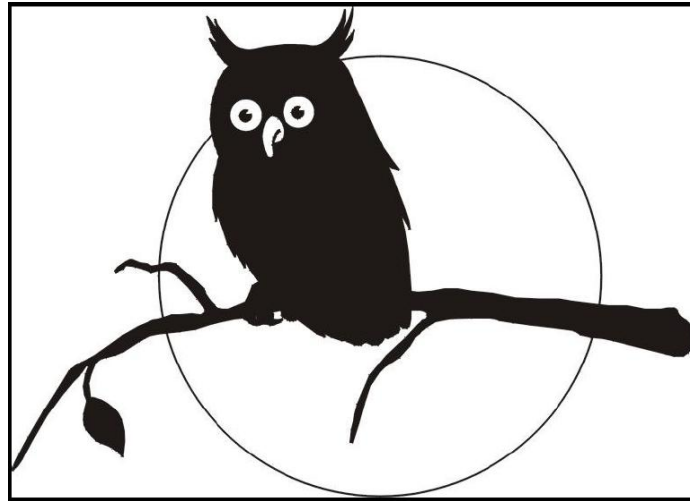


# **Homeless Watch 2006**

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

**18th September to 1st October 2006**



### **Rushcliffe 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](http://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](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 report for Rushcliffe 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 Rushcliffe area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Rushcliffe.

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 Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	40
<b>Children</b>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

There were a total of 42 presentations by homeless adults in Rushcliffe or by those with a local connection to the borough as defined above, with two duplicate presentations. After removing duplicates, Table One shows a total of 41 presentations by homeless people including 40 adults and one dependent child. These figures compare with a total of 80 in 2005, including 71 adults and 9 dependent children; indicating a very notable reduction 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**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Female</b>	8	20
<b>Male</b>	30	75
<b>Not Stated</b>	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Two shows a notable difference in proportions of homeless women and men in Rushcliffe compared to Nottinghamshire as a whole. The data indicates that 75% of homeless individuals presenting in Rushcliffe during the survey period were men and only 20% women compared with 58% men and 40% women across the county.

## Age

**Table 3: Age of presenting adults**

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	0	0	0	0
18-24 Years Old	4	3	1	8
25-40 Years Old	18	2	1	21
41-59 Years Old	6	1	0	7
60 years old and over	0	2	0	2
No Date of Birth Supplied	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>

Table Three shows that no under 18 year olds presented as homeless in or with a connection to Rushcliffe during the survey period compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire and 3 individuals for Rushcliffe in 2005. Homeless adults aged under 25 represented 20% of total individuals presenting compared with 40% for the county. The majority of homeless people presenting were aged 25 to 40 years old and the clear majority of these were men.

## Ethnic Origin

**Table 4: Ethnic Origin**

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	35	87.5
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1	2.5
Asian/Asian British: Other	1	2.5
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1	2.5
Black/Black British: African	1	2.5
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

The UK 200 census found that 6.7% of the local population were from a non White British ethnic origin, whereas the percentage recorded by the Homeless Watch survey was 12.5%; suggesting that people from black and minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst people who are homeless in Rushcliffe. This issue was highlighted in the report for 2005 which indicated that over 11% 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 - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	39	98	76
Single Parent With Children	1	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>

The data within table five shows that 98% of presentations in or with a connection to Rushcliffe were single people without children and only one individual (2%) was a single parent. This presents a very different picture to the findings for the county as a whole where 76% of presentations were by single people without children and 12% by single parents. Survey findings for Rushcliffe last year show that 83% of individuals were single people without children and 8% (6 individuals) were single parents.

## Children

**Table 6: Age and number of dependent children**

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
<b>0 - 4 Years Old</b>	1
<b>5 – 10 Years Old</b>	0
<b>11 – 15 Years Old</b>	0
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	0
<b>18 Years Old and Over</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

Table Six shows the number of dependent children who presented as homeless in Rushcliffe according to the age of the children. Only one child was recorded within the data for Rushcliffe compared with 9 in 2005. As noted above this is very different from the county as a whole and is a notable reduction since last year.

The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families has been highlighted nationally by Shelter in 2006, the 40<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	0
<b>18 – 21 Years Old</b>	2
<b>22 Years Old and Over</b>	7
<b>No Date of Birth Provided</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 8: Where people were in care**

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	5
<b>Outside Notts</b>	2
<b>Nottingham City</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

Table Seven shows that a total of 9 care leavers presented as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough (22.5% 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. Table Eight provides a breakdown of where the nine care leavers were in care.

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

## Support Needs

**Table 9: Support Needs**

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Alcohol Abuse	18	43	18
Ex-Offender	14	33	22
Mental Health	11	26	17
Drug Abuse	9	21	29
Learning Difficulties	4	10	8
Domestic Violence	3	7	10
Physically Disabled	2	5	4
Not Stated	2	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Table Nine 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 Rushcliffe vary in some respects from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. Most notably, the proportion of those presenting with support needs related to alcohol misuse (43%) is much higher than for the county as a whole (18%). Furthermore, the percentages of people requesting support due to mental health problems and as ex-offenders are notably higher than for Nottinghamshire whilst percentages of people with support needs relating to drug misuse and domestic violence are lower.

A separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs shows that for seven presentations (17%) the person specifically stated no support needs. The figures presented in table eight are similar to findings for Rushcliffe in last year's survey report, where support needs related to alcohol misuse were again the most common at 38% of needs reported.

## Where people spent the previous night

**Table 10: Previous night's accommodation**

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Rushcliffe
Slept Rough	20	48
Friend's Home	15	36
Other Relative's Home	3	7
B&B Lodgings	1	2
Hostel	1	2
Own Home	1	2
Parents' Home	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Ten provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough 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 40 individuals who were homeless.

The percentage of rough sleepers at 48% is notably higher than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire and higher than the 34% of presentations last year; though the actual number of presentations by rough sleepers is slightly lower this year (20) than last year (25). 2% of presentations spent the previous night in Bed and Breakfast – the same figure as for the county as a whole.

## Rough sleeping in Rushcliffe

**Table 11: Nature of rough sleeping**

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping in Open Air	20	100	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55</b>

**Table 12: Time spent rough sleeping**

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	0	0	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	1	5	19
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	4	20	16
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	4	20	23
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	4	20	12
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	0	0	7
More than 12 Months	7	35	14
Not Stated/Don't Know	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The level of rough sleeping indicated at table ten presents a continuing problem for Rushcliffe which has the third highest numbers of rough sleepers of all Nottinghamshire authorities. Of the rough sleepers 17 presented in Rushcliffe, 2 in Nottingham and the presenting area was not recorded for one rough sleeper.

Tables Eleven and twelve provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Rushcliffe. Table Eleven indicates that all the rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Rushcliffe slept in the open air compared with 55% for the county as a whole. Table Twelve shows that 35% of rough sleepers (7 individuals) slept rough for more than twelve months compared with only 14% for the county as a whole; suggesting an entrenched problem amongst a high proportion of those sleeping rough.

**Table 13: 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	Parent's 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	1	0	0	11	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15
	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	0	0	0	0	0
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Other Relative's	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Own Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Parent's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sleeping Rough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	20
	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	0	0	0
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2	0	0	11	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	21	1	0	0	42	

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 13 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:

- 20 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and 21 expected to do so the coming night.
- 15 people spent the previous night in a friend's home whilst eleven expected to be able to do so the coming night.
- One person spent the previous night in a hostel whilst three people expected to be able to spend the coming night staying in a hostel.

## **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)