

# Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Derbyshire

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



High Peak 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 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 that the survey has been carried out in Derbyshire, and should the survey be repeated in future years it can be expected that the response rate will increase.

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 High Peak borough. Nine agencies in High Peak participated in the survey by making returns.**

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 High Peak 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 High Peak area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to High Peak.

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 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 High Peak 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.

High Peak and Derbyshire Dales make up the Peak Sub Region. Together the two local authorities have developed a new joint homelessness strategy for the sub-region. The Peak Sub Region (Derbyshire Dales & High Peak) Homelessness Strategy 2009 – 2014 aims to reduce homelessness and ensure the prevention of future homelessness. The strategy highlights six key priorities for tackling homelessness:

1. Reduce and prevent homelessness in the Peak Sub Region
2. Provide suitable temporary accommodation for homeless people
3. Access to independence, settled housing and support
4. Prevent the loss of and provide access to high quality private sector rented accommodation
5. Increase the supply of affordable housing for homeless people
6. Improving monitoring procedures to inform future services and strategies.

A review of homelessness in the Peak Sub Region carried out to inform the new strategy found that the most common causes of homelessness amongst people who were accepted as homeless in the Peak Sub Region were:

- parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (25.8%),
- relationship breakdown (20.7%) (both violent and non-violent)
- loss of assured shorthold tenancies (35.9%).

The review highlighted that:

- homelessness due to the violent breakdown of a relationship involving a partner or an associated person is higher than the national average
- homelessness caused as a result of the termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancies is far greater than the national average.

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

## SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR HIGH PEAK

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

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Number</b><br>Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Adults</b>   | 61   |
| <b>Children</b> | 17   |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>78</b>  |

**Table One shows a total of 78 presentations by homeless people in High Peak or with a connection to the district comprising 61 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 17 dependent children.**

Please note: there were a total of 64 presentations to the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey by homeless adults in High Peak or reporting a connection to the borough including three repeat presentations.<sup>1</sup> Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats and use the 61 adults as the total figure except where it is useful to show the picture for all presentations eg to indicate potential changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period. High Peak recorded the third highest number of presentations of the nine local authorities in Derbyshire that participated in the Homeless Watch Survey 2009.

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

|   | <b>All in High Peak</b> | <b>High Peak – Rough Sleepers Only</b> |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Actual Presentations in High Peak</b>                    | 61                      | 9                                      |
| <b>Actual Presentations Outside High Peak</b>               | 3                       | 1                                      |
| <b>Presented in or with a local connection to High Peak</b> | <b>64</b>               | <b>10</b>                              |

<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.

Table One (a) shows that of the 64 total adult presentations made in High Peak or by those with a connection to the borough including the three repeats, 61 were made in High Peak itself and three in other areas.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to High Peak. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for High Peak by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 10**; nine of whom presented to the survey in High Peak itself and one in a different area. Rough sleepers made up over 15% of all presentations in or with a connection to High Peak and the borough recorded the third highest number of rough sleepers of the nine local authorities in Derbyshire.

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

| Local Authority Area    | Male      |            | Female    |            | Not Stated |            | Total     |            |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                         | No        | %          | No        | %          | No         | %          | No        | %          |
| <b>Chesterfield</b>     | 1         | 3          |           |            |            |            | 1         | 2          |
| <b>Derbyshire Dales</b> | 1         | 3          |           |            |            |            | 1         | 2          |
| <b>High Peak</b>        | 32        | 94         | 27        | 96         | 2          | 100        | 61        | 95         |
| <b>Not Stated</b>       |           |            | 1         | 4          |            |            | 1         | 2          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>34</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>100</b> |

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in High Peak or with a local connection to the borough actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the majority, 61 or 95% presented in High Peak itself with small numbers presenting in other areas.

*Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations, using the number of actual homeless adult individuals 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>      | 1         | 2         |                   | 3         |
| <b>18-24 Years Old</b>           | 7         | 8         | 1                 | 16        |
| <b>25-40 Years Old</b>           | 14        | 10        |                   | 24        |
| <b>41-59 Years Old</b>           | 4         | 4         | 1                 | 9         |
| <b>60 years old and over</b>     | 2         | 1         |                   | 3         |
| <b>No Date of Birth Supplied</b> | 4         | 2         |                   | 6         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>32</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>2</b>          | <b>61</b> |

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that three presentations were made by young homeless people under 18; two of whom were young women. Homeless people under 25 made up over 31% of those presenting to the survey.

The Peak Sub Region (Derbyshire Dales & High Peak) Homelessness Strategy 2009 – 2014 highlights ‘parent’s being unwilling or unable to accommodate’ as one of the three main causes of homelessness in the area. The Strategy Action Plans set out a number of priority actions to prevent and reduce homelessness amongst young people including:

- advise RSL’s on their obligation to provide tenancies to 16 & 17 year olds
- provide a “Crash-Pad” in the Derbyshire Dales
- achieve zero use of B&B for 16/17 year olds by 2010.

**Table Four: Gender**

| <b>Gender</b>     | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Male</b>       | 32            | 52         |
| <b>Female</b>     | 27            | 44         |
| <b>Not Stated</b> | 2             | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>61</b>     | <b>100</b> |

Table Four shows that 52% of those presenting to the survey as homeless in High Peak or with a connection to the borough were men and 44% were women. The proportions of men and women presenting as homeless across Derbyshire were 59% and 38% respectively - as set out in the main Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008.

**Table Five: Ethnic Origin**

| <b>Ethnic Origin</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>White: British</b> | 56            | 92         |
| <b>White: Irish</b>   | 1             | 2          |
| <b>White: Other</b>   | 2             | 3          |
| <b>Other</b>          | 2             | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>61</b>     | <b>100</b> |

The data at Table Five shows that five people of an ethnic origin other than White British presented as homeless in High Peak or with a connection to the borough. This represents over 8% of the total of presentations and might suggest an over-representation of ethnic minorities amongst the local homeless population. However, the numbers involved are too small to enable any conclusions to be drawn from the data.

## Homeless Households

**Table Six: Household Type**

| Household Type              | Number    | Percentage - High Peak | Percentage - Derbyshire |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Single Person (No Children) | 37        | 61                     | 70                      |
| Single Parent With Children | 11        | 18                     | 14                      |
| Couple With Children        | 5         | 8                      | 6                       |
| Childless Couple            | 7         | 11                     | 9                       |
| Not Stated                  | 1         | 2                      | 1                       |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>61</b> | <b>100</b>             | <b>100</b>              |

**Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children**

| Age of Children       | Number of Children in this Age Range |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0 - 4 Years Old       | 5                                    |
| 5 – 10 Years Old      | 4                                    |
| 11 – 15 Years Old     | 3                                    |
| 16 & 17 Years Old     | 2                                    |
| 18 Years Old and Over | 3                                    |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>17</b>                            |

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

The data within Table Six shows that 61% of presentations were made by single people and 26% 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 17 dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey. The review of homelessness in the Peak Sub Region carried out in 2007 found that the majority of households accepted as homeless and in priority need had dependent children.

## Homeless Care leavers in High Peak

**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            |                                      |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1</b>                             |

**Table Nine: Where people were in Care**

|                           | <b>Number of This Age With Care History</b> |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Derbyshire</b>         | 1   |
| <b>Derby City</b>         |   |
| <b>Outside Derbyshire</b> |   |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>1</b>                                    |

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in High Peak or with a connection to the borough. The data shows that there was only one presentation by a homeless person reporting a care history who was aged over 21 and had been in care in Derbyshire.

**Table Ten: Support Needs**

| <b>Support Needs</b>         | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percentage of Presentations- High Peak</b> | <b>Percentage - Derbyshire</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Drug Problem</b>          | 8             | 13  | 23                             |
| <b>Ex-Offender</b>           | 7             | 11  | 20                             |
| <b>Alcohol Problem</b>       | 7             | 11  | 13                             |
| <b>Mental Health</b>         | 5             | 8   | 13                             |
| <b>Domestic Violence</b>     | 5             | 8   | 6                              |
| <b>Learning Difficulties</b> | 3             | 5   | 4                              |
| <b>Physically Disabled</b>   | 3             | 5   | 3                              |
| <b>Other</b>                 | 5             | 8   | 10                             |
| <b>Not Stated</b>            | 1             | 2   | 1                              |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>44</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 High Peak alongside the support needs recorded for Derbyshire as a whole. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 35 presentations were made by homeless people in High Peak or with a connection to the borough who reported no support needs.

The data shows that 8 presentations (13% of the reported support needs) were made by people who reported a need related to a drug problem. This compares with 23% reporting such a need across Derbyshire as a whole. Seven presentations were made by those who reported support needs related to offending and seven by those with a need related to alcohol problems. The 2007 Homelessness Review highlighted a shortage of accommodation based services for single homeless people over the age of 18 in the Peak Sub Region for those with drug and alcohol problems.

Domestic violence was reported as a support need by five presentations – 8% of the total needs reported. The local Homelessness Strategy highlights domestic violence as one of the main causes of homelessness and the Action Plans identify working with partners to develop a County-wide Sanctuary scheme for victims of DV as a priority.

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

| <b>Where Person Spent the Previous Night</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percentage - High Peak</b> | <b>Percentage - Derbyshire</b> |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Parents' Home</b>                         | 13            | 20                            | 12                             |
| <b>Own Home</b>                              | 12            | 19                            | 15                             |
| <b>Slept Rough</b>                           | 10            | 16                            | 18                             |
| <b>Other Relative's Home</b>                 | 9             | 14                            | 10                             |
| <b>Friend's Home</b>                         | 8             | 13                            | 23                             |
| <b>B&amp;B Lodgings</b>                      | 2             | 3                             | 5                              |
| <b>Grandparents' Home</b>                    | 2             | 3                             | 2                              |
| <b>Partner's Home</b>                        | 1             | 2                             | 2                              |
| <b>Hostel</b>                                | 1             | 2                             | 3                              |
| <b>Hospital</b>                              | 1             | 2                             | 1                              |
| <b>Custody</b>                               |               |                               | 2                              |
| <b>Emergency Bed</b>                         |               |                               | 0                              |
| <b>Childrens Home or Foster care</b>         |               |                               | 0                              |
| <b>Other</b>                                 | 4             | 6                             | 4                              |
| <b>Not Stated</b>                            | 1             | 2                             | 2                              |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>64</b>     | <b>100</b>                    | <b>100</b>                     |

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in High Peak 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 64 adult presentations including repeats.

The table indicates that 13 or 20% of presentations spent the previous night at their parents' home which compares with 20% for the County and 12 (19%) spent the night in their own home, compared with 15% of those presenting to the survey across Derbyshire as a whole.

10 presentations were made by people who had spent the previous night sleeping rough. High Peak recorded the third highest number of rough sleepers of any area in Derbyshire.

## Rough sleeping in High Peak

**Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping**

| Slept Rough Type                      | Number    | Percentage - High Peak | Percentage - Derbyshire |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Building/Structure Not For Habitation | 6         | 60                     | 36                      |
| Sleeping In Open Air                  | 3         | 30                     | 45                      |
| Squat                                 | 1         | 10                     | 3                       |
| Don't Know                            |           |                        | 12                      |
| Not Stated                            |           |                        | 4                       |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                    | <b>10</b> | <b>100</b>             | <b>100</b>              |

**Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough**

| Time Rough Sleeping                | Number in This Category | Percentage - High Peak | Percentage - Derbyshire |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 night                            | 4                       | 40                     | 16                      |
| More than a night up to 1 week     | 2                       | 20                     | 30                      |
| More than 1 week and up to 1 month | 1                       | 10                     | 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 |                         |                        | 4                       |
| More than 12 mths                  | 1                       | 10                     | 7                       |
| Don't Know                         | 2                       | 20                     | 7                       |
| Not Stated                         |                         |                        | 1                       |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>10</b>               | <b>100</b>             | <b>100</b>              |

The data at Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in High Peak 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 10 – the third highest number for any area in Derbyshire. Nine of the rough sleepers presenting to the survey did so in High Peak and one in a different area.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that the majority of rough sleepers (60%) slept in a derelict building not fit for habitation compared with 36% for the County. Table Thirteen indicates that four of the rough sleepers had slept rough for only one night before participating in the survey.

**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                  | 1   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               | 1     | 2                |
|  | Custody                       |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       |                  |
|  | Emergency Bed                 |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       |                  |
|  | Friend's Home                 |   |         |               | 8             |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       | 8                |
|  | Grandparent's                 |   |         |               |               | 2            |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       | 2                |
|  | Hospital                      |   |         |               |               |              | 1        |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       | 1                |
|  | Hostel                        |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                | 1                             |       | 1                |
|  | Other Relative's              |   |         |               |               |              |          | 9      |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       | 9                |
|  | Own Home                      |   |         |               |               |              |          |        | 9                |          |              |                |                |                               | 3     | 12               |
|  | Parent's Home                 |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  | 10       |              |                |                |                               | 3     | 13               |
|  | Partner's Home                |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  | 1        |              |                |                |                               |       | 1                |
|  | Sleeping Rough                | 1   |         |               | 4             |              |          |        |                  |          | 2            |                | 2              |                               | 1     | 10               |
|  | Childrens Home or Foster Care |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               |       |                  |
|  | Other                         |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               | 3     | 4                |
|  | No Data Supplied              |   |         |               |               |              |          |        |                  |          |              |                |                |                               | 1     | 1                |
| Totals   | 2                             |   |         | 12            | 2             | 1            | 1        | 9      | 9                | 13       |              | 2              |                | 4                             | 9     | 64               |

Table Fourteen provides data comparing where those homeless people who took part in the survey spent the night prior to presenting with where they would spend the night following their contact with an agency.

It shows that:

- ten people spent the previous night sleeping rough and only two expected to sleep rough the coming night
- 13 presentations were made by those who had spent the previous night at the home of their parents and 13 expected to be with their parents the coming night
- eight presentations were made by those who had spent the previous night at the home of a friend and twelve expected to be staying with a friend the coming night.