

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Rushcliffe Borough Report

HLG Resource Service
March 2009

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

www.hlg.org.uk

Background

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2008 is the fifth annual snapshot survey of homelessness in the County. The survey records details of everyone who presented as homeless to participating agencies during the two week period from 29th September to 10th October 2008.

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 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).

The main report is complemented by a set of district reports which summarise survey findings for each of the seven 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 by 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 2008 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 is defined for the purposes of the survey 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.

This is the fifth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report which focuses on the Rushcliffe borough takes the opportunity to draw comparisons with data from previous years and where possible identify trends in local homelessness and related issues. Please note that data and findings from the survey report for 2004 have not been included since 2004 was the first year of the survey and the methodology and analysis has been refined and improved since then. Furthermore, considerably fewer agencies took part in the survey in 2004 than more recently. There is now four years reliable data available and it has been concluded by HLG that it is most useful to focus on findings from 2005 onwards.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2008 has been undertaken against a background of:

- a worsening national and global economic situation
- an increasing national emphasis on homelessness prevention reflected within priorities for local commissioners
- the recent development of new five year homelessness strategies in each of the districts and boroughs of Nottinghamshire
- a new emphasis on the role of local strategic partnerships and the delivery of targets through local area agreements
- a new national strategy to tackle rough sleeping.

Rushcliffe Borough Council's new Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 sets out a number of recommendations aimed at tackling homelessness in the borough as follows:

- prevention and education initiatives to be targeted at those groups where homelessness is a growing issue
- tackling the wider causes of homelessness should be a key theme of the strategy action plan
- securing resources from outside the Council to help achieve the objectives of the strategy
- the Council should take a key role in encouraging Registered Social Landlords to develop homelessness action plans
- the Council should seek to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones in order to achieve the aims of the strategy action plan
- worklessness and access to education, training, employment and health services should be addressed
- homeless people and people at risk of homelessness should have more points of access to advice and prevention services
- the effectiveness of homelessness services should be closely monitored
- the strategy should seek to underpin the strong existing links between local authorities, Supporting People, other statutory agencies, Registered Social Landlords and the voluntary sector
- the Joint Inter-Agency Forum should be the primary implementation platform for the strategy action plan
- the Council should take a lead role in ensuring that the needs of homeless people are considered within other relevant strategies and plans.

A review of homelessness in the borough carried out in 2008 to inform the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan identified that:

- exclusion by friend or relative remains the main cause of homelessness in Rushcliffe
- Domestic Violence is the second largest cause of homelessness with a significant number of homeless applicants who are homeless as a result of DV originating from outside the Borough
- termination of assured shorthold tenancy has steadily decreased as a reason for homelessness since 2003.

The findings set out within this survey report can be considered alongside the new Homelessness Strategy for Rushcliffe.

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH

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

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	53
Children	10
Total	63

Table One shows a total of 63 presentations by homeless people in Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough comprising 53 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 10 dependent children.

Survey findings show a fluctuating picture of homelessness in Rushcliffe since 2005. The 63 presentations this year compares with 58 in 2007 comprising 46 adults and 12 dependent children; 40 adults and only one dependent child in 2006 and 71 adults and 9 dependent children in 2005.

The figures this year show a continued increase in levels of homelessness recorded by the survey since 2006. **The 53 homeless adults recorded this year is 32% higher than the 40 recorded in 2006. However, it is over 25% lower than the number recorded in 2005.**

The number of homeless children recorded by the 2008 survey is lower than the 12 recorded last year and very close to the nine recorded in 2005.

Please note: there were a total 59 presentations to the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey by homeless adults in Rushcliffe or reporting a connection to the borough including 6 repeat presentations. ¹ 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.

¹ 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.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Rushcliffe	Rushcliffe – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Rushcliffe	44	10
Presentations Outside Rushcliffe	15	4
Presented in or with a local connection to Rushcliffe	59	14

Table One (a) shows that of the 59 total adult presentations made in Rushcliffe or by those with a connection to the borough including repeats, 44 were made in Rushcliffe itself and 15 in other areas.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Rushcliffe. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 14**; ten of whom presented to the survey in Rushcliffe itself and four in other areas. The number of rough sleepers recorded this year compares very closely to the 13 recorded in 2007. In 2006, the survey recorded 20 rough sleepers and in 2005, 25. **The 14 recorded this year is 44% lower than the 25 in 2005.**

[Please note: It is likely that a number of the rough sleepers presenting to the survey in Rushcliffe did so at the Frairy Drop-in Centre in West Bridgford and did not have a connection to the borough.]

Table Two: Area where advice received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Mansfield			1	5			1	2
Nottingham City	9	23	5	26			14	24
Rushcliffe	30	77	13	68	1	100	44	75
Total	39	100	19	100	1	100	59	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the majority, 44 or 75% presented in Rushcliffe itself; 14 in Nottingham (24%) and one in Mansfield.

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

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	4	3		7
18-24 Years Old	5	6	1	12
25-40 Years Old	12	8		20
41-59 Years Old	13			13
No Date of Birth Supplied		1		1
Total	34	18	1	53

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). Seven presentations were made by young homeless people under 18; three of whom were young women. The number of under 18s recorded this year compares with five in 2007, none in 2006 and three in 2005. Homeless people under 25 made up almost 36% of those presenting to the survey, compared with 41% last year and 38% for the County as a whole.

The 2008 Homelessness Review carried out in Rushcliffe highlighted youth homelessness as rapidly becoming a significant issue for the borough. The Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 calls for an additional focus on tackling the causes of homelessness amongst this group as well as the provision of prevention and education initiatives.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	34	64
Female	18	34
Not Stated	1	2
Total	53	100

Table Four shows that 64% of those presenting to the survey as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough were men and 34% women. This compares with a gender split of 70% men and 30% women recorded last year and 59% men and 39% women for the County as a whole.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	1	2
Black/Black British: African	1	2
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	2
Black/Black British: Other	1	2
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	2
White: British	42	79
White: Irish	1	2
White: Other	4	8
No Data Supplied	1	2
Total	53	100

The data at Table Five shows that 10 people of an ethnic origin other than White British presented as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough. This represents almost 19% of the total. The number of presentations by those from ethnic minorities recorded last year was five, comprising 10% of presentations.

The UK 2001 census found that 4.1% of the local population of Rushcliffe were from a non White British ethnic origin. As reported in previous years, the data suggests that people from black and minority ethnic communities are over-represented amongst the homeless population in Rushcliffe and the situation appears to be worsening. However, it continues to be unsafe to draw any firm conclusions in this area since the numbers involved are low.

The Homelessness Review identifies evidence of over representation of homeless households from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups compared with the local population. The strategy document highlights the need for local services to take the specific needs of BME groups into account to ensure equality of access. It calls for further monitoring of numbers and research into the reasons for homelessness amongst BME groups.

Homeless Households

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	41	77	75
Single Parent With Children	3	6	14
Couple With Children	8	15	7
Childless Couple	1	2	3
Not Stated			1
Total	53	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

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

Tables Six and Seven above provide data on homeless households and dependent children presenting as homeless in or with a connection to Rushcliffe.

The data within Table Six shows that 77% of presentations were made by single people and 21% by households with children – these figures compare with 75% and 21% for the County as a whole. In Rushcliffe 15% of presentations were made by couples with children compared with only 7% in the County.

The Homelessness Review carried out in Rushcliffe in 2008 identified a rise in the number of single homeless people approaching the council for help with over 60% within the 25 – 45 age group and the majority being white British.

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child. As highlighted above, the number of homeless children recorded by the 2008 survey is lower than the 12 recorded last year and very close to the nine recorded in 2005.

Homeless Care leavers in Rushcliffe

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	1
22 Years Old and Over	6
Not stated	0
Total	7

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

Nottinghamshire	2
Nottingham City	4
Outside Notts	1
Not Stated	0
Total	7

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless care leavers in or with a connection to Rushcliffe.

A total of seven care leavers presented as homeless compared with 13 last year, nine in 2006 and 38 in 2005. **The seven recorded this year is less than one fifth of the number in 2005.** None of the seven care leavers presenting to the survey this year were aged 16 or 17. The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 highlights the work of the Notts Children and Young Peoples Housing Group which was set up to examine the findings of the 2006 survey concerning homelessness and care leavers and initiate work to improve the situation. This multi-agency partnership has so far been able to:

- tighten the monitoring and management of accommodation for care leavers
- work with the Supporting People Partnership (SP) and local providers to reduce eviction rates
- work with SP to review and develop provision for care leavers.

Table Nine shows that of the seven care leavers four were in care in Nottingham and two in the County.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug problem	17	29	28
Ex-Offender	13	22	20
Alcohol problem	12	20	17
Mental Health	11	19	17
Learning Difficulties	10	17	8
Domestic Violence	5	8	8
Physically Disabled	1	2	2
Other	4	7	12
Total	73	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 19 presentations (32%) were made by homeless people who reported no support needs.

The data shows that 17 presentations (29%) were made by people who reported a support need related to a drug problem. This compares with only 5 people (10%) reporting this support need last year and is very close to the 28% of presentations across the County reporting such a need.

The survey report last year highlighted a notable change in the number and prevalence of those reporting a support need relating to an alcohol problem in Rushcliffe compared to 2006 - with only four presentations (8%) reporting this need in 2007 compared with 18 (43%) the previous year. Table Ten shows that 12 presentations (20%) reported such a need in 2008.

A support need related to offending was reported by 13 people (13%) presenting to the survey compared with six (10%) last year. Similarly, support needs related to mental health were reported by 11 people (19%) presenting to the survey compared with only 3 (6%) last year.

Reported support needs appear to have increased generally compared to the levels recorded in 2007 and the report last year noted that the levels of particular support needs recorded by the survey had fallen when compared with the previous year.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	17	29	27
Slept Rough	14	24	24
Own Home	8	14	10
Parents' Home	7	12	12
Other Relative's Home	2	3	7
B&B Lodgings	2	3	1
Hospital	2	3	1
Hostel	1	2	4
Grandparents' Home	1	2	1
Custody			2
Partner's Home			3
Emergency Bed			1
Children's Home or Foster care			0
Other	4	7	3
Not Stated	1	2	3
Total	59	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Rushcliffe or with a local connection to the borough (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night. Since 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 59 adult presentations including repeats.

The table indicates that 29% of presentations spent the previous night at a friend's home which compares closely with the 27% for the County and 14 (24%) spent the night sleeping rough, in line with the proportion of homeless people presenting to the survey reporting sleeping rough across the County.

Eight presentations were made by those who had spent the previous night in their own home and seven by those who had been at their parents' home the night prior to presenting to the survey.

The data also shows that two presentations were made by people who spent the previous night in B&B accommodation and two in hospital.

Rough sleeping in Rushcliffe

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	4	29	24
Sleeping In Open Air	7	50	51
Squat	2	14	9
Don't Know	1	7	9
Not Stated			7
Grand Total	14	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time Spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Rushcliffe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night			9
More than a night up to 1 week			18
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	2	14	18
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	3	21	12
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	5	36	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	3	21	12
More than 12 mths			14
Don't Know			5
Not Stated	1	7	3
Total	14	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detailed breakdowns of the circumstances of those people reporting to the Homeless Watch Survey 2008 as sleeping rough in Rushcliffe or with a connection to the borough.

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 14; ten of whom presented to the survey in Rushcliffe itself and four in other areas. The total number of rough sleepers compares very closely to the 13 recorded in 2007. In 2006, the survey recorded 20 rough sleepers and in 2005, 25. The 14 recorded this year is 44% lower than the 25 in 2005.

Table Twelve indicates that half the rough sleepers in Rushcliffe reported sleeping out in the open air in line with the picture across the County. Table Thirteen indicates that 57% of rough sleepers in Rushcliffe (or with a connection to the district) had been sleeping out for more than three months at the time they presented to the survey. This data points to a level of chronic rough sleeping in the borough that remains to be tackled.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency																
		B&B Lodgings	Children's Home or Foster care	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friend's Home	Grandparents' Home	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative's Home	Own Home	Parents' Home	Partner's Home	Sleeping Rough	Other	No Data Supplied	Total	
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	2															2	
	Children's Home or Foster care																0	
	Custody																0	
	Emergency Bed																0	
	Friend's Home					11	1						4		1		17	
	Grandparents' Home										1						1	
	Hospital							2									2	
	Hostel								1									1
	Other Relative's Home			1						1								2
	Own Home								1		6					1		8
	Parents' Home					1						5				1		7
	Partner's Home																	0
	Slept Rough													14				14
	Other														4			4
	No Data Supplied															1		1
Total	2	0	1	0	12	1	2	2	1	6	6	0	18	4	4	59		

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 59 adult presentations including the six repeats.

The data indicates that:

- 14 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and 18 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 hostel accommodation and two expected to be in a hostel the coming night.