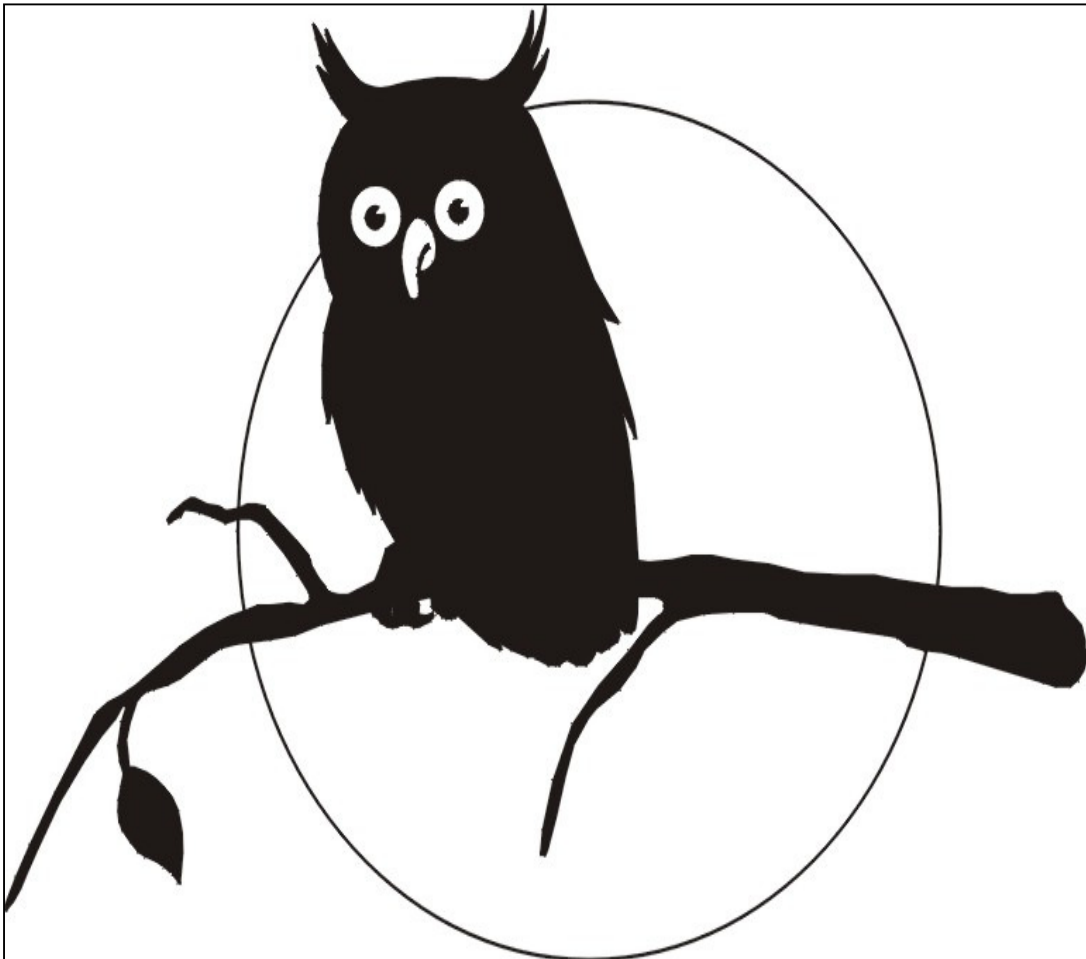


# Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Nottinghamshire

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



## **Rushcliffe Borough 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 **Rushcliffe borough**.

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 Rushcliffe Borough 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 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 Rushcliffe.

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

**Table One: Homeless People in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	46
<b>Children</b>	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

There were 48 presentations by homeless adults in Rushcliffe or by those with a connection to the borough as defined above – including two 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 repeats 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 58 presentations comprising 46 adults and 12 dependent children. These figures compare with totals of 40 adults and only one dependent child last year and 71 adults and 9 dependent children in 2005. The figures therefore show an increase in levels of homelessness compared with those recorded last year for both adults and children but that levels of homelessness amongst adults remain lower (approximately 34%) than those recorded in 2005. The number of homeless children recorded this year is a very notable increase on last year.

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

	<b>All in Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Rushcliffe - Rough Sleepers Only</b>
<b>Actual Presentations in Rushcliffe</b>	39	12
<b>Actual Presentations outside Rushcliffe</b>	9	1
<b>Presented in or with a local connection to Rushcliffe</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13</b>

Table One (a) shows that of all 48 presentations by homeless adults including the two repeat presentations, 39 presented as homeless in Rushcliffe and nine to agencies outside the borough. It also shows that within the 48 total presentations there were 13 presentations by rough sleepers in or with a local connection to Rushcliffe - 12 of whom presented in Rushcliffe and one in another area. Data on levels of rough sleeping in Rushcliffe is reported in more detail below.

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

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	29	88	10	67	39	81
<b>Gedling</b>	2	6		0	2	4
<b>Nottingham City</b>	2	6	5	33	7	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Two provides a breakdown of where all homeless adults presenting to the survey in or with a connection to Rushcliffe (including repeats) actually presented for advice. This indicates where those who presented outside Rushcliffe came into contact with agencies participating in the survey; demonstrating that of the nine who presented outside Rushcliffe seven did so in Nottingham and two in Gedling.

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

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

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
<b>16 &amp;17 Years Old</b>	3	2	5
<b>18-24 Years Old</b>	10	4	14
<b>25-40 Years Old</b>	8	7	15
<b>41-59 Years Old</b>	11	1	12
<b>60 years old and over</b>	0	0	0
<b>No Date of Birth Supplied</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>46</b>

Table Three shows that five under 18 year olds presented to the survey as homeless in or with a connection to Rushcliffe during the survey period - this figure compares with none last year and three in 2005. Homeless adults aged under 25 made up 41% of all adult presentations and the largest single number fell within the 25 to 40 years of age category.

**Table Four: Gender**

Gender	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	32	70
<b>Female</b>	14	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at Table Four provides a gender breakdown of homeless adults. The data shows a difference in proportions of homeless women and men in Rushcliffe compared to Nottinghamshire as a whole. It indicates that 70% of homeless adults were men and 30% women compared to a roughly 60:40 gender split across the

county. This issue was reported last year when the figures were 75% men and only 20% women – with 5% where no gender was recorded.

**Table Five: Ethnic Origin**

<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>White: British</b>	41	89
<b>Asian/Asian British: Indian</b>	1	2
<b>Mixed: White &amp; Asian</b>	1	2
<b>Mixed: White &amp; Black Caribbean</b>	1	2
<b>Other</b>	2	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at Table Five shows that five people of an ethnic origin other than white British presented as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough. This represents over 10% of the total. The UK 2001 census found that 4.1% of the local population were from a non White British ethnic origin; the data therefore suggesting that people from black and minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst people who are homeless in Rushcliffe. However, as was reported last year making firm statements about over-representation amongst minority ethnic groups is problematic, due to the low actual numbers recorded.

Please note that for the first time the County-wide Homeless Watch Survey 2007 recorded data on homelessness amongst refugees, asylum seekers or economic migrants in Nottinghamshire. No-one in these particular categories reported as homeless in or with a connection to Rushcliffe borough during the survey fortnight.

**Table Six: Household Type**

<b>Household Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Single Person (No Children)</b>	33	72	69
<b>Single Parent With Children</b>	6	13	17
<b>Couple With Children</b>	4	9	7
<b>Childless Couple</b>	3	7	5
<b>Not Stated</b>	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at table six shows that 33 (72%) presentations were made by single adults without children and 6 presentations by single parents with children. These figures are notably different to those recorded last year when 98% of presentations in or with a connection to Rushcliffe were single people without children and only one individual (2%) was a single parent. The figures recorded this year are broadly in line with the county as a whole which can be seen from data within column four of the table. In 2005, survey findings showed that 83% of individuals were single people without children and 6 individuals (8%) were single parents.

**Table Seven: Age and numbers of dependent children**

<b>Age of Children</b>	<b>Number of Children in this Age Range</b>
<b>0 - 4 Years Old</b>	6
<b>5 – 10 Years Old</b>	3
<b>11 – 15 Years Old</b>	1
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	1
<b>18 Years Old and Over</b>	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

Table Seven shows the number of dependent children who presented as homeless in Rushcliffe according to the age of the children. As noted above, 12 children were recorded as homeless in or with a connection to Rushcliffe compared to only one last year and nine in 2005. The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families was highlighted in last years report and unfortunately the data indicates that the situation in Rushcliffe has worsened since then.

It should be noted that agencies in Rushcliffe submitted more returns this year than in previous years which will have had some effect on the data. The borough council reports that over the last year Rushcliffe has had fewer homeless families with dependent children than ever before.

#### **Homeless Care leavers in Rushcliffe**

**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>	1
<b>22 Years Old and Over</b>	9
<b>Not stated</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</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>	5
<b>Not Stated</b>	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless care leavers in or with a connection to Rushcliffe. A total of 13 care leavers presented as homeless compared with nine last year. In 2005, 38 homeless people were recorded as having been in the care of the local authority. Table Eight shows that nine of the thirteen care leavers were aged over twenty two – perhaps indicating the long-term impact of being in care for

some individuals. Table Nine provides a breakdown of where the nine care leavers were in care.

**Table Ten: Support Needs**

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Ex-Offender	6	13	27
Drug Abuse	5	10	29
Alcohol Abuse	4	8	15
Mental Health	3	6	15
Domestic Violence	1	2	10
Physically Disabled	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Table Ten 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 adult presentations including repeats. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 13 (27%) presentations reported no support needs.

The support needs of those in or connected to Rushcliffe are generally lower than those recorded for the county as a whole. For example, the prevalence of support needs relating to a history of offending amongst homeless people in Rushcliffe is less than half that reported for the county and support needs related to substance misuse around a third of levels across Nottinghamshire. There has been a very notable change in the number and prevalence of those reporting a support need relating to alcohol use in Rushcliffe compared to those reported last year - with only four presentations (8%) reporting this need compared with 18 (43%) in 2006. Reported support needs generally appear to have fallen from levels recorded last year including needs related to mental health down from 11 (26%) last year to three (6%) this year.

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

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	17	35	26
Slept Rough	13	27	24
Other Relative's Home	5	10	6
Own Home	5	10	11
Parents' Home	5	10	12
B&B Lodgings	1	2	1
Custody	1	2	2
Grandparents' Home	1	2	2
Emergency Bed	0	0	1
Hospital	0	0	2
Hostel	0	0	6
Other	0	0	4
Partner's Home	0	0	2
Social Services	0	0	0

<b>Not Stated</b>	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough spent the previous night, alongside figures for the county as a whole. 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 adult presentations including repeats.

35% of Rushcliffe presentations spent the night prior to presenting to an agency participating in the survey at a friends home compared to 26% across the county and 27% spent the previous night sleeping rough – compared to 24% across Nottinghamshire. No one spent the previous night in a hostel compared with 6% of presentations across the county and no one was in hospital the night before presenting as homeless.

### Rough sleeping in Rushcliffe

**Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping**

<b>Slept Rough Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>Building/Structure Not For Habitation</b>	1	8	24
<b>Sleeping In Open Air</b>	12	92	53
<b>Squat</b>	0	0	9
<b>Don't Know</b>	0	0	11
<b>Not Stated</b>	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table Thirteen: Time Spent Rough Sleeping**

<b>Time Rough Sleeping</b>	<b>Number in This Category</b>	<b>Percentage - Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Percentage - Nottinghamshire</b>
<b>1 Night</b>	0	0	5
<b>More than 1 Night up to 1 Week</b>	2	15	18
<b>More than 1 Week up to 1 Month</b>	3	23	17
<b>More than 1 Month up to 3 Months</b>	1	8	19
<b>More than 3 Months up to 6 Months</b>	1	8	11
<b>More than 6 Months up to 12 Months</b>	4	31	14
<b>More than 12 Months</b>	2	15	10
<b>Don't Know</b>	0	0	4
<b>Not Stated</b>	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Rushcliffe. 12 of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Rushcliffe and the remaining one presented in Nottingham City. The number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey this year at 13 compares with 20 last year and 25 last year – indicating a continuing downward trend in levels of rough sleeping in the district with the number of rough sleepers recorded this year almost half that recorded in 2005. There has been a welcome reduction in levels of rough sleeping across Nottinghamshire in 2007 compared to previous years. It should be noted that a number of the rough sleepers presenting in Rushcliffe are likely to have done so at the Friary Drop-in centre in West Bridgford, on the border with Nottingham City.

Table Twelve indicates that 92% of rough sleepers reported sleeping in the open air compared with 53% across the county. Table Thirteen shows that four rough sleepers reported sleeping rough for between six months and a year and two for over a year.

**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
	Custody				1												1
	Emergency Bed																0
	Friend's Home	1	1		11					1		2				1	17
	Grandparent's					1											1
	Hospital																0
	Hostel																0
	Other Relative's								5								5
	Own Home									3	1					1	5
	Parent's Home	1									4						5
	Partner's Home																0
	Sleeping Rough												13				13
	Social Services																0
	Other																0
	No Data Supplied																0
Totals	3	1	0	12	1	0	0	5	3	6	0	15	0	0	2	48	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Rushcliffe spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the night after making contact. It includes all 48 adult presentations including the two repeats.

Interesting points that can be drawn from the data include:

- 13 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and 15 expected to do so the coming night
- 17 people spent the previous night in a friend's home whilst only 12 expected to be able to do so the coming night

- one person spent the previous night in bed and breakfast accommodation and three people expected to do so the coming night.

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