

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Derbyshire Dales Report

HLG Resource Service
April 2009

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

www.hlg.org.uk

Background

The Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2008 is the first 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).

Agencies across the County who regularly come into contact with homeless people were invited to participate by completing survey forms for homeless people presenting to them during the survey period.

500 agencies across Derbyshire were approached and of those, 97 agencies took part in this year's survey by submitting returns. Participating agencies completed a survey form for each individual who presented to them as homeless in the survey period. 34 agencies gave nil returns and the overall response rate was 19.4%. It is important to bear in mind that this is the first time the survey has been carried out in Derbyshire and it can be expected that the response rate will increase should the survey be repeated in future years.

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 Derby City.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the Derbyshire Dales district. Four agencies in Derbyshire Dales took part in the survey.

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 Derbyshire-wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this report for Derbyshire Dales District 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 Derbyshire Dales area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to Derbyshire Dales.

For the purposes of the survey a local connection is 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 is the first annual survey of its kind carried out across Derbyshire and as such the findings drawn from the survey can only be initial and tentative. At this stage, the survey data provides an initial snapshot of levels of homelessness across the County, and in the case of this report in Derbyshire Dales specifically and can provide a baseline for the analysis of trends and changes in homelessness and related issues in future years.

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 Derbyshire
- 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.

Derbyshire Dales and High Peak make up the Peak Sub Region. Together the two local authorities have developed a new joint homelessness strategy for the sub-region. The Peak Sub Region (Derbyshire Dales & High Peak) Homelessness Strategy 2009 – 2014 aims to reduce homelessness and ensure the prevention of future homelessness. The strategy highlights six key priorities for tackling homelessness:

1. Reduce and prevent homelessness in the Peak Sub Region.
2. Provide suitable temporary accommodation for homeless people.
3. Access to independence, settled housing and support.
4. Prevent the loss of and provide access to high quality private sector rented accommodation.
5. Increase the supply of affordable housing for homeless people.
6. Improving monitoring procedures to inform future services and strategies.

A review of homelessness in the Peak Sub Region carried out to inform the new strategy found that the most common causes of homelessness amongst people who were accepted as homeless by the local authorities were:

- parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (25.8%),
- relationship breakdown (20.7%) (both violent and non-violent)
- loss of assured shorthold tenancies (35.9%).

The review highlighted that:

- homelessness due to the violent breakdown of a relationship involving a partner or an associated person is higher than the national average
- homelessness caused as a result of the termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancies is far greater than the national average.

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

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR DERBYSHIRE DALES

Table One: Homeless People in Derbyshire Dales or reporting a local connection to the area

Category	Number
Adults	8
Children	6
Total	14

Table One shows a total of 14 presentations by homeless people in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district comprising eight adults and six dependent children. The data tables set out below use the **eight adults** as the total figure for homeless people in the district.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire Dales – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Derbyshire Dales	5	2
Actual Presentations Outside Derbyshire Dales	3	2
Presented in or with a local connection to Derbyshire Dales	8	4

Table One (a) shows that of the eight adult presentations made in Derbyshire Dales or by those with a connection to the district, five were made in the district itself and three in other areas.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Derbyshire Dales. For the purposes of the survey rough sleeping was defined as living in something not normally considered to be housing (such as derelict buildings, sheds, vehicles) or sleeping in the open air. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the district by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was four**; two of whom presented to the survey in Derbyshire Dales itself. **Rough**

sleepers therefore made up 50% of all homeless adults presenting to the survey in or with a connection to the district.

Table Two: Area where presentation made to survey

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Derbyshire Dales	2	50	3	75			5	63
High Peak	1	25					1	13
South Derbyshire			1	25			1	13
Not Stated	1	25					1	13
Total	4	100	4	100			8	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Derbyshire Dales or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old				
18-24 Years Old	2			2
25-40 Years Old	1	4		5
41-59 Years Old				
60 years old and over				
No Date of Birth Supplied	1			1
Total	4	4		8

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that there were no presentations by homeless young people under 18 and only two (25%) by those under 25. This data indicates a higher age profile amongst homeless people in or with a connection to Derbyshire Dales than for the County as a whole where 39% of the presentations to the survey were made by homeless people aged under 25 years.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	4	50
Female	4	50
Not Stated		
Total	8	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of those presenting as homeless in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district and shows an equal gender split between homeless men and women. The proportions of men and women presentations across Derbyshire set out in the main Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 were 60% and 40% respectively.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	8	100
Total	8	100

Table Five indicates that the ethnic origin of all eight homeless people presenting in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district was White British. The B&ME population of the Peak Sub Region is only 1% of the total.

Homeless Households

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Children)	5	63	70
Single Parent With Children	3	38	14
Couple With Children			6
Childless Couple			9
Not Stated			1
Total	8	100	100

Table Seven: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	1
5 – 10 Years Old	4
11 – 15 Years Old	1
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 Years Old and Over	
Total	6

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

The data within Table Six shows that 63% of presentations were made single people and 38% by single parents with children which compares with 20% of presentations by households with dependent children for Derbyshire as a whole. Given the small numbers involved, percentage figures should be treated with caution.

Table Seven sets out data on the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child and shows only two dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey.

Homeless Care leavers in Derbyshire Dales

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

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

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

Derbyshire	
Derby City	
Outside Derbyshire	1
Total	1

Tables Eight and Nine provide information on homeless care leavers and show that only one person with a care history presented as homeless in or with a connection to Derbyshire Dales.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Alcohol Problem	4	50	13
Drug Problem	2	25	23
Mental Health	2	25	13
Ex-Offender	1	13	20
Domestic Violence	1	13	6
Learning Difficulties		0	4
Physically Disabled		0	3
Other	1	13	10
Not Stated	1	13	1
Total	12	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. It sets out the needs reported for Derbyshire Dales alongside the support needs recorded for Derbyshire as a whole. Please note that people could record

more than one support need and that two presentations were made by homeless people in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district who reported having no support needs.

The data shows that four presentations (50% of the recorded support needs) were made by people who reported a need related to an alcohol problem and two presentations (25%) by those reporting a support need related to a drug problem. This data compares with 13% and 23% reporting such needs across Derbyshire as a whole. The 2007 Homelessness Review carried out to inform the new Homelessness Strategy highlighted a shortage of accommodation based services for single homeless people over the age of 18 in the Peak Sub Region for those with drug and alcohol problems.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Slept Rough	4	50	18
Friend's Home	3	38	23
Parents' Home	1	13	12
Own Home			15
Other Relative's Home			10
Partner's Home			2
B&B Lodgings			5
Grandparents' Home			2
Hostel			3
Custody			2
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			0
Childrens Home or Foster care			0
Other			4
Not Stated			2
Total	8	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Derbyshire Dales or with a local connection to the district (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night.

The table indicates that four (or 50% of) presentations were made by those who reported spending the previous night sleeping rough. This compares with only 18% for Derbyshire as a whole but since the numbers involved in Derbyshire Dales are quite low the percentage figure should be treated with caution. Three presentations were made by people who reported spending the previous night at a friend's home and one by a homeless person who had been at their parents' home.

Rough sleeping in Derbyshire Dales

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	25	36
Sleeping In Open Air	2	50	45
Squat	1	25	3
Don't Know			12
Not Stated			4
Grand Total	4	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night			16
More than a night up to 1 week			30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	2	50	20
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	1	25	7
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths			4
More than 12 mths			7
Don't Know	1	25	7
Not Stated			1
Total	4	100	100

The data at Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in Derbyshire Dales recorded by the Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2008.

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the district was four, two of whom presented in the district itself.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that half of the rough sleepers slept in the open air. Table Thirteen indicates that three of the rough sleepers had been sleeping out for more than a month including one who had slept rough for over three months – indicating a degree of entrenched rough sleeping that should be addressed.

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	Childrens Home or Foster Care	Other	No Data Supplied
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings															
	Custody															
	Emergency Bed															
	Friend's Home				3											3
	Grandparent's															
	Hospital															
	Hostel															
	Other Relative's															
	Own Home															
	Parent's Home									1						1
	Partner's Home															
	Sleeping Rough											3		1		4
	Childrens Home or Foster Care															
	Other															
	No Data Supplied															
Totals				3						1		3		1	8	

Table Fourteen provides data comparing where those homeless people who took part in the survey spent the night prior to presenting with where they would spend the night following their contact with an agency. It shows little change between the two nights in the circumstances of homeless people reporting to the survey in or with a connection to Derbyshire Dales - other than that four people spent the previous night sleeping rough and three expected to sleep rough the coming night.