

Homeless Watch 2009

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

28th September to 11th October



Derby City Report

HLG Resource Service

April 2010

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

www.hlg.org.uk

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Executive Summary

1 Introduction

The Homeless Watch Survey aims to identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of people currently homeless in Derbyshire. It also seeks to draw comparisons with other data sources as well as build on the previous snapshot survey undertaken last year in order to help identify patterns of homelessness in the County.

A key objective of the survey is to help inform the development of strategies and services designed to:

- prevent homelessness;
- reduce levels of homelessness and rough sleeping;
- improve service provision;
- improve the lives of people who find themselves homeless in Derbyshire.

2 Homeless people in Derby

- 64 adults presented as homeless in Derby or with a local connection to the City
- No children presented to the survey as homeless in Derby
- Presentations by homeless adults in Derby have fallen by 20% when compared to last year
- Three people with a local connection presented outside the City
- 24 rough sleepers presented to the survey – all of them doing so in Derby itself.

3 Characteristics of homeless people

- Three and a half times more homeless men presented to the survey than women
- Survey findings indicate a fall in levels of homelessness amongst young people in Derby since last year
- However, people aged between 25 and 40 comprise 24% of the general population of the City but made up 58% of those presenting to the survey

- There has been a considerable decrease in numbers of homeless people from ethnic minority communities in the City recorded by the survey compared to last year.

4 Background and support needs

- The number of care leavers presenting to the survey has fallen by 37.5% compared to last year – down from eight to five
- The most common support need reported by those presenting to the survey this year was a need related to alcohol problems.

5 Current living situation

- 24 people spent the night prior to presenting to the survey sleeping rough – representing 36% of homeless people recorded by the survey
- The number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey in or with a connection to Derby has increased from 17 last year to 24 in 2009 – an increase of 47%. Derby City recorded the highest number of rough sleepers for any area in the County this year.

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Homeless Watch survey

The Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2009 is the second annual survey of homelessness in Derbyshire. It provides a snapshot survey that records details of everyone who presented as homeless to participating agencies in the County, including Derby City, during the two week survey period from 28th September to 11th October 2009. The 2009 survey provides an opportunity to identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Derbyshire at present and to build on the first survey undertaken last year to identify and analyse trends and changes in homelessness in the County.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the city of Derby.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2009 has been undertaken against a background of:

- a continued economic recession
- a continued emphasis on homelessness prevention in Government policy
- the recent development of five year homelessness strategies for Derby City and each of the districts and boroughs of Derbyshire
- the case of 'G vs Southwark' which clarified the legal duty placed on local authorities to support and accommodate homeless teenagers under section 20 of the Children Act 1989
- a growing emphasis on the role of local strategic partnerships, the delivery of targets through local area agreements and the removal of the 'ring fence' around Supporting People funding.

The key actions set out within the Homelessness Strategy for Derby City are as follows:

- increase the supply of temporary accommodation
- provide more affordable homes
- improve links with private landlords
- provide support for vulnerable households
- improve consultation
- provide specialised accommodation
- co-ordinate strategic partnerships
- develop Housing Options Centre Resources
- co-ordinating information.

The findings of this report can be considered alongside these proposed actions.

1.2 Aims of the survey

The aims of the Homeless Watch Survey are to:

- identify and analyse levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Derbyshire
- identify patterns and trends in homelessness by comparing current findings with those from the previous Homeless Watch survey
- use other data sources to contextualise findings from the Homeless Watch survey, thereby deepening our understanding of the profile of homeless people in Derbyshire
- provide evidence to inform local policy-making and the development and delivery of services for homeless people.

1.3 How the survey was conducted

During the two week snapshot period, agencies across Derbyshire were asked to complete a questionnaire for each person or household who presented to them as homeless. Agencies were asked wherever possible to complete the form with the homeless person actually present, but this was not always possible. 333 agencies were invited to take part in the survey this year and 49 did so. 13 agencies gave nil returns and the overall agency response rate was 14.7%. Both the number of participating agencies and the response rate are down on the previous year.

Eight agencies in the city of Derby participated in the Homeless Watch Survey 2009 – down from 17 last year.

1.4 How the findings have been presented

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 Derbyshire-wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this report for Derby are based on presentations by people who were **either** recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2009 as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in Derby itself **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire authority area but as having a local connection¹ to the city of Derby. For the purposes of brevity this report refers

¹ The definition of *local connection* used by the survey can be found in Appendix 1

to all presentations by homeless people in or with a connection to Derby as those 'presenting in Derby'.

In addition to presenting the findings from the current survey, the data have been compared with those from the previous year in order to detect trends, and with other data sources where appropriate so as to contextualise the findings. For instance, the characteristics of homeless people have been compared with the local demographic profile for the general population as revealed in the 2001 Census² in order to give an indication of the prevalence of homelessness among sub-groups in the population.

Please note that most of the data tables and charts have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations except where it is useful in indicating changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period.

The findings of the survey have been presented in this report as a response to four key questions:

1. How many people are homeless?
2. Who are the homeless?
3. What do homeless people need in addition to housing?
4. Where do homeless people live?

The main report provides detailed information for the entire sample on repeat homelessness, reasons for homelessness, outcomes of contact with agencies and homeless people's aspirations for housing.

² 2001 Census data is available online at: www.statistics.gov.uk

2 Homeless People in Derby

Key questions: How many people are homeless? How do their numbers compare with last year's? How often are people homeless? Where do homeless people have a local connection?

2.1 People presenting as homeless in Derby

Key finding: Presentations by homeless adults in Derby have fallen by 20% when compared to last year and no children presented as homeless this year.

64 people presented as homeless in Derby or with a local connection to the City (after three repeat presentations were removed)³. All of those who presented to the survey in Derby were homeless adults. No children presented to the survey as homeless in Derby. These figures compare with 80 adult presentations and 13 children in 2008.

Table One: Homeless People in Derby, or with a Local Connection to the city

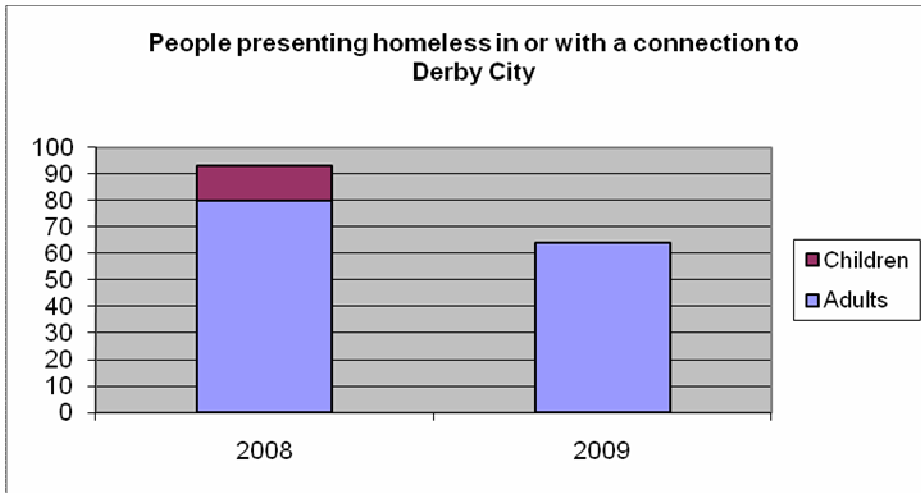
Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	64
Children	0
Total	64

Figure 2.1 below provides a comparison between this year's figures and those reported last year. Presentations by homeless adults have fallen by 20% compared with last year and children by 100%.

It is worth noting here that fewer agencies participated in the survey in Derby this year compared to last year as highlighted above

³ 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.

Figure 2.1



2.2 People with a local connection to Derby

Key findings: Three people with a local connection presented outside the City. 24 rough sleepers presented to the survey – all of them doing so in Derby itself.

The data below shows that of the 67 adult presentations made in Derby or by those with a connection to the City (including the three repeats), 64 were made in Derby itself and three in other areas. Table Two provides a breakdown of the areas where homeless people with a connection to Derby presented to the survey.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Derby City	Derby City – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Derby City	64	24
Actual Presentations Outside Derby City	3	0
Presented in or with a local connection to Derby City	67	24

Table Two: Area where presented

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Amber Valley	1	2			1	1
Chesterfield	2	4			2	3
Derby City	49	94	15	100	64	96
Total	52	100	15	100	67	100

Please note: Rough sleeping in Derby recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2009 is analysed in more detail at Section 5 below.

3 Characteristics of Homeless People

Key questions: Who are the homeless? How are they distributed around population variables, such as gender, age, ethnic origin and household structure?

3.1 Gender

Key finding: Three and a half times more homeless men presented to the survey than women.

78% of those presenting to the survey as homeless in Derby were men and 22% women. Over three and a half times more men presented as homeless in Derby than women. These figures are similar to last year when 72% of those presenting to the survey were men and 28% were women. The gender breakdown for Derby presents a different picture than the County as a whole where 63% of those presenting were men.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	50	78
Female	14	22
Total	64	100

3.2 Age

Key findings: Survey findings indicate a fall in levels of homelessness amongst young people in Derby since last year. People aged between 25 and 40 comprise 24% of the general population of the City but made up 58% of those presenting to the survey.

Figure 3.2 shows a distorted age profile amongst homeless people compared with the general population from 2001 census data. It shows a particular over-representation of people aged 25 to 40 in the homeless population when compared to the general population of Derby City (using 2001 Census data). People aged between 25 and 40 comprise 24% of the general population of the City but made up 58% of those presenting to the survey. Young people aged between 18 and 24 comprise 10% of the general population but 22% of those presenting as homeless.

The data at Table Three below shows that two presentations were made by young homeless people under 18. This compares with eight last year. Homeless people under 25 made up only 14% of those presenting to the survey this year compared with over 37.5% in 2008. These figures indicate a fall in levels of homelessness amongst young people in Derby since last year. 32 people age between 25 and 40 presented to the survey – comprising 50% of the homeless population recorded by the survey. This is an increase in terms of proportion compared with the 40% in this age group last year though the actual number presenting last year was the same – 32.

Figure 3.2

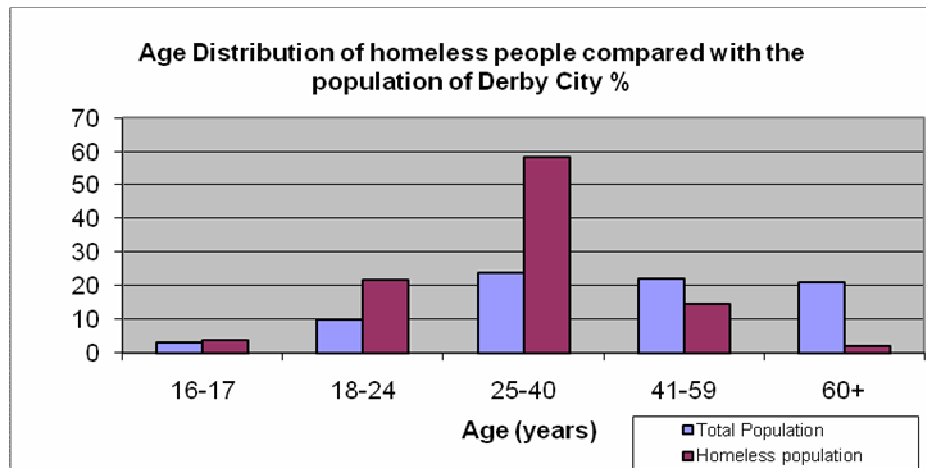


Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 &17 Years Old	1	1	2
18-24 Years Old	7	5	12
25-40 Years Old	28	4	32
41-59 Years Old	8		8
60 years old and over		1	1
No Date of Birth Supplied	6	3	9
Total	50	14	64

3.3 Ethnic origin

Key finding: Survey data indicates a considerable decrease in numbers of homeless people from ethnic minority communities in the City compared to last year.

The data at Table Five shows that five people of an ethnic origin other than White British or 10% of total presentations presented as homeless in Derby or with a connection to the City. This compares with 25 presentations or over 31% in 2008. The UK 2001 census found that just under 16% of the population of Derby were from a non White British ethnic origin. Survey data indicates a considerable decrease in numbers of homeless people from ethnic minority communities in the City. As reported last year, the updated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan highlights that a community cohesion unit has been set up to oversee resettlement for new communities and to ensure community cohesion and successful integration – this appears to have had some impact on homelessness amongst B&ME communities.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	2
Black/Black British: Other	4	6
White: British	40	63
White: Irish	1	2
No Data Supplied	18	28
Total	64	100

Figure 3.3

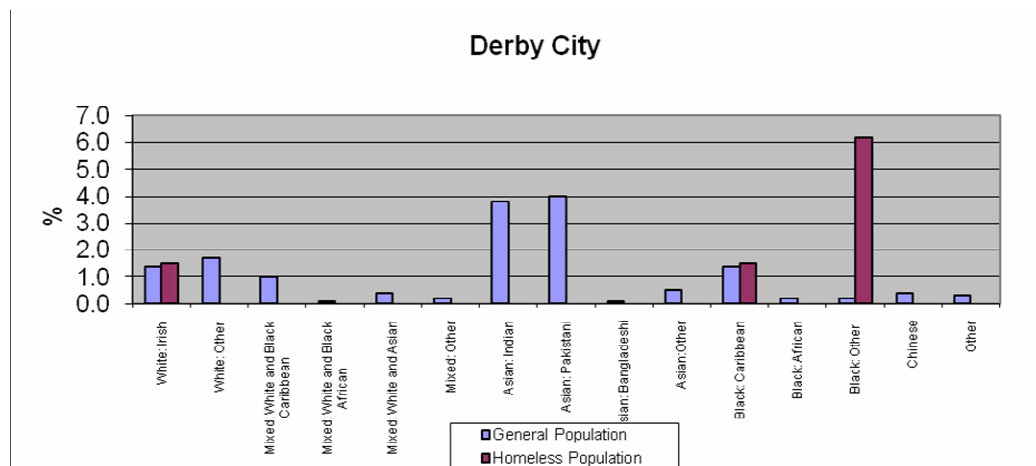


Figure 3.3 provides a breakdown by ethnicity of people presenting to the survey compared with the ethnic breakdown of the general population of the City – taken from 2001 Census data. Whilst numbers are low it shows a considerable over representation amongst the homeless population of people identifying their ethnic origin as Black/Black British:Other. People from this community represent only 0.2% of the population of the City but over 6% of those presenting to the survey as homeless.

3.4 Household structure

Key finding: No homeless children presented to the survey in Derby this year.

Table Six below shows that 48 or 75% of those presenting as homeless in Derby were single people. Two childless couples presented to the survey and no households with children. These figures compare with 68 or 75% presentations by single people last year and 9 households or 12% with children. Across Derbyshire as a whole 65% of presentations were made by single people and 29% families of all types. Survey findings for Derby City this year are therefore unusual in that no families presented as homeless.

It should be noted that 14 presentations were made for whom no data concerning their household status was recorded.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Kids)	48	75	65
Single Parent With Children			12
Couple With Children			10
Childless Couple	2	3	7
No Data Supplied	14	22	6
Total	64	100	100

4 Background and Support Needs

Key questions: What do homeless people need in addition to housing? How many spent time in the care of a local authority, and how many have other challenges in their lives that arise from, for instance, mental health problems or substance misuse?

4.1 Care leavers

Key finding: The number of care leavers presenting to the survey has fallen by 37.5% compared to last year – down from eight to five.

Tables Eight and Nine below provide data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in Derby or with a connection to the City. The data shows that there were five presentations by care leavers. This compares with 8 presentations last year – a reduction of 37.5%. All of the care leavers were aged 22 or over – which might say something about the lasting impact of the experience on the lives of those who have been through the care system. Four of the care leavers had been in care in Derby and one in 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	5
No Data Supplied	
Total	5

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Derbyshire	1
Derby City	4
Outside Derbyshire	
Total	5

4.2 Support Needs

Key findings: The most common support need reported by those presenting to the survey this year was a support need related to alcohol problems

The most common support need reported by those presenting to the survey this year was a support need related to alcohol problems - reported by 20 people who presented to the survey – or 30% of recorded needs. This compares with 15 people who reported this need last year. Across Derbyshire, 14% of people with support needs identified alcohol problems as a need.

17 presentations were made by people who reported a support need related to offending – compared with 23 last year. This was the most prevalent support need reported in 2008.

14 people (21%) reported a support need related to a drug problem – which compared with 22 people last year. Across Derbyshire as a whole drug problems as a support need were reported by 12% of those presenting with support needs.

As reported last year, Derby City’s Homeless Strategy Action Plan highlights that drug services in the City have been reconfigured and access to services improved.

The data at Table Ten shows that a support need related to a mental health issue was reported by 7 people presenting to the survey. This compares with 15 people reporting this need in 2008 – a fall of 47%.

A support need related to domestic violence was reported by only two presentations to the survey – the same number as last year.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Alcohol Problems	20	30	14
Ex-Offender	17	25	14
Drug Problems	14	21	12
Mental Health	7	10	10
Physically Disabled	3	4	2
Domestic Violence	2	3	7
Learning Difficulties	1	1	4
Other	2	3	11
No Data Supplied			1
Total	66	N/A	N/A

Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 32 presentations were made by homeless people in Derby who reported no support needs.

5 Current Living Situation

Key questions: Where do homeless people live? Where did they spend the previous night and where did they hope to spend the next night? How many people slept rough the previous night, where did they stay and for how long?

5.1 Previous night's accommodation

Key finding: 24 people spent the night prior to presenting to the survey sleeping rough – representing 36% of homeless people recorded by the survey.

The data at Table Eleven below shows that 24 people spent the night prior to presenting to the survey sleeping rough. Rough sleepers made up 36% of those presenting in Derby compared with only 16% of the County homeless population recorded by the 2009 survey.

Nine people spent the night prior to presenting at the home of a friend and three at their parent's home. One person reported being in hospital the night prior to presenting to the survey – and was therefore presumably discharged from hospital to homelessness.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Slept Rough	24	36	16
Friend's Home	9	13	25
Parents' Home	3	4	14
Own Home	2	3	18
Other Relative's Home	2	3	7
B&B Lodgings	2	3	2
Hostel	1	1	1
Hospital	1	1	1
Partner's Home			2
Grandparents' Home			1
Custody			1
Emergency Bed			1
Other			3
No Data Supplied	23	34	10
Total	67	100	100

Please note that 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 67 adult presentations including repeats.

5.2 Rough sleeping

Key findings: The number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey in or with a connection to Derby has increased from 17 last year to 24 in 2009 – an increase of 47%. Derby City recorded the highest number of rough sleepers for any area in the County this year.

The 2009 survey recorded 24 people as sleeping rough in or with a connection to Derby. This is an increase of 41% on the 17 rough sleepers recorded last year. Derby City recorded the highest number of rough sleepers of any area in the County in 2009. The second highest number was the 15 rough sleepers recorded in Chesterfield. This reverses the position reported in the 2008 survey report when Chesterfield recorded the highest number of rough sleepers and Derby the second highest. The increase in the number of rough sleepers in Derby runs counter to the trend for the County as a whole – where recorded rough sleeping has fallen by 28% compared with 2008.

The data at Table Twelve below shows that seven rough sleepers (29%) of the total reported sleeping in the open air – which compares with 45% of rough sleepers presenting to the survey across the County who reported doing so.

Table Thirteen indicates that 19 of the rough sleepers in Derby, or 80% of the total reported sleeping rough for more than one month and seven, or 30%, for more than three months. This indicates a considerable problem of entrenched rough sleeping in the City.

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	3	13	26
Sleeping In Open Air	7	29	45
Squat	2	8	4
Don't Know	2	8	4
No Data Supplied	10	42	1
Grand Total	24	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time Spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night	1	4	6
More than a night up to 1 week	1	4	19
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	1	4	4
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	10	42	32
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	2	8	4
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	3	13	9
More than 12 mths	4	17	15
Don't Know			4
No Data Supplied	2	8	6
Total	24	100	100

Table Fourteen provides a comparison with where people presenting to the survey spent the night prior to completing a survey form with where they expected to be sleeping the coming night. *Please note that the table includes repeat presentations since a person's circumstances could change over the course of the survey period.*

The data shows that 24 people spent the night before presenting sleeping rough and only eight reported expecting to do so the coming night – however, no data on the coming night's accommodation was recorded for nine rough sleepers and for 31 presentations in total.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of previous and coming night's 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																
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home	1			8												9
	Grandparent's																
	Hospital						1										1
	Hostel							1									1
	Other Relative's							2									2
	Own Home								1							1	2
	Parent's Home									1	1					1	3
	Partner's Home																
	Sleeping Rough				1			5					8		1	9	24
	Childrens Home or Foster Care																
	Other																
	No Data Supplied							2	1							20	23
Totals	2			10		1	8	4	1	1		8		1	31	67	

6 Conclusions

This report sets out some of the key findings for Derby City of the Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2009. The main report for Derbyshire can be used to compare the findings for the borough with other districts and with the County as a whole.

The report highlights some key differences between findings this year and in 2008 – the first year that the survey was carried out in Derbyshire, including Derby City. Of particular note are the findings that presentations by homeless adults are down by 20% compared to last year, no families presented as homeless in Derby this year compared to nine households including 13 children last year and presentations by people with a history of care are down from eight last year to five this year. There has also been a considerable decrease in numbers of homeless people from ethnic minority communities in the City recorded by the survey compared to last year.

However, the number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey in or with a connection to Derby has increased from 17 last year to 24 in 2009 – an increase of 47%. Derby City recorded the highest number of rough sleepers for any area in the County this year.

It is hoped that the report will be used by commissioners and service providers to help understand changing patterns of homelessness in Derby and make informed and effective responses to the issues highlighted here.

Appendix 1: Definitions used

The following definitions were used in this survey.

Homelessness: People were regarded as homeless if they 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).

Local connection: People had a local connection to a locality if

- Members of their immediate family lived there;
- They had lived there for 6 of the past 12 months or 3 of the past 5 years;
- They had formal employment in the area.

Adult: For the purposes of this survey, people were adults if they were aged 16 years or more.

Care leavers: the following definition has been used for care leavers:

“The expression ‘children in care’ refers both to children who are the subject of care orders and to children provided with accommodation by a local authority for more than 24 hours, either under section 20 or section 21 of the Children Act 1989, or who have been placed or authorised to be placed with prospective adopters by a local authority (but not a registered adoption society). Care Leavers are young people who have been in the care system and for whom the local authority has an ongoing responsibility once they have formally left care.” (p.1) [Available at: www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk]