

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Gedling Borough Report

HLG Resource Service

March 2009

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

www.hlg.org.uk

Background

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2008 is the fifth 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).

The main report is complemented by a set of district reports which summarise survey findings for each of the seven boroughs and districts within the County, including Nottingham City.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the Gedling borough.

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 Nottinghamshire-wide Homeless Watch report. Figures in this report for Gedling 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 Gedling area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Gedling.

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 methodology is consistent with that used in some of the district based homelessness snapshot surveys that have taken place in previous years.

This is the fifth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report which focuses on the Gedling borough takes the opportunity to draw comparisons with data from previous years and where possible identify trends in local homelessness and related issues. Please note that data and findings from the survey report for 2004 have not been included since 2004 was the first year of the survey and the methodology and analysis has been refined and improved since then. Furthermore, considerably fewer agencies took part in the survey in 2004 than more recently. There is now four years reliable data available and it has been concluded by HLG that it is most useful to focus on findings from 2005 onwards.

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 Nottinghamshire
- 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.

Gedling Borough Council's new Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 states as its aims and objectives to:

- Review current provision, identifying areas of concern and make recommendations for progress
- Prevent homelessness
- Provide support for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness or need support to maintain a tenancy
- Promote partnership working
- Be holistic in its approach, recognising the need for both accommodation and support
- Place homelessness in the mainstream of funding and access to resources
- Feedback on key initiatives – e.g. the homelessness prevention tool kit.
- Enable service users to have more involvement and influence over how services are delivered.
- Safeguard children and young people
- Plan ahead by evaluating trends and analysing needs and gaps in provision.

The strategy puts a clear emphasis on prevention highlighting the approach of the borough to preventing homelessness at three key stages:

- early intervention, for those who may be at risk of homelessness
- pre-crisis intervention, when homelessness is imminent
- preventing recurring homelessness, for those who have been resettled.

The development of the strategy was informed by a Homelessness Review carried out between January and March 2008 by the Council's Housing Strategy team. The review highlights the major causes of homelessness in Gedling as:

- Parents/family no longer able to accommodate
- Loss of rented accommodation
- Violence and harassment.

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

[NB: For the purposes of brevity this report refers to all presentations by homeless people in or with a connection to Gedling as those 'presenting in Gedling']

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR GEDLING BOROUGH

Table One: Homeless People in Gedling or with a Local Connection to the borough

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	61
Children	38
Total	99

There were a total 63 presentations by homeless adults in Gedling or reporting a connection to the borough including 2 repeat presentations.¹ Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats except where it is useful to show the picture for all presentations and helpful to indicate potential changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period.

Table One shows a total of 99 presentations by homeless people in Gedling or with a connection to the borough comprising 61 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 38 dependent children.

160 homeless people including 93 adults and 67 dependent children presented as homeless in Gedling or with a connection to the borough during the survey period last year and last year's report highlighted an increasing trend in numbers of homeless people in Gedling recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey. In 2006 the survey recorded 100 presentations by homeless people including 57 adults and 43 dependent children and the figures for 2005 showed a total of 58, including 45 adults and 13 dependent children.

The number of presentations by homeless people in 2008 is down by approximately 38% on numbers presenting last year. The number of homeless adults recorded this year is down by over 34% on numbers recorded last year. The number of homeless children recorded in 2008 is down by 43% compared with last year. However, the number of homeless children is almost three times higher than recorded in 2005.

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.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Gedling	Gedling – Rough Sleepers Only
Presentations in Gedling	42	1
Presentations outside Gedling	21	3
Presented in or with a local connection to Gedling	63	4

Table One (a) shows that of the 63 total adult presentations made in Gedling or by those with a connection to the borough including repeats, 42 were made in Gedling itself and 21 outside the borough.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Gedling. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the district by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was four**; one of whom presented in Gedling itself and three outside the borough. The total of four rough sleepers represents a notable decrease on the 11 rough sleepers who presented to the survey last year and compares with five in 2006 and seven in 2005.

The number of rough sleepers in 2008 is the lowest recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey in Gedling.

Table Two: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ashfield	2	6					2	3
Gedling	16	52	25	81	1	100	42	67
Mansfield	11	35	3	10			14	22
Newark & Sherwood	2	6	1	3			3	5
Nottingham City			1	3			1	2
Rushcliffe			1	3			1	2
Total	31	100	31	100	1	100	63	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Gedling or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the majority, 42 or 67% presented in Gedling itself; 14 in Mansfield (22%) and small numbers in other districts.

The following tables have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations, using the number of actual individuals rather than presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	1	3		4
18-24 Years Old	8	15		23
25-40 Years Old	11	5	1	17
41-59 Years Old	7	2		9
60 years old and over	1	1		2
No Date of Birth Supplied	2	4		6
Total	30	30	1	61

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). Only four presentations were made by young homeless people under 18; three of whom were young women. Seven presentations were made by homeless young people under 18 last year and 12 in 2006.

23 of those presenting in 2008 were aged under 25 compared with 44 last year. The Homeless Watch Survey Report last year highlighted a notable increase in the number of homeless adults aged between 18 and 40 compared to figures recorded for 2006 with 71 in 2007 and 31 in 2006. The total within this age range for 2008 was 40.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	30	49
Female	30	49
Not Stated	1	2
Total	61	100

Table Four shows an equal gender split amongst those presenting as homeless in Gedling; with 49% of presentations made by men and the same proportion by women. One presentation was made where no gender information was recorded. These figures compare with a gender breakdown of 59% men and 39% women for the County as a whole.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1	2
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	2	3
Black/Black British: African	1	2
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	2
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	2	3
White: British	51	84
White: Irish	1	2
Other	1	2
Not Stated	1	2
Total	61	100

UK Census data from 2001 shows that 6.1% of the population of Gedling were of a non White British ethnic origin. The data at Table Five shows that 9 presentations or almost 15% of the total were made by homeless people with an ethnic origin other than White British. The figures recorded last year were six presentations (or 6%). Whilst the figures this year show an increase in presentations by homeless people from ethnic minorities, the numbers involved remain small and therefore it would be unsafe to draw any particular conclusions from the data at this stage.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Kids)	41	67	75
Single Parent With Children	12	20	14
Couple With Children	7	11	7
Childless Couple			3
Not Stated	1	2	1
Total	61	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	21
5 – 10 Years Old	8
11 – 15 Years Old	7
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	38

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

The data within Table Six shows that 67% of presentations were made by single people and 31% by households with children – these figures compare with 75% and 21% for the County as a whole.

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child. As highlighted above, the 38 homeless dependent children recorded this year is down by 43% compared with last year though the number of children is almost three times higher than the 13 recorded in 2005.

Homeless Care leavers in Gedling

Table Eight: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	2
22 Years Old and Over	3
Not stated	0
Total	5

Table Nine: Where People were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Nottinghamshire	2
Nottingham City	1
Outside Notts	1
Not Stated	1
Total	5

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless care leavers reporting to the survey.

Table Eight shows that there were five presentations by homeless people with care histories in Gedling or with a connection to the borough. This figure compares with 13 recorded last year and is much closer to the seven care leavers recorded in 2006 and in 2005.

Table Nine provides a breakdown of where homeless care leavers had been in care.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Domestic Violence	9	15	8
Drug Abuse	8	14	28
Ex-Offender	8	14	20
Mental Health	6	10	17
Alcohol Abuse	6	10	17
Learning Difficulties	4	7	8
Physically Disabled	1	2	2
Other	5	8	12
Total	47	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 24 presentations (38%) reported no support needs.

Nine presentations (15%) were made by people reporting a support need related to domestic violence. This figure compares with five last year and eight in 2006. The proportion of presentations in Gedling reporting this need is almost twice that for the County as a whole. Violence and harassment is highlighted within the Gedling Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 as one of the major causes of homelessness in the borough.

Consistent with previous years the proportion of presentations reporting a support need related to drug misuse is half that recorded across the County and in most instances the proportions of presentations with particular needs are lower than for the County as a whole.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	19	30	27
Parents' Home	13	21	12
Own Home	11	17	10
Other Relative's Home	6	10	7
Slept Rough	4	6	24
Custody	2	3	2
Other	2	3	3
Hostel	1	2	4
B&B Lodgings	1	2	1
Grandparents' Home	1	2	1
Partner's Home	1	2	3
Hospital	1	2	1
Not Stated	1	2	3
Emergency Bed	0	0	1
Childrens' Home or Foster care	0	0	0
Total	63	100	100

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

The table indicates that 30% of presentations spent the previous night at a friend's home which compares closely with the 27% for the County and 21% spent the previous night at their parents' home compared with only 12% for the County as a whole. 17% of presentations recorded spending the previous night in their own home compared with only 10% for the County. The issue of homelessness as a result of the loss of rented accommodation is highlighted in the Gedling Homelessness Strategy 2008-13.

The percentage of those reporting spending the previous night sleeping rough at only 6% is a quarter of the proportion recorded as sleeping rough the night prior to presenting to the survey across the County as a whole.

The data also shows that two presentations were made by people who spent the previous night in custody and one who reported being in hospital the previous night.

Rough Sleeping in Gedling

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	25	24
Sleeping In Open Air	3	75	51
Squat			9
Don't Know			9
Not Stated			7
Total	4	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Gedling	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night			9
More than a night up to 1 week	2	50	18
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			18
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths			12
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths			9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	2	50	12
More than 12 mths			14
Don't Know			5
Not Stated			3
Total	4	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide details of rough sleeping in Gedling as recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2008. They show that four people reported sleeping rough in Gedling or with a connection to the borough during the survey period. This compares with eleven last year, five in 2006 and seven in 2005.

Only one of the four rough sleepers presenting to agencies participating in the survey actually did so in Gedling with the remaining three presenting in other areas.

Table Thirteen indicates that two of the four rough sleepers had been sleeping rough for between six months and a year.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Children's Home or Foster care	Custody	Emergency Bed	Friend's Home	Grandparents' Home	Hospital	Hostel	Other Relative's Home	Own Home	Parents' Home	Partner's Home	Sleeping Rough	Other	No Data Supplied	Total
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings					1											1
	Children's Home or Foster care																0
	Custody			1												1	2
	Emergency Bed																0
	Friend's Home	1			1	12					1		1	1	2		19
	Grandparents' Home						1										1
	Hospital							1									1
	Hostel								1								1
	Other Relative's Home									5		1					6
	Own Home										11						11
	Parents' Home	2							1		1	9					13
	Partner's Home												1				1
	Slept Rough	1												3			4
	Other	1													1		2
	No Data Supplied													1			1
Total	5	0	1	1	13	1	1	2	5	12	11	1	5	2	3	63	

Table Fourteen enables a comparison of where homeless people presenting to the survey in or with a connection to Gedling spent the previous night with data about their expected housing circumstances for the coming night. Please note that these figures are for all adult presentations including repeats.

The data shows that:

- four people spent the previous night sleeping rough and five expected to do so the coming night
- 19 people spent the previous night at the home of a friend and 13 people expected to be with friends the coming night
- one person spent the previous night in a hostel and two expected to be in a hostel the coming night and one person found emergency accommodation for the coming night.