

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



North East Derbyshire Report

HLG Resource Service

March 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 North East Derbyshire district. Six agencies in NE Derbyshire 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 NE Derbyshire 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 North East Derbyshire area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to NE Derbyshire.

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 NE Derbyshire 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 key objectives of the NE Derbyshire District Council Homelessness Strategy 2008 are to:

- prevent homelessness
- improve services to all homeless people
- work effectively with all agencies to deliver solutions to housing problems
- maximise available accommodation and support in all sectors
- close the gaps in services identified by the Homelessness Review.

The Homelessness Review carried out in 2008 to inform the new strategy found that in 2007/08 the main causes of homelessness amongst people making homeless applications to the local authority were:

- End of assured shorthold tenancy
- Non-violent relationship breakdown
- Parental eviction
- Eviction by friends/relatives.

The review document identifies a number of gaps in provision of services to homeless people in the district including provision for:

- singles/couples without priority need
- single priority needs cases with complex needs
- Gypsies and Travellers
- disabled applicants
- people deemed to be intentionally homeless.

It also highlights a need for more temporary accommodation for single young people and improved services designed to prevent street homelessness.

The findings set out within this survey report can be considered alongside the new Homelessness Strategy 2008 for North East Derbyshire and the Homelessness Review 2008.

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT

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

Category	Number
Adults	23
Children	19
Total	42

Table One shows a total of 42 presentations by homeless people in NE Derbyshire or with a connection to the district comprising 23 adults and 19 dependent children.

Please note: there were no repeat presentations to the survey in the NE Derbyshire district.¹ The data tables set out below use the **23 adults as the total figure** for homeless people in NE Derbyshire.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in North East Derbyshire	North East Derbyshire – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in North East Derbyshire	14	3
Presentations Outside North East Derbyshire	9	4
Presented in or with a local connection to North East Derbyshire	23	7

Table One (a) shows that of the 21 total adult presentations made in NE Derbyshire or by those with a connection to the district, 14 were made in the district itself and nine in other areas.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to NE Derbyshire. 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.

¹ 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 total number of rough sleepers recorded for the district by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was seven, four of whom presented to the survey outside the district itself.

Table Two: Area where presentation made to survey

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Bolsover	1	8					1	4
Chesterfield	3	23	2	22	1	100	6	26
North East Derbyshire	7	54	7	78			14	61
Not Stated	2	15					2	9
Total	13	100	9	100	1	100	23	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in NE Derbyshire or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows 14 presentations (61%) were made in NE Derbyshire itself, six in Chesterfield (26%) and one in Bolsover.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old				
18-24 Years Old	3	3	1	7
25-40 Years Old	5	4		9
41-59 Years Old	5	1		6
60 years old and over				
No Date of Birth Supplied		1		1
Total	13	9	1	23

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 to the survey by homeless young people aged under 18 and that seven presentations (30%) were made by those under 25. This data indicates that homeless people presenting to the survey in NE Derbyshire, or reporting a connection to the district had a generally higher age profile than across the county as a whole, where 39% of the presentations to the survey were made by homeless people aged under 25 years, including 31 presentations by 16 and 17 year olds.

The NE Derbyshire District Council Homelessness Review 2008 highlights a decline in the numbers of homeless applicants in priority need as a result of being 16/17 years old or a vulnerable young person from 32 in 2006/07 to ten in 2007/08 and ascribes this to the work of Action for Children with young people and families.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	13	57
Female	9	39
Not Stated	1	4
Total	23	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of people presenting to the survey in NE Derbyshire or reporting a connection to the district and shows that 57% of those presenting were men and 39% women; with one presentation where no gender was recorded. The gender balance is in line with the survey findings for Derbyshire as a whole where the majority of individuals presenting as homeless were men, 60% of the adjusted total (when those where no gender information was available are removed).

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	21	91
Other	1	4
Not Stated	1	4
Total	23	100

The data at Table Five shows that only one person from an ethnic minority group presented to the survey as homeless in NE Derbyshire or with a connection to the district. 2001 census data shows that the ethnic minority population of the district is just over 2% of the total.

Homeless Households**Table Six: Household Type**

Household Type	Number	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No children)	11	48	70
Single Parent With Children	7	30	14
Couple With Children	2	9	6
Childless Couple	3	13	9
Not Stated			1
Total	23	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	7
5 – 10 Years Old	6
11 – 15 Years Old	4
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	19

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

The data within Table Six shows that only 48% of presentations were made by single people compared with 70% for the county and that 39% of those presenting were households with children compared with only 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 four dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey, three of whom were aged four or under.

Homeless Care leavers in NE Derbyshire

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 data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in NE Derbyshire or with a connection to the district. The data shows that there was only presentation by a care leaver who had been in care outside Derbyshire.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Ex-Offender	5	22	20
Drug Problem	4	17	23
Alcohol Problem	3	13	13
Physically Disabled	3	13	3
Domestic Violence	2	9	6
Mental Health	1	4	13
Learning Difficulties			4
Other	1	4	10
Not Stated			1
Total	19	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. It sets out needs recorded for NE Derbyshire alongside the support needs recorded for Derbyshire as a whole. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 12 presentations were made by homeless people in NE Derbyshire or with a connection to the district who reported no support needs.

The data shows that five presentations, 22% of those presenting to the survey, reported a support need related to a history of offending which compares closely with the 20% reporting such a need across the county.

Four presentations (17% 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 and three presentations (13%) were made by people reporting a support need related to an alcohol problem – in line with the 13% for the county. The table indicates that three presentations comprising 13% of the needs reported were made by people with a physical disability – which compares with only 3% reporting such a support need across Derbyshire. The Homelessness Review document identifies a gap in service provision in the district for homeless people with a disability.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Slept Rough	7	30	18
Own Home	6	26	15
Parents' Home	4	17	12
Friend's Home	3	13	23
Other Relative's Home	1	4	10
Hostel	1	4	3
Partner's Home			2
B&B Lodgings			5
Grandparents' Home			2
Custody			2
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			0
Childrens Home or Foster care			0
Other	1	4	4
Not Stated			2
Total	23	100	100

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

The table indicates that seven people (30%) spent the night sleeping rough compared with 18% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Six people reported spending the previous night in their own home, comprising 26% of presentations compared with 15% for the county and four (17%) at the home of their parents which compares with 12% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Rough Sleeping in NE Derbyshire

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	2	29	36
Sleeping In Open Air	5	71	45
Squat			3
Don't Know			12
Not Stated			4
Grand Total	7	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage – Derbyshire
1 night			16
More than a night up to 1 week	3	43	30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	3	43	20
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	1	14	7
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths			4
More than 12 mths			7
Don't Know			7
Not Stated			1
Total	7	100	100

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

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the survey was seven – the fourth highest number for any area in Derbyshire. However, only three of the rough sleepers presenting to the survey did so in NE Derbyshire itself.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that 71% of the rough sleepers slept in the open air compared with 45% across the county. Table Thirteen indicates that four rough sleepers had been sleeping rough for more than one month including one person who had slept rough for more than three months. The NEDDC Homelessness Strategy 2008 highlights the need to establish a clear understanding of street homelessness in the district and improve services to rough sleepers.

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						1									1
	Other Relative's							1								1
	Own Home								6							6
	Parent's Home									2					2	4
	Partner's Home															
	Sleeping Rough				1								6			7
	Childrens Home or Foster Care															
	Other														1	1
	No Data Supplied															
Totals				4			1	1	6	2		6		3	23	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to NE Derbyshire spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the following night.

The data indicates little change in the circumstances between the two nights of those presenting to the survey in or with a connection to NE Derbyshire. The table shows that seven people slept rough the night before presenting to the survey and six expected to do so the following night.