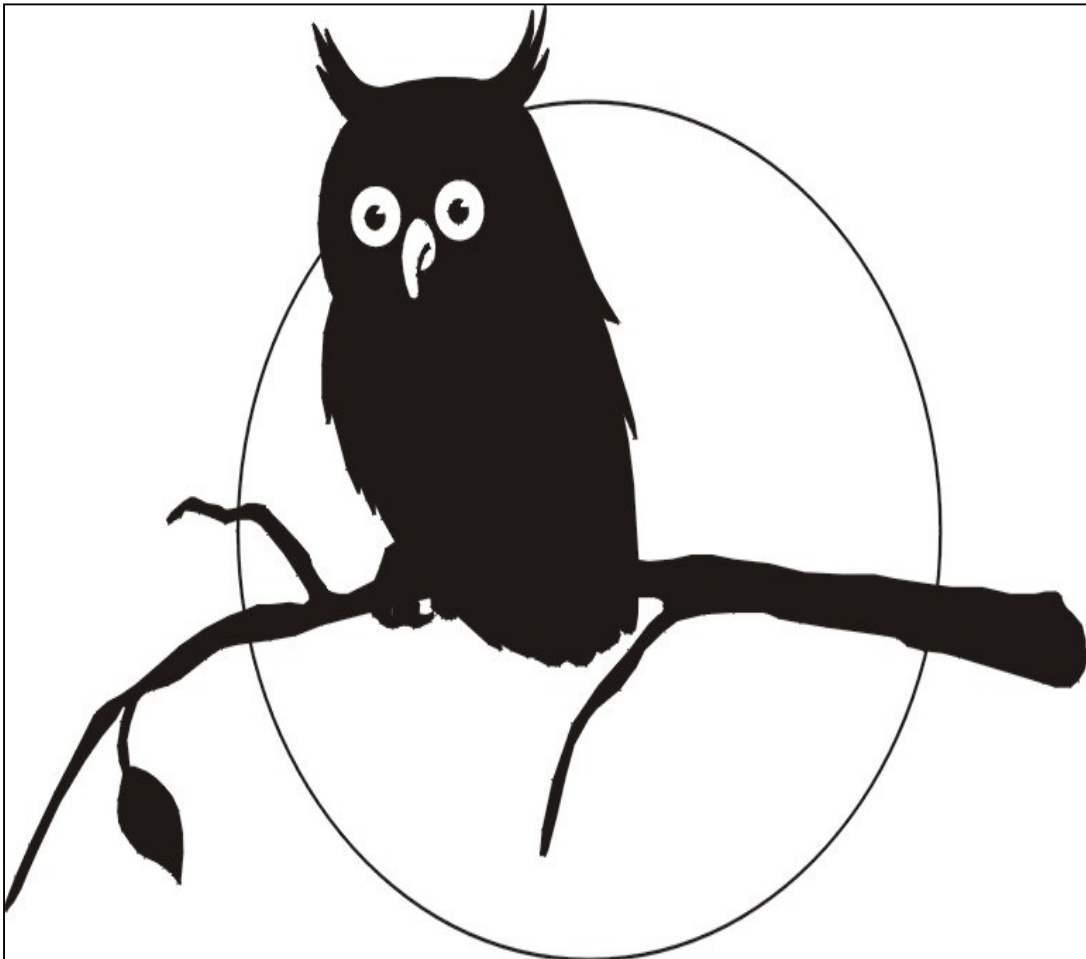


# Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Nottinghamshire

24<sup>th</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007



## **Mansfield 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](http://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 **Mansfield** 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 Mansfield 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 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.

This is the fourth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report on Mansfield 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 Mansfield as those 'presenting in Mansfield'.]

**Table One: Homeless People in Mansfield or with a local connection to the district**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	143
<b>Children</b>	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>

There were 180 presentations by homeless adults in Mansfield or by those with a connection to the district as defined above – including 37 repeat presentations. 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 repeat presentations 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 the repeat presentations **Table One** shows a total of 184 presentations by homeless people including 143 adults and 41 dependent children. These figures compare to 182 adults and 44 dependent children last year and 226 adults and 65 dependent children in 2005. Table One therefore indicates a continuing downward trend in levels of homelessness amongst adults in particular – the figure for homeless adults this year is only 63% of the figure recorded in 2005. There is a continuing but less dramatic reduction in numbers of homeless dependent children

**Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection**

	<b>All in Mansfield</b>	<b>Mansfield - Rough Sleepers Only</b>
<b>Actual Presentations in Mansfield</b>	160	62
<b>Actual Presentations outside Mansfield</b>	20	5
<b>Presented in or with a local connection to Mansfield</b>	180	67

Table One (a) shows that of the total presentations by homeless adults in Mansfield or with a connection to the district, including repeat presentations, 160 presented in Mansfield itself and 20 outside the district. It also indicates that within the total of 180 there were 67 presentations by rough sleepers – 62 of whom presented in Mansfield. The number of presentations by rough sleepers is an increase on the 55 recorded last year. This increase runs contrary to an overall reduction in levels of rough sleeping across the county highlighted in the main survey report.

**Table Two: Area where advice was received**

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Mansfield</b>	108	89	47	87	5	100	160	89
<b>Ashfield</b>	4	3	1	2	0	0	5	3
<b>Mansfield</b>	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	2	2	1	2	0	0	3	2
<b>Nottingham City</b>	4	3	4	7	0	0	8	4
<b>Rushcliffe</b>		0	1	2	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Two provides a breakdown of where homeless people presenting to the survey in or with a connection to Mansfield actually presented for advice – indicating where those who presented outside Mansfield came into contact with agencies participating in the survey; showing that of the 20 who presented outside Mansfield eight were in Nottingham City and five were in Ashfield.

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

**Table Three: Age of presenting adults by gender**

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
<b>16 &amp;17 Years Old</b>	5	14	0	19
<b>18-24 Years Old</b>	33	11	1	45
<b>25-40 Years Old</b>	32	10	2	44
<b>41-59 Years Old</b>	15	3	0	18
<b>60 years old and over</b>	1	0	0	1
<b>No Date of Birth Supplied</b>	6	8	2	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>143</b>

Table Three shows that 19 people under the age of eighteen presented as homeless during the survey period (13% of the total). This compares with a figure of 15 last year. The data indicates that the majority of presentations were by homeless people aged between 18 and 40 – 89 people or 62% of the total. Comparable figures for the county are 8% of presentations by under eighteens and 71% by those between 18 and 40 years of age.

**Table Four: Gender**

Gender	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	92	64
<b>Female</b>	46	32
<b>Not Stated</b>	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at Table Four indicates that 64% of homeless adults presenting were men and 32% women. This is very similar to the picture last year when 66% of homeless individuals presenting were men and 33% were women and is close to the roughly 60:40 gender split for homeless men and women across the county.

**Table Five: Ethnic Origin**

<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
White: British	136	95
Mixed: White & Black African	2	1
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1	1
Mixed: Other	1	1
Not Stated	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>

The UK 200 census found that 3.1% of the local population were from a non White British ethnic origin and the data at Table Five shows that roughly 3% of those presenting as homeless were from an ethnic minority. This is notably different from the figure recorded last year when 10% of presentations were made by those from a non white British ethnic origin. The numbers involved were four this year and 13 last year – suggesting a notable reduction in homelessness amongst ethnic minorities in the Mansfield district.

**Table Six: Household Type**

<b>Household Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Mansfield</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Single Person (No Children)</b>	105	73	69
<b>Single Parent With Children</b>	17	12	17
<b>Couple With Children</b>	4	3	7
<b>Childless Couple</b>	16	11	5
<b>Not Stated</b>	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at table six shows that 73% of presentations were made by homeless single people and only 12% by single parents with children – compared with figures of 69% and 17% for the county. These figures are very close to the 77% and 12% recorded last year.

**Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children**

<b>Age of Children</b>	<b>Number of Children in this Age Range</b>
<b>0 - 4 Years Old</b>	17
<b>5 – 10 Years Old</b>	17
<b>11 – 15 Years Old</b>	5
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	2

<b>18 Years Old and Over</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 41 dependent children were recorded as homeless by the survey compared with 44 last year and 65 in 2005 – a decrease of 37% over the last two years. 17 children (41% of the total) were under five compared with 26 (or 59%) last year.

### Homeless Care leavers in Mansfield

**Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of This Age With Care History</b>
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	3
<b>18 – 21 Years Old</b>	9
<b>22 Years Old and Over</b>	12
<b>Not stated</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

**Table Nine: Where people were in Care**

	<b>Number of This Age With Care History</b>
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	2
<b>Outside Notts</b>	3
<b>Nottingham City</b>	19
<b>Not Stated</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a care history who presented to the survey in Mansfield or with a connection to the district. Table Eight shows that 26 care leavers were recorded by the 2007 survey – this compares with a figure of 24 last year. Interestingly, Table Nine shows that of the 26 care leavers, 19 (73%) had been in care in Nottingham City.

**Table Ten: Support Needs**

<b>Support Needs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Presentations- Mansfield</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Ex-Offender</b>	71	39	24
<b>Drug Abuse</b>	65	36	25
<b>Alcohol Abuse</b>	30	17	13
<b>Mental Health</b>	27	15	13
<b>Learning Difficulties</b>	19	11	5
<b>Other/Not Stated</b>	19	11	2
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	12	7	9
<b>Physically Disabled</b>	5	3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Table Ten provides a breakdown of the support needs of those who presented as homeless in Mansfield or with a connection to the district. Please be aware that people could record more than one support need and that 37 (21%) reported having no support needs.

The data shows that the prevalence of support needs relating to histories of offending, substance misuse or learning difficulties amongst homeless people in Mansfield is notably higher than for the county as a whole. Overall, the support needs recorded for Mansfield are similar to those reported last year.

**Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation**

<b>Where Person Spent the Previous Night</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Mansfield</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Slept Rough</b>	67	37	24
<b>Friend's Home</b>	43	24	26
<b>Parents' Home</b>	16	9	12
<b>Other Relative's Home</b>	9	5	6
<b>Own Home</b>	9	5	11
<b>Hostel</b>	7	4	6
<b>Custody</b>	6	3	2
<b>B&amp;B Lodgings</b>	5	3	1
<b>Grandparents' Home</b>	5	3	2
<b>Other</b>	5	3	4
<b>Hospital</b>	2	1	2
<b>Partner's Home</b>	2	1	2
<b>Social Services</b>	1	1	0
<b>Emergency Bed</b>	0	0	1
<b>Not Stated</b>	3	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Eleven 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 180 adult presentations including the 37 repeats.

The percentage of people who slept rough the night before presenting to a participating agency, at 37%, is notably higher than the 24% for the county as a whole. As noted above, the number of rough sleepers in or with a connection to Mansfield at 67 is notably higher than the 55 recorded last year; though lower than the 104 recorded in 2005.

## Rough sleeping in Mansfield

**Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping**

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	14	21	24
Sleeping In Open Air	30	45	53
Squat	5	7	9
Don't Know	16	24	11
Not Stated	2	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table Thirteen: Time Spent Rough Sleeping**

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Mansfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	3	4	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	11	16	18
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	14	21	17
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	15	22	19
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	5	7	11
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	8	12	14
More than 12 Months	7	10	10
Don't Know	4	6	4
Not Stated	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in Mansfield or amongst those reporting a connection to the district. 62 of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Mansfield and the remaining 5 in other areas. They indicate that both the type and nature of rough sleeping in Mansfield are similar to patterns recorded for the county. As noted above however, Mansfield is unusual in that levels of rough sleeping have increased this year compared to last – contrary to an overall decrease across Nottinghamshire.

**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		1											2	1	5
	Custody		4					1								1	6
	Emergency Bed																0
	Friend's Home				29	1		2		1		3		1	6	43	
	Grandparent's				1	3						1				5	
	Hospital						1	1								2	
	Hostel				1			5				1				7	
	Other Relative's								7						2	9	
	Own Home				1					8						9	
	Parent's Home							1	2		6	1			6	16	
	Partner's Home							2								2	
	Sleeping Rough				2					2	1		53		3	6	67
	Social Services				1											1	
	Other				1					1					3	5	
	No Data Supplied															3	3
Totals	1	4	1	36	4	1	12	9	11	8	0	59	0	9	25	180	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Mansfield spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the night after making contact. It includes all 180 adult presentations including the 37 repeats.

The data indicates a significant amount of movement in the circumstances of homeless people presenting in or with a connection to Mansfield. It shows that

- 67 spent the previous night sleeping rough and 59 expected to do so the coming night

- two people spent the previous night in hospital and that four expected to be in hospital the coming night
- 43 spent the previous night at a the home of a friend and 36 expected to do so the coming night
- seven people spent the previous night in a hostel and 12 expected to be in a hostel the coming night
- 16 people spent the previous night at their parents and only eight expected to be with their parents the coming night.

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