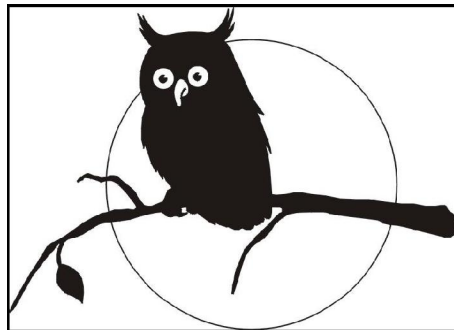


Homeless Watch 2005

A Snapshot Survey Of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

19th September – 2nd October 2005



Gedling Borough Council – Mini Report

HLG Resource Service
Mar 2006

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at
www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

1. Background

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2005 is the second County wide snapshot survey of people who present as homeless during a two week period, which ran from the 19th September to the 2nd October 2005. The survey is co-ordinated by a steering group comprising representatives from the eight local authorities which make up the area, the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, the Supporting People Partnership For Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council. Funding for the survey has been provided by the eight district authorities in the County and Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services Department. The survey has been conducted on their behalf by HLG – a Nottinghamshire umbrella organisation for voluntary sector services working with homeless and other vulnerable people.

In addition to the main Homeless Watch report, which covers the results from the snapshot survey for the whole of Nottinghamshire, a series of eight mini reports have been produced, covering the main findings for the eight district authority areas in Nottinghamshire. The main report and the district reports are all available for download from the Homeless Watch website at www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm.

For the purpose of these mini 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 mini report for Gedling Borough Council are based on presentations by people who were either:

- a. Recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst homeless in the Gedling area.
- b. Recorded as not seeking advice whilst homeless in Gedling (i.e. they sought advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area), but were recorded as having a local connection with Gedling. 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, or 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.

2. Overall Numbers

51 presentations fitted the two categories detailed in the background section. However, there were six duplicate presentations and therefore the table below records the actual number of individuals who presented to one or more agencies during the Homeless Watch fortnight, namely 45. In addition, there were 13 children recorded as being part of a presenting household – again this figure is calculated after removing any duplicates. Duplicates are identified by matching initials, gender and date of birth information.

Table One: Numbers Presenting As Homeless

Category	Adjusted Figure To Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	45
Children	13
Total	58

3. Area When Person Presented As Homeless

Table two shows the area where the person was homeless when they presented for advice. As there were six duplicate presentations (some of which recorded different areas), the table shows the data for all 51 presentations. Although the table shows that a large number of people with a connection with Gedling presented whilst homeless in Nottingham City, it should be remembered that a person could have a connection with more than one local authority. Of the 23 presentations recorded in Nottingham City, 14 had a local connection with Nottingham City as well as with Gedling

Table Two: Area When Person Presented As Homeless

Local Authority	Men		Females		Total	
	Num	%	Num	%	No	%
Broxtowe	1	4	0	0	1	2
Gedling	6	22	14	58	20	39
Mansfield	0	0	2	8	2	4
Newark & Sherwood	1	4	1	4	2	4
Nottingham City	18	67	5	21	23	45
Rushcliffe	1	4	2	8	3	6
Total	27	100	24	100	51	100

4. Age & Gender

Table three shows the age and gender of people who presented as homeless and has been calculated after removing any duplicate presentations. One person aged 15 was recorded as presenting as homeless whilst in Gedling – the only person under 16 recorded as homeless in Nottinghamshire by the 2005 Homeless Watch survey. As can be seen from table two, although the majority of people were men, 60% of those aged 24 and under were women. Please note that table three does not contain any information about the numbers and ages of dependent children, as these are recorded in table six.

Table Three: Age & Gender

Age Range	Male		Female		Totals	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Under 16 Years Old	0	0	1	5	1	2
16 & 17 Years Old	2	8	2	10	4	9
18-24 Years Old	6	25	9	43	15	33
25-40 Years Old	9	38	6	29	15	33
41-59 Years Old	7	29	1	5	8	18
60 years old and over	0	0	1	5	1	2
No Date Of Birth Supplied	0	0	1	5	1	2
Total	24	100	21	100	45	100

The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates

5. Ethnic Origin

The UK 2001 Census recorded that 6.1% of the population of Gedling were from a non White: British ethnic background. As can be seen from table four, this is less than the 8.7% recorded among homeless people who fit the two categories outlined at the start of this report. Whilst these figures suggest that people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities are over-represented, caution should be exercised in reaching any firm conclusions due to the low actual numbers recorded. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the County wide survey did highlight over-representation among Black and Minority Ethnic communities and in light of this it would

be prudent for all local authorities to consider implementing the recommendations made in the ODPM's, 'Causes Of Homelessness Amongst Ethnic Minority Populations' research paper (please see recommendation one in the main Homeless Watch Report 2005 for further details).

Please note that although every effort has been made to remove duplicate presentations from table four, this has not been possible because one person's ethnic origin has been recorded as 'Other' by one agency and 'White: British' by another. Both of these presentations have been recorded in table four and this is another reason why the figures should be treated with some caution.

Table Four: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin of People Presenting As Homeless From Gedling	Totals	
	Num	%
White: British	42	91.3
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	2	4.3
Other	1	2.2
White: Other	1	2.2
Total	46	100

** Please note that duplicates have been removed from this table wherever possible, but one person's ethnic origin has been recorded as 'Other' by one agency and 'White: British' by another.*

6. Household Type

In common with the Nottinghamshire wide survey, the majority of Gedling cases were single people with no children, although the percentage at 67% is noticeably lower than the 77% recorded for the County. Conversely, the proportion of single parents at 24% was noticeably higher than the 13% recorded for the County.

Table Five: Household Type

Household Type	Num	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	30	67	77
Single Parent With Children	11	24	13
Childless Couple	3	7	5
Couple With Children	1	2	4
Total	45	100	100

This table has been calculated after removing duplicates

7. Children

Table six (see next page) records the age and numbers of dependent children who were part of a presenting family household. 13 children fitted this category, with the majority (69%) aged four or under. Please note that data on children's ages was missing from two single parents.

Table Six: Age & Number Of Dependent Children

Age Range	Num	Percentage
0-4 years old	9	69
5-10 years old	3	23
11-15 years old	0	0
16 -17 years old	0	0
18 years old and over	1	8
Total	13	100

The figures in this table have been calculated after removing duplicates

8. Care History

Seven people are recorded as either currently in the care of a local authority, or having a history of being in care as a young person. All of the people aged 21 and under are recorded as being in care in Nottinghamshire as opposed to Nottingham City, although one of these three people was also recorded as being in care in another local authority area.

Table Seven: Age Of Care Leavers

Age	Numbers Of Care Leavers In This Age Group
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 - 21 Years Old	3
22 and Over	4
Total	7

This table has been calculated after removing duplicates

9. Presenting Support Needs

Table eight (see next page) records the support needs of people who presented during the survey fortnight. The data is based on all 51 presentations as different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that the two percentage columns in table eight are calculated as a proportion of all presentations – i.e. 51 for Gedling and 1187 for Nottinghamshire. In other words, these columns show the proportion of people who had the relevant support need.

In contrast to the County wide findings (see the final column in table eight), those cases relating to Gedling show a higher proportion of support needs due to mental health, learning difficulties and physical disabilities. By contrast, the proportion expressing support needs due to drug and alcohol abuse, offending behaviour and domestic violence are lower in Gedling than for Nottinghamshire. A significant proportion of Gedling cases recorded ‘Other’ support needs. Analysis of any additional data supplied in these cases, shows that two people required support around benefits and budgeting issues and a further two required help with securing accommodation.

A separate question which asked whether a person had any support needs, shows that 13 people stated that they had no support needs.

Table Eight: Support Needs:

Support Needs	Number	Percentage Of Presentations With This Support Need – Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Mental Health	12	24	17
Drug Abuse	9	18	32
Ex-offender	9	18	23
Alcohol Abuse	6	12	18
Learning Difficulties	6	12	8
Physically Disabled	5	10	4
Domestic Violence	2	4	10
Other	9	18	11
Total	58	N/A	N/A

10. Previous Night

Table nine records data about where people spent the night prior to presenting to an agency for advice. Where an individual slept the previous night could change during the course of the two week survey period and therefore the figures shown in the table are for all 51 presentations.

The table shows that the most likely place that people spent the previous night was with friends, accounting for 27% of all cases, compared to 24% of all cases in Nottinghamshire. One of the headline findings in the Nottinghamshire wide report, was the significant proportion (27%) of people who had spent the previous night sleeping rough. By contrast, the figures for Gedling show that 14% of people spent the previous night sleeping rough. The figures for rough sleeping include a person who was sleeping in Newark & Sherwood, another in Rushcliffe and 2 people sleeping rough in Nottingham City. The remaining three rough sleepers were reported to be doing so in Gedling. There are no duplicates within the rough sleeping figure.

Table Nine: Previous Night

Previous Night	Men		Women		Total	
	Num	%		Num	Num	%
Friend's Home	8	30	6	25	14	27
Own Home	3	11	4	17	7	14
Parents' Home	1	4	6	25	7	14
Slept Rough	6	22	1	4	7	14
Hostel	1	4	4	17	5	10
Grandparents' Home	3	11	0	0	3	6
Other Relative's Home	2	7	1	4	3	6
Hospital	1	4	0	0	1	2
Other	2	7	1	4	3	6
Not Stated	0	0	1	4	1	2
Total	27	100	24	100	51	100

11. Profile of Rough Sleeping

Agencies were asked to record some additional information about any people who had spent the previous night sleeping rough. Table ten records if people were sleeping in the open air, or in a building or structure not designed for human habitation. These categories are based on a

definition of rough sleeping used by the ODPM. The figures show that most rough sleepers in the area (or with a connection to Gedling) are sleeping in a building or structure not designed for habitation (57%), with the remainder (43%) sleeping in the open air. The final column in table ten shows the comparative information for the whole of Nottinghamshire. All three of the cases where a person recorded that they were sleeping rough in Gedling were from people who were sleeping in a building or structure not designed for human habitation.

Table Ten: Type Of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	4	57	30
Sleeping In Open Air	3	43	55
Total	7	100	100

Table eleven records the approximate amount of time that a person had been sleeping rough. In the data for Nottinghamshire, there were a number of cases where different time periods had been recorded for the same person by different agencies, but there are no such discrepancies in the data for Gedling. As can be seen, the proportion of long term rough sleepers (six months or more) is lower than for the County as a whole. Among the three cases of people recorded as rough sleeping whilst in Gedling, two had been doing so for between 1 week and 1 month and the other person was recorded as having slept rough for less than 1 week.

Table Eleven: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number In This Category	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	0	0	7
More than a night up to 1 week	2	29	17
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	2	29	16
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	2	29	21
More Than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	0	0	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	1	14	9
More than 12 mths	0	0	14
Not Stated	0	0	7
Total	7	100	100

12. Comparison Of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation.

Agencies were asked to record details of where a person was likely to spend the coming night. Table twelve (on the next page) summarises these responses and enables comparison between where people spent the previous night, with information about their likely accommodation circumstances the night after contact with an agency. Please note that these figures are for all presentations, rather than individuals.

The figures for rough sleeping show that 29% of those recorded as rough sleeping were expected to still be rough sleeping the coming night. However, the reduction in rough sleeping by 5 people is partly offset by 2 cases where people were expected to be rough sleeping the night after contact with an agency, but spent the previous night with friends.

Table Twelve: Comparison of Previous & Current Night's Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friends Home	Grandparents	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Custody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Emergency Bed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Friend's Home	0	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	14
	Grandparents	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Other Relative	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Own Home	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Parents' Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Partner's Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sleeping Rough	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	7
	Social Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals:	0	0	1	14	3	1	8	2	7	7	0	4	0	2	2		