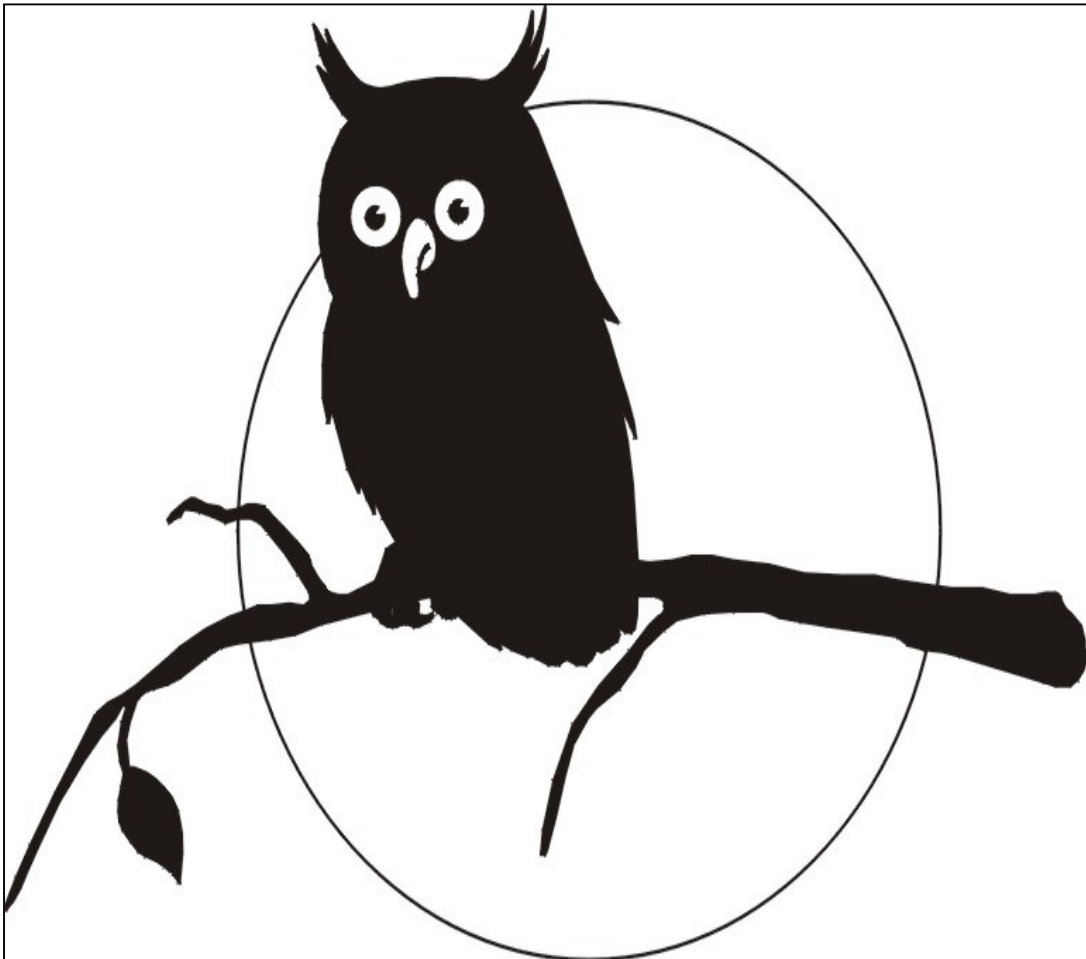


Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

24th September to 7th October 2007



Nottingham City Council Mini Report

HLG Resource Service
March 2008

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at
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. This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in **Nottingham City**.

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 Nottingham City 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 Nottingham City **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Nottingham.

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.

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

Table One: Homeless People in Nottingham or with a local connection to the city

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	426
Children	118
Total	544

There were 490 presentations by homeless adults in Nottingham or by those with a connection to the city as defined above – including 64 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 repeat presentations 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 repeat presentations **Table One** shows a total of 544 presentations by homeless people including 426 adults and 118 dependent children. The figures for last year were 479 presentations including 401 adults and 78 dependent children and a total of 644 in 2005, including 541 adults and 103 dependent children. This year's figures therefore show a small increase on last year in terms of adults but a reduction of 21% on levels of adult homelessness recorded by the survey in 2005. In terms of homeless dependent children the figures show a worrying increase of over 50% on the numbers recorded last year and a small increase on those recorded in 2005.

Presentations and Local Connection

Table One (a)

	All in Nottingham	Nottingham City - Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	453	131
Actual Presentations outside Nottingham City	37	10
Presented in or with a local connection to Nottingham City	490	141

Table One (b)

Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	All in Nottingham	Nottingham City - Rough Sleepers Only
Connections With Nottingham City Stated	348	96
Not stated	30	5
Other Connection(s) only	75	30
Actual presentations in Nottingham City	453	131

Table One (c)

Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	All in Nottingham	Nottingham City - Rough Sleepers Only
Connections With Nottingham City Stated	348	96
Not stated	30	5
Ashfield	8	1
Bassetlaw	2	1
Broxtowe	13	4
Gedling	19	7
Mansfield	8	3
Newark & Sherwood	6	1
Rushcliffe	7	1
Out Of Notts	57	23
Total	498	142

Tables One (a), (b) and (c) provide detailed information on where those presenting as homeless in Nottingham or with a connection to the city actually presented as well as the areas to which they reported a local connection. They include information on rough sleepers within the total of homeless presentations.

Table One (a) shows that of the 490 total adult presentations, including repeats, 453 presented in Nottingham itself and 37 in other areas within the county. Table One (b) shows that of the 453 who presented in Nottingham itself, 348 (77%) reported a local connection to the city. Table One (c) provides a detailed breakdown of local connection reported by all presentations. Please note that people could report a connection to more than one area.

Findings relating to levels of rough sleeping in Nottingham are reported in more detail below. However, it is worth noting at this point that the 141 rough sleepers recorded in 2007 compares with 168 last year – a 16% decrease. Issues relating to discrepancies between different methods of recording levels of rough sleepers were examined in last years report.

Table Two: Area where contact with agency was made

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Nottingham City	267	91	176	95	10	83	453	92
Ashfield	2	1	1	1	1	8	4	1
Bassetlaw	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Broxtowe	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gedling	6	2	3	2	0	0	9	2
Mansfield	2	1	1	1	1	8	4	1
Out Of Notts	3	1	1	1	0	0	4	1
Rushcliffe	11	4	3	2	0	0	14	3
Total	292	100	186	100	12	100	490	100

Table Two provides a breakdown of where homeless adults presenting in Nottingham or with a connection to the city came into contact with agencies participating in the survey. It includes all 490 adult presentations including repeats as individuals might have reported to more than one agency over the survey period. The data shows that 453 of the 490 total presented in Nottingham itself, 14 in Rushcliffe and very small numbers in other areas.

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

Table Three: Age of presenting adults by gender

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	13	16		29
18-24 Years Old	58	55	2	115
25-40 Years Old	128	55	5	188
41-59 Years Old	42	23	2	67
60 years old and over	3	0	0	3
No Date of Birth Supplied	11	10	3	24
Total	255	159	12	426

Table Three shows that 29 homeless under 18 year olds presented to the survey – nearly 7% of the total. This compares very closely with a percentage figure of 8% for the county as a whole. The largest single group of homeless people were in the 25 to 40 years category – representing 44% of the total. No under 16 year olds presented as homeless in their own right.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	255	60
Female	159	37
Not Stated	12	3
Total	426	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of homeless adults presenting to the survey. It shows a roughly 60:40 gender split between men and women – consistent with the ratio across the county. These findings are almost the same as those recorded for Nottingham last year.

Ethnic origin**Table Five: Ethnic Origin**

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	304	71
Black/Black British: Caribbean	24	6
Black/Black British: African	16	4
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	16	4
Other	13	3
White: Other	11	3
Asian/Asian British: Other	7	2
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	7	2
White: Irish	5	1
Black/Black British: Other	4	1
Mixed: White & Black African	4	1
Asian/Asian British: Indian	2	0
Mixed: White & Asian	2	0
Chinese	1	0
Mixed: Other	1	0
Not Stated	9	2
Total	426	100

Table Five (a): Ethnic Origin by Age

Ethnic Origin	16-17	18-24	25-40	41-59	60+	Not stated	Total
Asian/Asian British: Indian			1	1			2
Asian/Asian British: Other		1	6				7
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani		1	5			1	7
Black/Black British: African	1	8	5	2			16
Black/Black British: Caribbean	3	2	13	6			24
Black/Black British: Other	1	1	2				4
Chinese		1					1
Mixed: Other		1					1
Mixed: White & Asian		1	1				2
Mixed: White & Black African		1	2			1	4
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	2	5	5	3		1	16
Not Stated		2	2	1		4	9
Other		2	10	1			13
White: British	20	87	131	49	3	14	304
White: Irish	1		2	1		1	5
White: Other	1	2	3	3		2	11
Total	29	115	188	67	3	24	426

Tables Five and Five (a) provide detailed information on the ethnic origin of homeless adults presenting to the 2007 survey.

Table Five indicates that 27% of presenting adults were recorded as being of an ethnic origin other than white British. This data is similar to findings for last year when the figure was 24%. The 2001 census data for Nottingham City shows that 81.1% of Nottingham's population classed themselves as White British with only 15.1% from non-white ethnic groups. The data suggests therefore that people from a non White British ethnic origin continue to be over represented amongst the homeless population in Nottingham. It should be noted however, that mid year population estimates for Nottingham City in 2005 indicate that 22.8% of the population were of an ethnic origin other than White British – showing a change in the population since 2001. Assuming this figure is correct then the over representation of B&ME communities in the homeless population is less stark. The main Homeless Watch Survey Report (2007) acknowledges the work undertaken by Nottingham City Council to address this issue. It should also be acknowledged that Nottingham City is a dispersal area for asylum seekers which might in part explain the over-representation of individuals from black and minority ethnic groups within the local homeless population as well as the findings for Nottingham concerning homeless asylum seekers and refugees set out within the main Homelessness Watch Survey Report for 2007.

Table Five (a) provides an age breakdown of presentations within the different ethnic groups recorded by the survey.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	333	78	69
Single Parent With Children	51	12	17
Couple With Children	22	5	7
Childless Couple	12	3	5
Not Stated	8	2	1
Total	426	100	100

The data within Table Six shows that 78% of presentations were made by single people without children compared with 69% for the county and 81% of presentations last year. The numbers of single parents with children last year was 32 and in 2005 the number of single parents was 68. The data therefore shows that the proportion of single parents within the adult homeless population is lower than for the county as a whole but numbers are 60% higher in Nottingham this year than in 2006 though 25% lower than in 2005.

Table Seven: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	51
5 – 10 Years Old	38
11 – 15 Years Old	13
16 & 17 Years Old	3
18 Years Old and Over	13
Total	118

Table Seven provides data on the numbers and age of homeless dependent children. As highlighted above, the figure of 118 children is an increase of over 50% on the numbers recorded last year (78) and a small increase on the 103 recorded in 2005.

The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families was highlighted in last years report.

Homeless Care leavers in Nottingham

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	5
18 – 21 Years Old	15
22 Years Old and Over	53
Not stated	1
Total	74

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Nottingham City	31
Nottinghamshire	16
Outside Notts	18
Not Stated	9
Total	74

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a care history who presented to the survey in Nottingham or with a connection to the city. The total number of care leavers at 74 compares with only 47 last year and is much closer to the figure of 76 recorded in 2005. Table Nine shows that 42% of care leavers had been in care in Nottingham itself.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	182	37	29
Ex-Offender	165	34	27
Mental Health	103	21	15
Alcohol Abuse	98	20	15
Domestic Violence	72	15	10
Other	50	10	10
Learning Difficulties	24	5	6
Physically Disabled	14	3	3
Not Stated	2	0	0
Total	710	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period and provides a comparison with the support needs reported by homeless people across the county. 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 and that 122 (25%) presentations reported no support needs.

In most instances higher levels of support needs amongst the homeless population are recorded for the city than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. For example, the percentages of people requesting support due to drug and alcohol misuse are notably higher than for the county. In most instances the support needs of homeless people in Nottingham recorded by this year's survey are very similar to those in previous years. A notable exception to this is those reporting support needs relating to histories of offending. 165 presentations were made by homeless people reporting this need in 2007 compared with a figure of 112 last year – an increase of 47%. However, it should be noted that the figure for 2005 was 188.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	141	29	24
Friend's Home	138	28	26
Hostel	41	8	6
Own Home	35	7	11
Parents' Home	34	7	12
Other Relative's Home	28	6	6
Other	18	4	4
Custody	14	3	2
Grandparents' Home	10	2	2
Partner's Home	10	2	2
Hospital	9	2	2
Emergency Bed	4	1	1
B&B Lodgings	3	1	1
Social Services	0	0	0
Not Stated	5	1	1
Total	490	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Nottingham or with a local connection to the city spent the night prior to contacting an agency participating in the survey. 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.

The proportions of homeless people in each category are broadly similar to the picture across the county.

Rough sleeping in Nottingham

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	26	18	24
Sleeping In Open Air	86	61	53
Squat	13	9	9
Don't Know	13	9	11
Not Stated	3	2	3
Total	141	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	3	2	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	28	20	18
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	26	18	17
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	25	18	19
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	17	12	11
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	25	18	14
More than 12 Months	13	9	10
Don't Know	3	2	4
Not Stated	1	1	4
Total	141	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Nottingham identified by the survey. The figure of 141 rough sleepers this year compares with 168 in 2006 and 194 in 2005 – indicating a decrease of 27% over the last two years. 131 of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Nottingham City and the remaining 10 did so in other areas.

Table Twelve shows that 86 presentations were made by rough sleepers reporting sleeping in the open air. As was suggested last year this is unlikely to have been in the city centre itself since such a level of street sleeping is not visible in the centre of Nottingham. Table Thirteen shows a very similar breakdown of periods spent sleeping rough by those presenting in or with a connection to Nottingham as for those across Nottinghamshire.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of previous and coming 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	3														3	
	Custody		10		2							1			1	14	
	Emergency Bed			2				1								1	4
	Friend's Home		2	1	101			5	3	1			12		2	11	138
	Grandparent's					5		3					1		1		10
	Hospital						8									1	9
	Hostel			1			1	32					3			4	41
	Other Relative's				1			2	21				2		1	1	28
	Own Home				4			1		19	1				7	3	35
	Parent's Home			3	3			8	2		14				1	3	34
	Partner's Home							1				6	1		2		10
	Sleeping Rough	1			3			14					116		3	4	141
	Social Services																0
	Other				2			2		1					12	1	18
	No Data Supplied			1	1											3	5
Totals	4	12	8	117	5	9	69	26	21	15	6	136	0	29	33	490	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Nottingham spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the night after making contact. It includes all 490 adult presentations including the 64 repeats.

The data shows that:

- 141 presentations were made by those who reported sleeping rough the previous night and 136 expected to do so the coming night

- 138 presentations were made by those reporting spending the previous night in the home of a friend and 117 expected to stay with a friend the coming night.

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