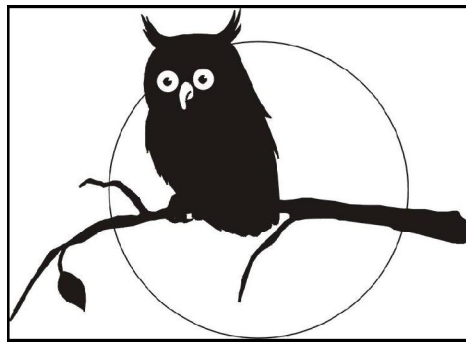


# **Homeless Watch 2005**

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

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



## **Newark & Sherwood 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)

## 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 Newark & Sherwood District Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

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

65 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were two people who presented twice and therefore the table below records the actual number of individuals who presented to one or more agencies during the Homeless Watch fortnight, namely 63. In addition, there were 21 children recorded as being part of a presenting household – again this figure is calculated after removing any duplicate presentations. Duplicates are identified by matching initials, gender and date of birth information from the presenting adults.

**Table One: Overall Numbers**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Adjusted Figure To Take Account of Duplicate Presentations</b>
<b>Adults</b>	63
<b>Children</b>	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>

### 3. Area When People Presented For Advice

As mentioned in the background section, this report includes those who were both in Newark & Sherwood at the time they presented as homeless, but it also includes those who presented whilst in another area, but recorded that they had a local connection with Newark & Sherwood. Of the 63 Newark & Sherwood cases which fit these two criteria, 25 people (15 male, 10 female) are shown as having a connection with Newark & Sherwood but presented for advice whilst in another local authority area. Table two summarises the numbers and gender of people according to the area they were in when they presented as homeless. It should be noted that a person could have a local connection with more than one area, for example 8 of the 11 people who presented for advice whilst in Mansfield, had a connection with Mansfield as well as with Newark & Sherwood.

**Table Two: Area Analysis**

Local Authority Area	Men		Women		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Ashfield	1	3	2	6	3	5
Bassetlaw	2	7	2	6	4	6
Mansfield	8	27	3	9	11	17
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>60</b>
Nottingham City	4	13	3	9	7	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>

*The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates*

### 4. Age & Gender

The gender profile for Newark & Sherwood differed from the findings for Nottinghamshire. 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). In relation to Newark & Sherwood however, slightly more women (52%) than men (48%) presented themselves as homeless. Please note that these figures are for adults only and do not include children who were part of a presenting family.

The overall finding that slightly more women than men presented as homeless masks more significant variations in gender according to age. The data in table three shows that among those aged 25 and over, 64% were men, whereas among those aged under 25 years old, 70% were women. Please note that table four does not include data about children (of any age) who presented as homeless as part of a family. Further information about the numbers and ages of children can be found in table six.

**Table Three: Age & Gender**

Age Range	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
16 & 17 Years Old	0	0	6	18	6	10
18-24 Years Old	9	30	15	45	24	38
25-40 Years Old	11	37	7	21	18	29
41-59 Years Old	7	23	2	6	9	14
60 years old and over	0	0	1	3	1	2
No Date Of Birth Supplied	3	10	2	6	5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>

*The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates*

## 5. Ethnic Origin

In the Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Reports for both 2004 and 2005 it was noted that people from Black and Minority Ethnic populations were more likely to present as homeless than would be expected given the ethnic profile for the County recorded by the 2001 UK Census. The non White: British ethnic profile for Newark & Sherwood is 3.1% of the population, but as can be seen from table four, the Homeless Watch survey has recorded a figure of 6.3% among those who presented as homeless. However, the actual numbers are so small that caution should be exercised in drawing any firm conclusions, particularly about any over-representation amongst specific ethnic groups.

**Table Four: Ethnic Origin**

Ethnic Origin	Men		Women		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
White: British	28	93.3	31	93.9	59	93.7
White: Irish	2	6.7	0	0	2	3.2
Chinese	0	0	1	3	1	1.6
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	0	0	1	3	1	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>

*The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates*

## 6. Household Type of Men and Women Presenting As Homeless In Newark & Sherwood

Table five shows that 63% of households were single people, notably less than the 77% recorded for the County as a whole. The proportion of single parents was the same as for the County, but the proportion of couples (with or without children) was significantly higher at 24% than the 9% recorded across Nottinghamshire.

**Table Five: Household Type**

Household Type	Number	Percentage – Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	40	63	77
Childless Couple	9	14	5
Single Parent With Children	8	13	13
Couple With Children	6	10	4
Missing Data	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*This table has been calculated after removing duplicates*

## 7. Children

A total of 21 children were recorded as being part of the adult households who presented as homeless. In addition to this, two households recorded that a member of the household was

pregnant. One of these women was 24 years old, but no date of birth has been recorded for the other woman. Table six provides a summary breakdown of the children according to their age.

**Table Six: Age & Number Of Children**

Age Of Children	Number of children in this age range	% of children in this age range
0-4 years old	9	43
5-10 years old	5	24
11-15 years old	7	33
16 -17 years old	0	0
18 years old and over	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>

*The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates*

## 8. Care Leavers

8 people from Newark & Sherwood are recorded as being in the care of the local authority. This figure takes account of duplicate presentations by care leavers. 6 individuals are recorded as being in care in Nottinghamshire, including three of those aged 21 and under. The age ranges of care leavers are shown in table seven below.

**Table Seven: Age Of Care Leavers**

Age	Numbers Of Care Leavers In This Age Group
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 - 21 Years Old	4
22 and Over	3
No date of birth supplied	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

*This table has been calculated after removing duplicates*

## 9. Presenting Support Needs

This section records the support needs of people who presented during the survey fortnight. These figures are based on the full 65 presentations rather than the 63 individuals, but please note that more than one support need could be recorded for each presentation. A separate question which asked whether a person had any support needs shows that 18% considered themselves to have no support needs.

In line with the Homeless Watch survey findings for the whole of Nottinghamshire, the overall findings hide variations in the support needs of women compared to men, As can be seen from table eight (see next page) almost a quarter of women (23%) identified support needs due to domestic violence, compared to just 2% of men. A higher proportion of women also identified support needs due to mental health issues compared to men. Over a quarter of women identified other support needs, but analysis of the additional data supplied, shows no common themes among these people, with support needs ranging from Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to English language problems.

Among men, support due to drug abuse was the most commonly specified need, closely followed by support due to past/present offending behaviour.

**Table Eight: Support Needs**

Support Needs	Men		Women		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Drug Abuse	16	29	4	13	20	23
Ex-offender	15	27	3	10	18	21
Mental Health	6	11	5	16	11	13
Learning Difficulties	8	14	2	6	10	11
Other	1	2	8	26	9	10
Alcohol Abuse	6	11	2	6	8	9
Domestic Violence	1	2	7	23	8	9
Physically Disabled	3	5	0	0	3	3
No Support Needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>

## 10. Previous Night

Where an individual slept the previous night could change during the course of the two week survey period and the figures shown in table nine are therefore for all 65 presentations. Whilst the figures identify 16 incidences of rough sleeping during the fortnight, it should be noted that 10 of these were recorded for people who had a local connection with Newark and Sherwood, but presented for advice whilst in another local authority area. Of these 10, 6 people were recorded as presenting to agencies whilst in Mansfield, two in Nottingham City and one each in Bassetlaw and Ashfield. Of the remaining six presentations by rough sleepers, one man presented to two different agencies and therefore the number of people recorded as sleeping rough in the Newark & Sherwood district was five.

**Table Nine: Previous Night**

Previous Night	Men		Women		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Slept Rough	12	39	4	12	16	25
Friend's Home	7	23	7	21	14	22
Own Home	5	16	3	9	8	12
Parents' Home	0	0	7	21	7	11
Other Relative's Home	2	6	1	3	3	5
Hostel	0	0	3	9	3	5
Partners Home	0	0	3	9	3	5
B & B Lodgings	2	6	0	0	2	3
Emergency Bed	1	3	0	0	1	2
Hospital	0	0	1	3	1	2
Other	1	3	4	12	5	8
Not Stated	1	3	1	3	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</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 ODPM. The figures in table ten show that half of rough sleepers in the area (or with a local connection to Newark & Sherwood) are sleeping in the open air and 38% are sleeping in a building or structure not designed for habitation.

However all five of the people recorded as rough sleeping in the Newark & Sherwood area, were sleeping in the open air, although the man who presented to two different agencies was also recorded as sleeping in a building or structure not designed for habitation. It is possible that over the course of the two week survey period, the nature of this person's rough sleeping changed, rather than this being a case of conflicting data.

**Table Ten: Type Of Rough Sleeping**

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping In Open Air	8	50	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	6	38	30
Don't Know/Not Stated	2	13	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table eleven records data about the estimated time people had been sleeping rough, based on the returns from agencies. It should be noted that the returns for Nottinghamshire as a whole contained conflicting data for those cases where a person had presented to more than one agency. In some cases widely variable time periods had been recorded for the same person by different agencies and therefore the percentage figures for Nottinghamshire should be treated as a broad indicator of the typical duration of rough sleeping. The figures for Newark & Sherwood show that 18% of people had been sleeping rough for six months or more compared to 23% for the whole of Nottinghamshire. Among the five rough sleepers actually reported to be in Newark & Sherwood area, one is recorded as rough sleeping for longer than 6 months (but less than 12 months), with the remainder sleeping rough for between 1 week and 3 months.

**Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping**

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage – Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	2	18	7
More than a night up to 1 week	3	18	17
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	4	24	16
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	3	18	21
More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	1	6	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	2	12	9
More than 12 mths	1	6	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>93*</b>

*\*Please note that data was not supplied in 7% of Nottinghamshire cases*

## 12. Comparison of Previous Night's With Coming Night's 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.

63% of those who spent the previous night sleeping rough, were still expected to be sleeping rough the coming night, although there are two cases where no 'coming night' data had been recorded. Whilst this reduction is welcome, it should be noted that there are three cases where people who had not been sleeping rough the previous night were expected to be rough sleeping the coming night.

**Table Twelve: Comparison Of Previous & Current Night's 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	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	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	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	14
	Grandparents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
	Other Relative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Own Home	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Parents' Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	7
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
	Sleeping Rough	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	2	16
	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	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
No Data Supplied	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>		