

# Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Derbyshire

29<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008



## Erewash Borough Report

HLG Resource Service  
March 2009

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:  
[www.hlg.org.uk](http://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 Erewash borough. 11 agencies in Erewash 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 Erewash 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 Erewash area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to Erewash.

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 Erewash 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.

The new Erewash Borough Council Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2008-13 highlights the following key strategic goals:

- to prevent homelessness where possible
- to tackle unmet homelessness needs
- to ensure adequate and appropriate support is available to support clients through crisis and to prevent the re-occurrence of homelessness
- to end the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation
- to reduce the use of other forms of temporary accommodation for homeless households
- to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing
- to work with partners to ensure cohesive partnership working.

The Strategy sets out six core objectives, each of which has its own action plan. The six objectives are:

1. Access, customer care and user focus
2. Diversity
3. Housing advice, homeless prevention & options services
4. Homelessness Strategy, services and application
5. Temporary Accommodation for statutory homeless households
6. Value for money.

A Review of Homelessness in Erewash carried out in 2008 to inform the new homelessness strategy found that between 2005/06 and 2006/07 there was a 34% reduction in homeless presentations and a 26% reduction in homelessness acceptances in the borough.

The review found that eviction from the parental home and loss of accommodation due to other relatives or friends no longer being willing or able to accommodate are the most common causes of homelessness in the borough.

After parents and family/friends evicting, domestic violence is the second largest cause of homelessness. Nationally domestic violence accounts for 13% of all accepted homeless cases; in Erewash it accounted for 21% during 06/07. The majority of homeless acceptances are from women fleeing domestic violence. The

termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) is the third most common cause of homelessness.

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

## SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR EREWASH BOROUGH

**Table One: Homeless People in Erewash or reporting a local connection to the area**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	36
<b>Children</b>	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table One shows a total of 48 presentations by homeless people in Erewash or with a connection to the borough comprising 36 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 12 dependent children.**

Please note: there were a total of 41 presentations to the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey by homeless adults in Erewash or reporting a connection to the borough including five repeat presentations.<sup>1</sup> Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats and use the 36 adults as the total figure except where it is useful to show the picture for all presentations e.g. to indicate potential changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period.

**Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection**

	<b>All in Erewash</b>	<b>Erewash – Rough Sleepers Only</b>
<b>Actual Presentations in Erewash</b>	40	6
<b>Actual Presentations Outside Erewash</b>	1	0
<b>Presented in or with a local connection to Erewash</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6</b>

Table One (a) shows that of the 41 total adult presentations made in Erewash or by those with a connection to the borough including the five repeats, 40 were made in Erewash borough itself.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Erewash. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was six;** all of whom presented to the survey in Erewash itself. Rough sleepers made up almost 15% of all presentations in or with a connection to the borough. Erewash recorded the fourth highest number of rough sleepers reporting to the Homeless Watch Survey 2008 of the nine local authority areas in Derbyshire.

**Table Two: Area where presentation made to participating agency**

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Derby City</b>	1	4					1	2
<b>Erewash</b>	23	96	15	100	2	100	40	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Erewash or with a local connection to the borough actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows 40 presentations were made in Erewash itself and one in Derby City.

*Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations, using the number of actual homeless adult individuals (36) rather than total presentations unless otherwise stated.*

**Table Three: Age**

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
<b>16 &amp;17 Years Old</b>	5	2		7
<b>18-24 Years Old</b>	4	5	1	10
<b>25-40 Years Old</b>	7	2		9
<b>41-59 Years Old</b>	4	1		5
<b>60 years old and over</b>				
<b>No Date of Birth Supplied</b>	1	3	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that seven presentations were made by young homeless people under 18; two of whom were young women. Homeless people under 25 made up over 47% of those presenting to the survey. The Erewash Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 identifies a number of actions to help tackle homelessness amongst young people in the borough including the provision of a Night Stop scheme to provide emergency accommodation.

**Table Four: Gender**

Gender	Number	%
Male	21	58
Female	13	36
Not Stated	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Four shows that 58% of those presenting to the survey as homeless in Erewash or with a connection to the borough were men and 36% were women (with two presentations for whom no gender was recorded). This is roughly the same as the proportions of men and women within presentations across Derbyshire as a whole as set out in the main Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008.

**Table Five: Ethnic Origin**

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	3
White: British	32	89
White: Irish	1	3
Not Stated	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>

The data at Table Five shows that two people of an ethnic origin other than White British presented as homeless in Erewash or with a connection to the borough. This represents almost 6% of the total of presentations (after invalid data is removed i.e. where no ethnic origin was recorded). The ethnic minority population in Erewash is only 2% of the total population though there are concentrations of B&ME households in some areas of Erewash of between 3% and 4% of the local population. The Homelessness Strategy identifies a need to improve the awareness of the local Housing Options service amongst B&ME groups

### Household types

**Table Six: Household Type**

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Erewash	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Children)	24	67	70
Single Parent With Children	5	14	14
Couple With Children	3	8	6
Childless Couple	3	8	9
Not Stated	1	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table Seven: Age and number of dependent children**

<b>Age of Children</b>	<b>Number of Children in this Age Range</b>
<b>0 - 4 Years Old</b>	7
<b>5 – 10 Years Old</b>	3
<b>11 – 15 Years Old</b>	1
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	1
<b>18 Years Old and Over</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

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

The data within Table Six shows that 67% of presentations were made by single people and 22% by households with children – these figures compare with 70% and 20% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Table Seven sets out data on the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child and shows 12 dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey. Seven of the 12 children (over 58%) were aged four or under.

#### **Homeless Care leavers in Erewash**

**Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of This Age With Care History</b>
<b>16 &amp; 17 Years Old</b>	3
<b>18 – 21 Years Old</b>	1
<b>22 Years Old and Over</b>	1
<b>Not stated</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table Nine: Where People Were in Care**

	<b>Number of This Age With Care History</b>
<b>Derbyshire</b>	5
<b>Derby City</b>	
<b>Outside Derbyshire</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in Erewash or with a connection to the borough. The data shows that there were five presentations by care leavers, three of whom were under 18. Table Nine indicates that all of the care leavers had been in care in Derbyshire.

It is difficult to avoid the question as to why young people and in particular 16 and 17 year olds leave care to homelessness or experience homelessness soon after

leaving care. There is a clear homelessness prevention issue here that the borough should consider investigating.

**Table Ten: Support Needs**

<b>Support Needs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Presentations- Erewash</b>	<b>Percentage - Derbyshire</b>
<b>Drug Problem</b>	8	20	23
<b>Mental Health</b>	7	17	13
<b>Ex-Offender</b>	6	15	20
<b>Learning Difficulties</b>	6	15	4
<b>Alcohol Problem</b>	4	10	13
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	4	10	6
<b>Physically Disabled</b>	1	2	3
<b>Other</b>	4	10	10
<b>Not Stated</b>			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. It sets out needs reported for Erewash alongside the support needs recorded for Derbyshire as a whole. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 13 presentations were made by homeless people in Erewash or with a connection to the borough who reported no support needs.

The data shows that eight presentations (20% of the needs reported) were made by people who reported a support need related to a drug problem. This compares with 23% reporting such a need across Derbyshire as a whole. A support need related to a mental health issue was reported by seven presentations to the survey, representing 17% of needs compared with 13% across Derbyshire.

Domestic violence was reported as a support need by four presentations – 10% of the total needs reported. The Homelessness Strategy highlights domestic violence as one of the main causes of homelessness and identifies as a priority the development of a Sanctuary scheme for victims of domestic violence in partnership with other districts.

**Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation**

<b>Where Person Spent the Previous Night</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Erewash</b>	<b>Percentage - Derbyshire</b>
<b>Friend's Home</b>	12	29	23
<b>Slept Rough</b>	6	15	18
<b>Parents' Home</b>	4	10	12
<b>Own Home</b>	3	7	15
<b>Other Relative's Home</b>	3	7	10
<b>B&amp;B Lodgings</b>	2	5	5
<b>Grandparents' Home</b>	2	5	2
<b>Hostel</b>	2	5	3
<b>Custody</b>	2	5	2
<b>Partner's Home</b>			2
<b>Hospital</b>			1
<b>Emergency Bed</b>			0
<b>Childrens Home or Foster care</b>			0
<b>Other</b>	4	10	4
<b>Not Stated</b>	1	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Erewash 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 41 adult presentations including repeats.

The table indicates that 12 or 29% of presentations spent the previous night at a friend's home which compares closely with the 23% for the County and that six (15%) spent the night sleeping rough, compared with 18% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Only three presentations or 7% reported spending the previous night in their own home compared with 15% across the County. Four presentations were made by those who reported spending the previous night in their parents' home and three at the home of a relative.

The Review of Homelessness in Erewash carried out in 2008 to inform the new homelessness strategy found that eviction from the parental home and loss of accommodation due to other relatives or friends no longer being willing or able to accommodate are the most common causes of homelessness in the borough.

## Rough sleeping in Erewash

**Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping**

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Erewash	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	3	50	36
Sleeping In Open Air	2	33	45
Squat			3
Don't Know	1	17	12
Not Stated			4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough**

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Erewash	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night	3	50	16
More than a night up to 1 week	1	17	30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths			20
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths			7
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	1	17	4
More than 12 mths			7
Don't Know	1	17	7
Not Stated			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was six – the fourth highest number for any area in Derbyshire. All six of the rough sleepers presenting to the survey did so in Erewash itself.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that the 50% of the rough sleepers slept in a building not fit for habitation compared with 36% across the County. Table Thirteen indicates that most rough sleepers had been sleeping rough for a short period of time prior to presenting to the survey but that one person reported sleeping rough for more than six months.

The Action Plan for the new Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 identifies as a priority action an annual survey of rough sleeping in the borough to inform and shape policy, investment and practice.

**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	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings			1				1									2
	Custody				2												2
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home				9			1								2	12
	Grandparent's					2											2
	Hospital																
	Hostel								2								2
	Other Relative's									3							3
	Own Home										3						3
	Parent's Home				1				1			2					4
	Partner's Home																
	Sleeping Rough				1								2			1	6
	Childrens Home or Foster Care																
	Other			1											3		4
	No Data Supplied															1	1
Totals			2	13	2		5	5	3	2		2		3	4	41	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Erewash spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the following night. The data is for all 41 adult presentations including the five repeats.

The table shows that:

- 12 people had spent the night prior to presenting to the survey with friends and 13 expected to be staying with friends the following night
- six people slept rough the night before presenting to the survey and only two expected to do so the following night
- two people spent the previous night in B&B accommodation and none expected to be in B&B the following night
- four people were at their parent's home the night prior to completing a survey form and two expected to be staying with their parents the following night
- two people had been in a hostel the previous night and five expected to have hostel accommodation the coming night.