

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Nottingham City 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 Nottingham.

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 2008 as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in the city **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Nottingham.

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, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield for example.

This is the fifth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report which focuses on Nottingham City 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.

The Nottingham City Council Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 sets out the vision of the City in tackling homelessness in the following terms:

“...Through the development of integrated multi-agency responses with a focus on homeless prevention and early intervention we will reduce levels of homelessness over the course of this Strategy and lay the foundations for the end of homelessness in the future.”

A review of homelessness carried out in 2007 identified the four major reasons for homelessness in Nottingham as:

- Parents no longer willing to accommodate
- Other relatives/friends no longer willing to accommodate
- Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner
- Termination of assured short-hold tenancy.

The Homelessness Strategy sets out nine key priorities for action and development comprising three high level priorities together with six sub-priorities. The three high level priorities are identified as:

1. Preventing Homelessness
2. Reducing homelessness against the main causes
3. Reducing repeat homelessness

The six sub-priorities are set out as:

1. Continue to address rough sleeping focusing on rough sleepers with complex needs
2. Reshape provision in accordance with presenting need and changing priorities
3. Enhance opportunities for settled accommodation
4. Improve involvement of Service Users in service planning and development of services
5. Improve communication with Service Users
6. Ensure that the delivery of homeless service provision is appropriate to all Minority Ethnic Communities

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

[NB: For the purposes of brevity this report generally refers to all presentations by homeless people in or with a connection to Nottingham as those 'presenting in Nottingham']

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY

Table One: Homeless People in Nottingham or with a Local Connection to the City

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	333
Children	64
Total	397

Table One shows a total of 397 presentations by homeless people in Nottingham or with a connection to the City, comprising 333 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 64 dependent children.

There were a total of 377 presentations by homeless adults in Nottingham including 44 repeat presentations and not including dependent children. 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 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.

The total number of presentations last year (after repeats were removed) was 544 including 426 adults and 118 dependent children. Total presentations this year show a decrease of over 27% compared to last year. Presentations by homeless adults have fallen by almost 28% and by homeless children by almost 46%.

The total number of presentations in 2005 was 644, including 541 adults and 103 dependent children. This year's figures therefore show reductions on levels recorded in 2005 of:

- over 38% in total presentations
- over 38% in adult presentations
- almost 38% in presentations of homeless children.

These reductions reflect falling levels of homelessness across the County highlighted in the main Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 and at the same time the size of the reductions in Nottingham City exceed those recorded for Nottinghamshire. The 762 individuals presenting to the survey this year for Nottinghamshire as a whole represents a fall of around 25% on the 1013 individuals presenting in 2005.

Presentations and Local Connection

Table One (a)

	All in Nottingham City	Nottingham City – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	336	114
Actual Presentations Outside Nottingham City	41	8
Presented in or with a local connection to Nottingham City	377	122

Table One (b)

Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	All in Nottingham City	Nottingham City - Rough Sleepers Only
Connections with Nottingham City Stated	254	78
Not Stated	23	9
Other Connection(s) only	59	35
Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	336	122

Table One (c)

Actual Presentations in Nottingham City	All in Nottingham City	Nottingham City - Rough Sleepers Only
Connections with Nottingham City Stated	254	78
Not Stated	23	9
Ashfield	10	6
Bassetlaw	1	0
Broxtowe	11	4
Gedling	14	2
Mansfield	9	2
Newark & Sherwood	4	2
Rushcliffe	14	4
Derbyshire	19	4
Out Of Notts	31	14
Total	390	125

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 377 total adult presentations, including repeats, 336 presented in Nottingham itself and 41 in other areas within the county. Table One (b) shows that of the 336 who presented in Nottingham itself, 254 (over 75%) 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.

Tables One (a) to (c) also provide data on Rough Sleepers presenting in Nottingham or reporting a connection to the City. The total number of Rough Sleepers recorded by the survey this year is 122; 114 presented in the City and eight outside. A local connection with Nottingham was reported by 78 of the total. The total of 122 this year compares with totals of 141 last year, 168 in 2006 and 194 in 2005. **Total presentations to the survey by those reporting sleeping rough in or with a connection to Nottingham in 2008 have fallen by over 13% compared with last year and by 37% compared with 2005.** Continuing to address rough sleeping is highlighted above as a strategic priority for Nottingham and these findings indicate that progress is being made.

Further data on rough sleeping is provided at Tables Twelve and Thirteen below.

Table Two: Area where contact with agency was made

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ashfield	3	1	1	1			4	1
Bassetlaw	2	1	1	1			3	1
Broxtowe	3	1					3	1
Gedling	1	0	4	3			5	1
Mansfield	2	1	4	3			6	2
Newark & Sherwood	1	0					1	0
Nottingham City	231	90	102	88	3	100	336	89
Rushcliffe	13	5	2	2			15	4
Out Of Notts	2	1	2	2			4	1
Total	258	100	116	100	3	100	377	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 377 adult presentations including repeats as individuals might have reported to more than one agency over the survey period. The data shows that 336 of the total presented in Nottingham itself, 15 in Rushcliffe and 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

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 & 17 Years Old	8	17		25
18-24 Years Old	54	37	2	93
25-40 Years Old	111	35		146
41-59 Years Old	45	11		56
60 years old and over	2			2
No Date of Birth Supplied	1	9	1	11
Total	221	109	3	333

Table Three shows that 25 homeless under 18 year olds presented to the survey – representing 7.5% of the total. This compares with a percentage figure of 10% for the County as a whole. Consistent with survey findings from previous years, 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	221	66
Female	109	33
Not Stated	3	1
Total	333	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of homeless adults presenting to the survey. It shows a gender split of roughly 66:33 (or two to one) between men and women. This compares with a roughly 60:40 gender split recorded last year and for the County as a whole in 2008.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	4	1
Asian/Asian British: Other	4	1
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	3	1
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	1	0
Black/Black British: African	16	5
Black/Black British: Caribbean	14	4
Black/Black British: Other	4	1
Chinese	1	0
Gypsy/Traveller	1	0
Mixed: Other	2	1
Mixed: White & Asian	2	1
Mixed: White & Black African	1	0
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	26	8
White: British	216	65
White: Irish	5	2
White: Other	12	4
Other	13	4
Not Stated	8	2
Total	333	100

Table Five sets out data on the ethnic origin of those presenting to the Homeless Watch Survey 2008 in or with a connection to Nottingham. The data shows that approximately 35% of those presenting were of an ethnic origin other than White British. Last year 27% of presenting adults were recorded as being of an ethnic

origin other than White British and 24% were recorded in 2006. 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 Nottingham Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 identifies ensuring effective appropriate service delivery to ethnic minorities as a strategic priority. The main Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 highlights the conclusions of a research project into homelessness and housing need amongst ethnic minority communities in Nottingham City carried out in 2008. The research was led by a multi-agency Ethnic Minority Homelessness Scoping Group. The research project did not identify the need for new ethnicity specific services but has resulted in a range of recommendations to make current services more accessible to people from all ethnic communities. The recommendations include:

- improvements to ethnicity monitoring
- additional staff training on diversity issues
- work to improve access to Private Sector accommodation
- work to improve information and advice services and ensure that information is easily accessible e.g. in DVD format
- improvements to Homelink services
- improvements to services for Gypsy and Traveller communities including the provision of new pitches.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Kids)	272	82	75
Single Parent With Children	36	11	14
Couple With Children	13	4	7
Childless Couple	11	3	3
Not Stated	1	0	1
Total	333	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	42
5 – 10 Years Old	13
11 – 15 Years Old	1
16 & 17 Years Old	3
18 Years Old and Over	5
Total	64

The data within Table Six shows that 82% of presentations by homeless people in or with a connection to Nottingham were made by single people without children

compared with 75% for the County. Comparative figures for Nottingham last year and in 2006 were 78% and 81%. 15% of presentations were made by households with children compared with 21% for Nottinghamshire as a whole.

Table Seven provides data on the numbers and age of homeless dependent children. As highlighted above, the number of homeless dependent children recorded this year is 46% lower than last year and 38% lower than 2005. Last year's report highlighted that the figure of 118 children recorded in 2007 was an increase of over 50% on the numbers recorded in the previous year (78) and a small increase on the 103 recorded in 2005.

Homeless Care leavers in Nottingham

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	4
18 – 21 Years Old	11
22 Years Old and Over	54
Not stated	0
Total	69

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Nottinghamshire	10
Nottingham City	30
Outside Notts	27
Not Stated	2
Total	69

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 69 compares with 74 last year, 47 in 2006 and 76 recorded in 2005. Homeless people with a care history make up over 20% of those presenting in Nottingham which compares very closely with the figure of 19% for the County. Table Nine shows that 30 of the 69 care leavers (over 43%) had been in care in Nottingham itself.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	135	36	28
Ex-Offender	102	27	20
Alcohol Abuse	85	23	17
Mental Health	75	20	17
Domestic Violence	32	8	8
Learning Difficulties	29	8	8
Physically Disabled	8	2	2
Other	50	13	12
Not Stated	1	0	0
Total	517	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 88 (22%) presentations reported no support needs.

In most instances higher levels of support needs amongst the homeless population continue to be recorded for the City than for Nottinghamshire as a whole, as highlighted in previous reports. For example, the percentages of people requesting support due to drug and alcohol misuse and related to a history of offending 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. Last years survey report highlighted that 165 presentations were made by homeless people reporting a support need related to offending compared with a figure of 112 in 2006 – an increase of 47%. The 102 reporting such a need this year is over 38% fewer than last year and clearly much closer to the number recorded in 2006.

The table on the next page provides a breakdown of the other support needs recorded by the survey.

Other Support Needs	Total
Anger management	3
Baby died in April	1
Benefits	1
Budgeting	1
Counselling - was in care from a young age	1
Education	3
Employment	3
Epilepsy	2
Financial	1
Finding permanent accomm	4
General life skills	1
Health	1
Housing	7
Medical	1
Money management	1
Offender	1
Parent and child support	1
Parent support	1
Parenting	1
Past self harm	1
Physical health	3
Pregnant	1
Pregnant teenager	1
Probation Order	1
Self care	1
Sex worker	2
Social worker	1
Teenage parent	2
Tenancy support	1
Vulnerable person	2
Wants to get out of England	1
Young person at risk	1
Total	53

Please be aware that the total of other needs at 53 is higher than the 50 recorded at Table Ten above. This is due to a problem with how the data was entered onto the survey database which cannot be rectified at this stage.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	122	32	24
Friend's Home	117	31	27
Other Relative's Home	22	6	7
Parents' Home	18	5	12
Own Home	17	5	10
Hostel	17	5	4
Custody	15	4	2
Partner's Home	13	3	3
Not Stated	12	3	3
Hospital	5	1	1
B&B Lodgings	2	1	1
Grandparents' Home	2	1	1
Children's Home or Foster care	2	1	0
Emergency Bed	1	0	1
Other	12	3	3
Total	377	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.

122 people (32% of presentations) spent the night prior to presenting to an agency participating in the survey sleeping rough. The data shows that 24% of presentations across the County were made by those who had slept rough the previous night. The next highest number was those who had spent the previous night at a friend's home comprising 31% of presentations compared with 27% for the County. 15 presentations were made by those who had spent the previous night in custody and five by people who had been in hospital the previous night.

Rough sleeping in Nottingham

Table Twelve: Type of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	25	20	24
Sleeping In Open Air	78	64	51
Squat	11	9	9
Don't Know	4	3	9
Not Stated	4	3	7
Grand Total	122	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	8	7	9
More than a night up to 1 week	18	15	18
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	27	22	18
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	16	13	12
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	13	11	9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	15	12	12
More than 12 mths	22	18	14
Don't Know	2	2	5
Not Stated	1	1	3
Total	122	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Nottingham identified by the survey. As indicated above the **presentations to the survey by those reporting sleeping rough in or with a connection to Nottingham in 2008 have fallen by over 13% compared with last year and by 37% compared with 2005.**

114 of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Nottingham City and the remaining 8 did in other places

Table Twelve shows that 78 presentations were made by rough sleepers reporting sleeping in the open air. HLG acknowledges that rough sleeping is not a visible problem in the City. However, those reporting sleeping in the open air are likely to be in discreet locations away from the public gaze, for obvious reasons.

Table Thirteen indicates that 44 Rough Sleepers reported sleeping rough for more than one month and 22 for more than twelve months. Survey data indicates that whilst progress is being made in tackling rough sleeping and levels of rough sleeping are falling, there is still work to do if the City is to achieve the aim set out in the new national strategy for tackling rough sleeping “No-one Left Out” that no one should have to sleep rough in twenty-first century Britain.

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	Slept Rough	Other	No Data Supplied	Total
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	1				1											2
	Children's Home or Foster care		1													1	2
	Custody			10		1		2					1		1	15	
	Emergency Bed				1											1	
	Friend's Home			2	2	84		10	1		1		7	1	9	117	
	Grandparents' Home						1				1					2	
	Hospital							4					1			5	
	Hostel					1		15								1	17
	Other Relative's Home					2		2	15				2	1		22	
	Own Home							6		8		1		1	1	17	
	Parents' Home					1		6			10					1	18
	Partner's Home					1		6			1	3		1	1	13	
	Slept Rough	1		2	5	6		1	1					99	1	6	122
	Other							2	1						9		12
	No Data Supplied							1	1			1		1		8	12
Total	2	1	14	8	97	1	5	51	18	8	14	4	111	14	29	377	

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.

Please note that these figures are for all 377 adult presentations including the 44 repeats.

The data shows that:

- 122 presentations were made by those who reported sleeping rough the previous night and 111 expected to do so the coming night
- 111 presentations were made by those reporting spending the previous night in the home of a friend and 97 expected to stay with a friend the coming night
- only 17 presentations were made by those who reported being in a hostel the previous night compared with 51 who expected to spend the coming night in hostel accommodation.