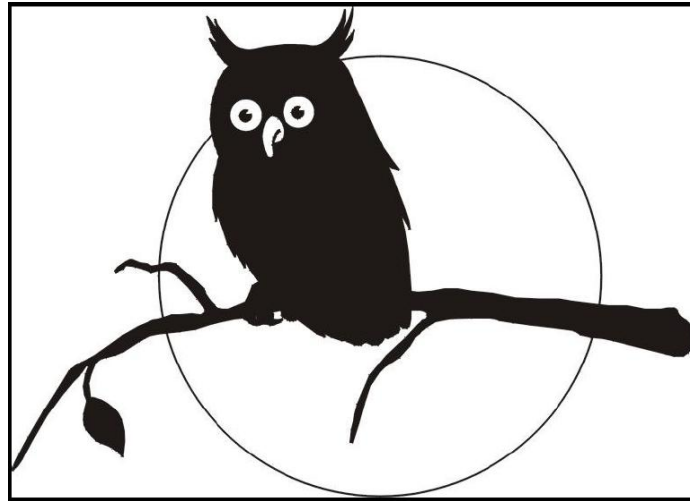


Homeless Watch 2006

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

18th September to 1st October 2006



Newark & Sherwood 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 Newark & Sherwood 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 Newark & Sherwood area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to 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
- 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 Newark & Sherwood or with a local connection to the district

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	65
Children	28
Total	93

There were a total of 71 presentations by homeless adults in Newark & Sherwood or by those with a local connection to the district as defined above, with 6 duplicate presentations. After removing duplicates, Table One shows a total of 93 presentations by homeless people including 65 adults and 28 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 84 in 2005, including 63 adults and 21 dependent children; indicating similar 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.

Presenting area

Table 2: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Ashfield		0	1	4	1	2
Bassetlaw	2	5	3	11	5	8
Mansfield	4	11	3	11	7	11
Newark & Sherwood	30	79	19	70	49	75
Nottingham City	1	3	1	4	2	3
Rushcliffe	1	3	0	0	1	2
Total	38	100	27	100	65	100

Table Two shows that 16 people had a connection with Newark & Sherwood but were in another local authority area when they sought advice about their homelessness; the largest number of whom were in Mansfield.

Age and gender

Table 3: Age by gender

Age Range	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
16 & 17 Years Old	4	11	2	7	6	9
18-24 Years Old	15	39	8	30	23	35
25-40 Years Old	11	29	11	41	22	34
41-59 years Old	6	16	3	11	9	14
60 Years Old & Over	1	3	3	11	4	6
No Date of Birth Supplied	1	3	0	0	1	2
Total	38	100	27	100	65	100

Table Three shows the age and gender of people who presented as homeless, not including dependent children. Only 6% of those who presented were under 18 compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Ethnic Origin

Table 4: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic origin	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
White: British	34	89	24	89	58	89
Asian/Asian British:Bangladeshi	0	0	1	4	1	2
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	3	0	0	1	2
Other	3	8	1	4	4	6
Not Stated	0	0	1	4	1	2
Total	38	100	27	100	65	100

The UK 200 census found that the non White British ethnic profile for Newark & Sherwood is 3.1% of the population. As can be seen from table four, the Homeless Watch survey has recorded a figure of 10% amongst homeless individuals suggesting that people from black and minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst homeless people in Newark & Sherwood. This issue was highlighted in the report for 2005 which indicated that 6.3% 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 – Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	44	68	76
Childless Couple	2	3	12
Single Parent	17	26	4
Couple with Children	2	3	5
Not Stated	0	0	3
Total	65	100	100

The data within table five shows that 68% of homeless individuals presenting in or with a local connection to Newark & Sherwood were single people without children compared with 76% for Nottinghamshire and that 26% were single parents compared with only 12% for the county. The proportion of single parents with children at 26% (17 individuals) is double the figure of 13% (8 individuals) for Newark & Sherwood in 2005.

Children

Table 6: Age & number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in This Age Range	% Of Children in This Age Range
0-4 years old	11	39
5-10 years old	9	32
11-15 years old	6	21
16-17 years old	2	7
18 years old and over	0	0
Total	28	100

Table Six shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 28 dependent children were recorded within the data for Newark & Sherwood compared with 21 in 2005. The single largest group of children was the under fives.

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 Care Leavers In This Age Group
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18-21 Years Old	1
22 and over	2
No Date of Birth Supplied	1
Total	5

Table seven shows that a total of five care leavers presented as homeless in Newark & Sherwood or with a local connection to the district (7% of individuals presenting, compared with 11% for Nottinghamshire). One of the care leavers was in care in Nottingham City, two in Nottinghamshire and two outside the county. In 2005, eight people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person indicating a 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	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Drug Abuse	10	26	4	15	14	20
Ex-Offender	9	24	3	11	12	17
Mental Health	6	16	4	15	10	14
Alcohol Abuse	4	11	4	15	8	11
Domestic Violence	0	0	5	19	5	7
Learning Difficulties	2	5	0	0	2	3
Physically Disabled	2	5	0	0	2	3
Other	3	8	6	22	9	13
Total	36	N/A	26	N/A	62	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 proportions of homeless people presenting with support needs are generally lower for Newark & Sherwood than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. For example, the percentage of people requesting support due to drug abuse at 20% compares with 29% for the county; those with alcohol misuse support needs at 11% compares with 18% for Nottinghamshire and ex-offenders at 17% compares with 22% for the county. A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for 14 presentations (20%) the person specifically stated no support needs.

Where people spent the previous night

Table 9: Previous night's accommodation

Previous Night	Male		Female		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Friend's Home	10	23	6	22	16	23
Slept Rough	11	25	4	15	15	21
Own Home	2	5	9	33	11	15
Other Relative's Home	7	16	3	11	10	14
Parents' Home	4	9	1	4	5	7
Hospital	3	7	0	0	3	4
B&B Lodgings	0	0	2	7	2	3
Grandparents' Home	2	5	0	0	2	3
Custody	1	2	0	0	1	1
Hostel	0	0	1	4	1	1
Partner's Home	1	2	0	0	1	1
Other	3	7	1	4	4	6
Total	44	100	27	100	71	100

Table Nine provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Newark & Sherwood 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 65 individuals who were homeless.

The percentage of rough sleepers at 21% is lower than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire but higher than the 16% figure recorded for 2005. However, the number of individuals rough sleeping recorded by the survey this year and last is much the same at 15 and 16 respectively. 3% of presentations spent the previous night in Bed and Breakfast compared with 2% for the county as a whole.

Rough sleeping in Newark & Sherwood

Table 10: Nature of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	7	47	55
Sleeping In Open Air	4	27	27
Squat	2	13	8
Don't Know	2	13	10
Total	15	100	100

Table 11: Time spent rough sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	2	13	5
More than a night up to 1 week	6	40	19
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	2	13	16
More than 1 month and up to 3 months	3	20	23
More than 3 months and up to 6 months	0	0	12
More than 6 months and up to 12 months	1	7	7
More than 12 months	1	7	14
Not Stated/Don't Know	0	0	5
Total	15	100	100

Table Nine shows that there were 15 rough sleepers for Newark & Sherwood recorded by the survey, a very similar number to the previous year. Of the 15 rough sleepers, eight sought advice in the Newark & Sherwood area.

Tables ten and eleven provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Newark & Sherwood. Table Ten indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) the district are less likely to sleep in the open air and more likely to sleep in a squat than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. Table Eleven indicates that a larger proportion of rough sleepers (40%) in or with a connection to Newark & Sherwood are likely to sleep rough for more than one night and up to one week than for the county as a whole (19%).

Table 12: Comparison of Previous & Current Night's 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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Custody	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Emergency Bed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Friend's Home	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	16	
	Grandparent's	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Other Relative's	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	10
	Own Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
	Parent's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	5
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Sleeping Rough	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	15
	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	4	0	4
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals	3	1	0	15	2	2	1	8	9	5	0	13	0	6	6	71

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.

The data shows that 15 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and 13 expected to sleep rough the coming 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)