

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



South Derbyshire Report

HLG Resource Service
April 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 South Derbyshire district. Two agencies in South 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 South 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 South Derbyshire area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to South 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 South 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 South Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy 2007-12 aims *“to prevent homelessness by ensuring that South Derbyshire residents have access to affordable accommodation and support to sustain a home”*.

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation in circumstances other than in an emergency
- limit the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households
- work with stakeholders to ensure an adequate supply of affordable homes
- ensure that residents have access to affordable appropriate services to support them through a homeless crisis and to prevent the re-occurrence of homelessness
- ensure that all vulnerable people have the same access to appropriate and stable housing as non-vulnerable people.

The strategy has five key themes set out below and each theme has its own action plan:

1. Increasing supply of affordable housing
2. Make better use of existing housing stock
3. Preventing Homelessness
4. Temporary/supported accommodation
5. Reviews.

The strategy document identifies the violent breakdown of a relationship involving a partner as the main reason for homelessness in the district in 2006/07, followed very closely by parents no longer willing or able to accommodate and non-violent relationship breakdown.

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

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT

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

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	13
Children	2
Total	15

Table One shows a total of 15 presentations by homeless people in South Derbyshire or with a connection to the district comprising 13 adults (after any repeat presentations have been removed) and two dependent children.

Please note: A total of 14 adults presented to the survey for South Derbyshire including one repeat presentation.¹ Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats and use the **13 adults as the total figure** except where it is useful to show the picture for all presentations e.g. to indicate potential changes in the circumstances of those presenting during the survey period.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in South Derbyshire	14	2
Presentations Outside South Derbyshire	0	0
Presented in or with a local connection to South Derbyshire	14	2

Table One (a) shows that all 14 presentations to the survey by homeless people were made in the district itself.

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 table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to South 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. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was two**; both of whom presented to the survey in South Derbyshire itself. Rough sleepers therefore made up just over 14% of all adult presentations in or with a connection to the borough.

Table Two: Area where presentation made to survey

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
South Derbyshire	7	100	7	100			14	100
Total	7	100	7	100			14	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in South Derbyshire or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that all 14 presentations (100%), including the one repeat presentation, were made in South Derbyshire itself.

Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations, using the number of actual homeless adult individuals (13) rather than total presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old		1		1
18-24 Years Old	3	1		4
25-40 Years Old	4	2		6
41-59 Years Old		2		2
60 years old and over				
No Date of Birth Supplied				
Total	7	6		13

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that there was only one presentation by a homeless young person under 18, a young woman and that five presentations (38%) were made by those under 25. This data indicates an age profile similar to that recorded for the County as a whole where 39% of the presentations to the survey were made by homeless people aged under 25 years.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	7	54
Female	6	46
Not Stated		
Total	13	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of those presenting as homeless in South Derbyshire. The data shows that 54% of those presenting to the survey were men and 46% were women. This compares closely with the proportions of men and women presentations across Derbyshire set out in the main Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 of 60% and 40% respectively.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	8
White: British	12	92
Total	13	100

Table Five provides a breakdown of homeless people presenting to the Homeless Watch Survey in South Derbyshire by ethnic origin. It shows only one presentation was made by a person of an ethnic origin other than White British.

Household Type

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - South Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Kids)	7	54	70
Single Parent With Children	2	15	14
Couple With Children			6
Childless Couple	4	31	9
Not Stated			1
Total	13	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	
5 – 10 Years Old	1
11 – 15 Years Old	1
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 Years Old and Over	
Total	2

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

The data within Table Six shows that 85% of presentations were made households without children and only 15% by households with children – compared with 20% of presentations by households with dependent children for Derbyshire as a whole. Only 9% of presentations across the County were made by childless couples compared with 31% in South Derbyshire.

Table Seven sets out data on the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child and shows only two dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey.

Homeless Care leavers in South Derbyshire

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 – 21 Years Old	1
22 Years Old and Over	
Not stated	
Total	1

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

Derbyshire	
Derby City	
Outside Derbyshire	1
Total	1

Tables Eight and Nine provide information on homeless care leavers and show that only one person with a care history presented as homeless in South Derbyshire.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- South Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Learning Difficulties	5	36	4
Mental Health	4	29	13
Drug Problem	3	21	23
Ex-Offender	2	14	20
Alcohol Problem	1	7	13
Domestic Violence	1	7	6
Physically Disabled			3
Other	2	14	10
Not Stated			1
Total	18	N/A	N/A

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

The data shows that five presentations reported a support need related to a learning difficulty - 36% of the recorded support needs. This compares with only 4% of presentations across the County reporting such a support need and merits further investigation. The South Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy 2007-12 identifies tackling homelessness amongst people with learning difficulties as an 'amber issue' for the district – i.e. an issue where measures are in place but where there is room for improvement.

Four presentations were made by people reporting a support need related to a mental health problem, comprising 29% of the needs reported compared with only 13% for the County. Three presentations (21% 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. The local Homelessness Strategy identifies homelessness amongst people with a combination of mental health, drug and alcohol problems as a 'red issue' – defined as 'a big issue in the district that needs addressing urgently'.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - South Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Parents' Home	2	14	12
Own Home	2	14	15
Friend's Home	2	14	23
Other Relative's Home	2	14	10
Slept Rough	2	14	18
B&B Lodgings	1	7	5
Hostel	1	7	3
Custody	1	7	2
Partner's Home			2
Grandparents' Home			2
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			0
Childrens Home or Foster care			0
Other			4
Not Stated	1	7	2
Total	14	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in South Derbyshire or with a local connection to the district (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night. Please note that the table presents the data for all presentations including the one repeat.

The data indicates that two people (14%) spent the night sleeping rough, compared with 18% for Derbyshire as a whole and that only 14% of presentations were made by those who spent the previous night at the home of a friend compared with 23% for the County.

Rough Sleeping in South Derbyshire

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - South Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	50	36
Sleeping In Open Air	1	50	45
Squat			3
Don't Know			12
Not Stated			4
Grand Total	2	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - South Derbyshire	Percentage – Derbyshire
1 night			16
More than a night up to 1 week	1	50	30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month			6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	1	50	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			7
Don't Know			7
Not Stated			1
Total	2	100	100

The data at Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in South 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 two, both of whom presented in the district itself. Table Thirteen indicates that one of the rough sleepers had been sleeping rough for more than one month.

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	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	1															1
	Custody		1														1
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home	1			1												2
	Grandparent's																
	Hospital																
	Hostel							1									1
	Other Relative's	2															2
	Own Home								1							1	2
	Parent's Home	1								1							2
	Partner's Home																
	Sleeping Rough							1				1					2
	Childrens Home or Foster Care																
	Other																
	No Data Supplied										1						1
Totals	5	1		1			1	1	1	2		1			1	14	

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

The data indicates that:

- one person spent the previous night in bed and breakfast accommodation and five people expected to be in B&B the night after presenting to a participating agency
- two people slept rough the night before presenting to the survey and only one person expected to do so the following night.

A key objective of the Homelessness Strategy for South Derbyshire is to end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation in circumstances other than in an emergency.