

# Homeless Watch 2009

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in  
Derbyshire

28<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October



Derbyshire Dales – key data

HLG Resource Service

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Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

[www.hlg.org.uk](http://www.hlg.org.uk)

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## **Brief Summary**

In the light of the fact that there were only ten presentations by homeless adults in Derbyshire Dales and therefore there is very little data available for analysis, little attempt has been made to analyse the findings of the 2009 survey for the Derbyshire Dales district or draw comparisons with the findings for the district in 2008 – other than briefly below. This report presents the key data tables from the survey only.

10 homeless adults presented to the survey in Derbyshire Dales, this compares with eight last year. There were seven presentations by homeless children in the district compared with six last year.

There were no rough sleepers reporting in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district. This compares with two rough sleepers presenting in 2008.

## **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.

### **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.

## **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.

Derbyshire Dales and High Peak 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.

The data findings set out within this summary report can be considered alongside these strategic priorities.

## **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.

#### **1.4 How the findings have been presented**

In the light of the fact that there were only ten presentations by homeless adults in Derbyshire Dales and therefore there is very little data available, no attempt has been made to analyse the findings of the 2009 survey for the Derbyshire Dales district or draw comparisons with the findings for the district in 2008. This report presents the key data tables only.

## 2 Homeless people in Derbyshire Dales

### Key findings:

10 homeless adults presented to the survey in Derbyshire Dales, this compares with eight last year. There were seven presentations by homeless children in the district compared with six last year.

There were no rough sleepers reporting in Derbyshire Dales or with a connection to the district. This compares with two rough sleepers presenting in 2008.

### Key data tables:

Table One: Homeless People in Derbyshire Dales, Or With a Local Connection To The Area

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b> Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
<b>Adults</b>	10
<b>Children</b>	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	<b>All in Derbyshire Dales</b>	<b>Derbyshire Dales – Rough Sleepers Only</b>
<b>Actual Presentations in Derbyshire Dales</b>	10	0
<b>Actual Presentations Outside Derbyshire Dales</b>	0	0
<b>Presented in or with a local connection to Derbyshire Dales</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

Table Two: Area When Advice Was Received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Derbyshire Dales	3	100	7	100	10	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 &17 Years Old			
18-24 Years Old		2	2
25-40 Years Old	3	3	6
41-59 Years Old		2	2
60 years old and over			
No Date of Birth Supplied			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	3	30
Female	7	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	10	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Kids)	5	50	65
Single Parent With Children	2	20	12
Couple With Children	2	20	10
Childless Couple	1	10	7
No Data Supplied			6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</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	2
5 – 10 Years Old	4
11 – 15 Years Old	1
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 Years Old and Over	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

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
No Data Supplied	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

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

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Derbyshire Dales	Percentage - Derbyshire
Alcohol Abuse	2	20	14
Drug Abuse	1	10	12
Mental Health	1	10	10
Domestic Violence	1	10	7
Ex-Offender			14
Learning Difficulties			4
Physically Disabled			2
Other	2	20	11
No Data Supplied			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Please note: Three presentations reported no support needs.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

<b>Where Person Spent the Previous Night</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage - Derbyshire Dales</b>	<b>Percentage - Derbyshire</b>
Own Home	4	40	18
Friend's Home	2	20	25
Other Relative's Home	1	10	7
Slept Rough			16
Parents' Home			14
Partner's Home			2
B&B Lodgings			2
Grandparents' Home			1
Hostel			1
Custody			1
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			1
Other	2	20	3
No Data Supplied	1	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table Twelve: 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	1			1											2
	Grandparent's															
	Hospital															
	Hostel															
	Other Relative's							1								1
	Own Home								4							4
	Parent's Home															
	Partner's Home															
	Sleeping Rough															
	Childrens Home or Foster Care															
	Other											1			1	2
	No Data Supplied				1											1
Totals	1			2			1	4		1				1	10	

## 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](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk) ]