicating a notable reduction this year.

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

Support Needs

Table 8: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	77	37	29
Ex-Offender	63	30	22
Learning Difficulties	25	12	8
Mental Health	23	11	17
Alcohol Abuse	21	10	18
Domestic Violence	13	6	10
Physically Disabled	7	3	4
Not Stated	1	0	1
Other	17	8	9
Total	247	N/A	N/A

Table Eight records 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.

The support needs of those in or connected to Mansfield vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. For example, the percentages of people requesting support due to drug abuse and as ex-offenders are notably higher than for Nottinghamshire, whilst percentages of people with support needs relating to alcohol misuse, mental health and domestic violence are lower. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for 43 presentations (21%) the person specifically stated no support needs. The figures presented in table eight are very similar to findings for Mansfield in last year's survey report.

Where people spent the previous night

Table 9: Previous night's accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	55	26	27
Friend's Home	54	26	25
Parent's Home	26	13	11
Own Home	12	6	9
Other Relative's Home	12	6	6
Hostel	11	5	5
Partner's Home	10	5	2
Hospital	6	3	2
B&B Lodgings	5	2	2
Custody	4	2	2
Grandparent's Home	3	1	1
Social Services	1	1	0
Other	5	2	3
Not Stated	4	2	3
Total	208	100	100

Table Nine provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Mansfield 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 182 individuals who were homeless.

The percentage of rough sleepers at 26% is slightly lower than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire. The proportion of rough sleepers is very notably lower than the 42% figure for 2005. 2% of presentations spent the previous night in Bed and Breakfast – the same figure as for the county as a whole.

Rough sleeping in Mansfield

Table 10: Nature of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping in Open Air	28	51	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	17	31	27
Squat	7	13	8
Don't Know/Not Stated	3	5	10
Total	55	100	100

Table 11: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	0	0	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	8	15	19
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	10	18	16
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	17	31	23
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	4	7	12
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	4	7	7
More than 12 Months	8	15	14
Not Stated/Don't Know	4	7	5
Total	55	100	100

There is a very obvious and welcome reduction in numbers of people presenting as sleeping rough in Mansfield during the survey period this year compared to 2005. The figure reported as sleeping rough this year at 55 is slightly more than half the number reported in last year's survey at 104. Whilst 55 remains a high number the reduction is nonetheless positive.

Data contained within the main report indicates that of the 55 rough sleepers recorded, 41 presented in Mansfield, nine in Nottingham City and five either elsewhere or not stated.

Tables ten and eleven provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Mansfield. Table Ten indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Mansfield are less likely to sleep in the open air and more likely to sleep in a squat than for Nottinghamshire as a whole.

Table 12: 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	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Custody	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
	Emergency Bed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Friend's Home	0	0	0	44	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	54
	Grandparent's	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Hospital	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Hostel	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	11
	Other Relative's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Own Home	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Parent's Home	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	19	0	0	0	0	2	26
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	10
	Sleeping Rough	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	2	55
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
Totals	5	2	2	49	4	9	10	14	12	20	8	55	0	6	12	208	

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

Some interesting points that can be drawn from the data are as follows:

- 55 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and the same number expected to sleep rough the coming night.
- 54 people spent the previous night in a friend's home whilst 49 expected to be able to do so the coming night.
- 26 people spent the previous night at their parent's home whilst 20 expected to be able to spend the coming night at the home of their parents.

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)