

# Homeless Watch 2009

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Derbyshire

28<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October



## Bolsover district – key data

HLG Resource Service

April 2010

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

[www.hlg.org.uk](http://www.hlg.org.uk)

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## **Brief Summary**

There were no returns from agencies in Bolsover for homeless people presenting to the 2009 Homeless Watch Survey. However, nine people presented in other Derbyshire areas who reported a connection to the Bolsover district. In the light of this, this report presents the key data tables for those individuals only. No attempt has been made to analyse the findings of the 2009 survey for Bolsover or draw comparisons with the findings for the district in 2008 – other than briefly below.

9 homeless adults presented to the survey who reported a connection to Bolsover. This compares with 21 presentations by homeless adults last year – 16 of whom presented in the district itself and five in other areas. Four children presented as homeless and with a connection to the district this year – which is the same number as last year.

No care leavers presented in or with a connection to Bolsover this year compared with three last year.

There was one presentation by a rough sleeper with a connection to Bolsover. This compares with six rough sleepers presenting last year – three of whom presented in the district itself and three in other Derbyshire local authority areas but reported a local connection to Bolsover.

## **1 Introduction**

The Homeless Watch Survey aims to identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of people currently homeless in Derbyshire. It also seeks to draw comparisons with other data sources as well as build on the previous snapshot survey undertaken last year in order to help identify patterns of homelessness in the County.

A key objective of the survey is to help inform the development of strategies and services designed to:

- prevent homelessness;
- reduce levels of homelessness and rough sleeping;
- improve service provision;
- improve the lives of people who find themselves homeless in Derbyshire.

### **1.1 Background to the Homeless Watch survey**

The Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2009 is the second annual survey of homelessness in Derbyshire. It provides a snapshot survey that records details of everyone who presented as homeless to participating agencies in the County, including Derby City, during the two week survey period from 28th September to 11th October 2009. The 2009 survey provides an opportunity

to identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Derbyshire at present and to build on the first survey undertaken last year to identify and analyse trends and changes in homelessness in the County.

## **1.2 Aims of the survey**

The aims of the Homeless Watch Survey are to:

- identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Derbyshire
- identify patterns and trends in homelessness by comparing current findings with those from the previous Homeless Watch survey
- use other data sources to contextualise findings from the Homeless Watch survey, thereby deepening our understanding of the profile of homeless people in Derbyshire
- provide evidence to inform local policy-making and the development and delivery of services for homeless people.

## **1.3 How the survey was conducted**

During the two week snapshot period, agencies across Derbyshire were asked to complete a questionnaire for each person or household who presented to them as homeless. Agencies were asked wherever possible to complete the form with the homeless person actually present, but this was not always possible. 333 agencies were invited to take part in the survey this year and 49 did so. 13 agencies gave nil returns and the overall agency response rate was 14.7%. Both the number of participating agencies and the response rate are down on the previous year.

## **1.4 How the findings have been presented**

In the light of the fact that there were only nine presentations by homeless adults who reported a connection to Bolsover, and no presentations in the borough itself no attempt has been made to analyse the findings of the 2009 survey for the district or draw comparisons with the findings for the district in 2008. This report presents the key data tables only.

## 2 Homeless people in (or with a connection to) Bolsover

### Key findings:

There were no returns from agencies in Bolsover for homeless people presenting to the 2009 Homeless Watch Survey. However, nine people presented in other Derbyshire areas who reported a connection to the Bolsover district. In the light of this, this report presents the key data tables for those individuals only.

9 homeless adults presented to the survey who reported a connection to Bolsover. This compares with 21 presentations by homeless adults last year – 16 of whom presented in the district itself and five in other areas. Four children presented as homeless and with a connection to the district this year – which is the same number as last year.

No care leavers presented in or with a connection to Bolsover this year compared with three last year.

There was one presentation by a rough sleeper with a connection to Bolsover. This compares with six rough sleepers presenting last year – three of whom presented in the district itself and three in other Derbyshire local authority areas but reported a local connection to Bolsover.

### Key data tables:

Table One: Homeless People in Bolsover, Or With a Local Connection To The Area

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	9
Children	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Bolsover	Bolsover – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Bolsover	0	0
Actual Presentations Outside Bolsover	9	1
Presented in or with a local connection to Bolsover	9	1

Table Two: Area When Advice Was Received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Amber Valley			1	50	1	11
Chesterfield	6	86	1	50	7	78
North East Derbyshire	1	14			1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 &17 Years Old			
18-24 Years Old	4	1	5
25-40 Years Old	2	1	3
41-59 Years Old	1		1
60 years old and over			
No Date of Birth Supplied			
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	7	78
Female	2	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	9	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Kids)	7	78	65
Single Parent With Children	2	22	12
Couple With Children			10
Childless Couple			7
No Data Supplied			6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

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

Table Eight: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Mental Health	3	33	10
Ex-Offender	2	22	14
Alcohol Abuse	2	22	14
Domestic Violence	2	22	7
Drug Abuse	1	11	12
Physically Disabled			2
Learning Difficulties			4
Other	1	11	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Please note; three people presenting to the survey reported no support needs.

Table Nine: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Friend's Home	2	22	25
Parents' Home	2	22	14
Hostel	2	22	1
Slept Rough	1	11	16
Own Home	1	11	18
Other Relative's Home			7
B&B Lodgings			2
Grandparents' Home			1
Custody			1
Partner's Home			2
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			1
Other	1	11	3
No Data Supplied			10
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Ten: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	100	26
Sleeping In Open Air			45
Squat			4
Don't Know			4
No Data Supplied			21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night	1	100	6
More than a night up to 1 week			19
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			4
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths			32
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths			4
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths			9
More than 12 mths			15
Don't Know			4
No Data Supplied			6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Twelve: 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	Childrens Home or Foster Care	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings																
	Custody																
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home				2												2
	Grandparent's																
	Hospital																
	Hostel						2										2
	Other Relative's																
	Own Home														1		1
	Parent's Home									2							2
	Partner's Home																
	Sleeping Rough														1		1
	Childrens Home or Foster care																
	Other														1		1
	No Data Supplied																
Totals				2			2			2				3		9	

## **Appendix 1: Definitions used**

The following definitions were used in this survey.

**Homelessness:** People were regarded as homeless if they 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 friend's 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).

**Local connection:** People had a local connection to a locality if

- Members of their immediate family lived there;
- They had lived there for 6 of the past 12 months or 3 of the past 5 years;
- They had formal employment in the area.

**Adult:** For the purposes of this survey, people were adults if they were aged 16 years or more.

**Care leavers:** the following definition has been used for care leavers:

“The expression ‘children in care’ refers both to children who are the subject of care orders and to children provided with accommodation by a local authority for more than 24 hours, either under section 20 or section 21 of the Children Act 1989, or who have been placed or authorised to be placed with prospective adopters by a local authority (but not a registered adoption society). Care Leavers are young people who have been in the care system and for whom the local authority has an ongoing responsibility once they have formally left care.” (p.1) [Available at: [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk) ]