

Homeless Watch 2009

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

28th September to 11th October



North East Derbyshire – key data

HLG Resource Service

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Copies of this report are available on the Internet at:

www.hlg.org.uk

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Brief Summary

In the light of the fact that there were only twelve presentations by homeless adults in North East Derbyshire and therefore there is very little data available for analysis, this report makes little attempt to analyse the findings of the 2009 survey for the NE Derbyshire district or draw comparisons with the findings for the district in 2008 – other than briefly below. The report presents the key data tables from the survey only.

12 homeless adults presented to the survey as homeless in North East Derbyshire or with a connection to the district; this compares with 23 presentations by homeless adults last year – a fall of over 47% since then. No children presented as homeless in the district this year – compared with 19 in 2008.

There were no rough sleepers reporting in North East Derbyshire or with a connection to the district. This compares with seven rough sleepers last year – three of whom presented in the district itself and four in other Derbyshire local authority areas but reported a local connection to NE Derbyshire.

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.

The key objectives of the NE Derbyshire District Council Homelessness Strategy 2008 are to:

- prevent homelessness
- improve services to all homeless people
- work effectively with all agencies to deliver solutions to housing problems
- maximise available accommodation and support in all sectors
- close the gaps in services identified by the Homelessness Review.

The data set out within this report can be considered alongside these objectives.

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

2 Homeless people in North East Derbyshire

Key findings:

12 homeless adults presented to the survey in North East Derbyshire, this compares with 23 presentations by homeless adults last year – a fall of over 47% since then. No children presented as homeless in the district this year – compared with 19 in 2008.

There were no rough sleepers reporting in North East Derbyshire or with a connection to the district. This compares with seven rough sleepers last year – three of whom presented in the district itself and four in other Derbyshire local authority areas but reported a local connection to NE Derbyshire.

Key data tables:

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

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	12
Children	0
Total	12

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in North East Derbyshire	North East Derbyshire – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in North East Derbyshire	5	0
Actual Presentations Outside North East Derbyshire	7	0
Presented in or with a local connection to North East Derbyshire	12	0

Table Two: Area When Advice Was Received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Chesterfield	7	64			7	58
North East Derbyshire	4	36	1	100	5	42
Total	11	100	1	100	12	100

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 &17 Years Old	1		1
18-24 Years Old	2		2
25-40 Years Old	3	1	4
41-59 Years Old	3		3
60 years old and over	1		1
No Date of Birth Supplied	1		1
Total	11	1	12

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	11	92
Female	1	8
Total	12	100

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	12	100
Total	12	100

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Kids)	12	100	65
Single Parent With Children			12
Couple With Children			10
Childless Couple			7
No Data Supplied			6
Total	12	100	100

Table Seven: 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	1
No Data Supplied	
Total	2

Table Eight: Where People Were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Derbyshire	1
Derby City	
Outside Derbyshire	1
Total	2

Table Nine: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Ex-Offender	5	42	14
Alcohol Abuse	3	25	14
Drug Abuse	2	17	12
Mental Health	2	17	10
Learning Difficulties	2	17	4
Physically Disabled			2
Domestic Violence			7
Other			11
No Data Supplied			1
Total	14	N/A	N/A

Please note: Four presentations were made by people who reported no support needs.

Table Ten: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - North East Derbyshire	Percentage - Derbyshire
Friend's Home	8	67	25
Parents' Home	2	17	14
Own Home	1	8	18
Other Relative's Home	1	8	7
Slept Rough			16
Hostel			1
Partner's Home			2
B&B Lodgings			2
Grandparents' Home			1
Custody			1
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			1
Other			3
No Data Supplied			10
Total	12	100	100

Table Eleven: 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																
	Custody																
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home	1			7												8
	Grandparent's																
	Hospital																
	Hostel																
	Other Relative's								1								1
	Own Home								1								1
	Parent's Home									2							2
	Partner's Home																
	Sleeping Rough																
	Childrens Home or Foster Care																
	Other																
	No Data Supplied																
Totals	1			7					2	2						12	

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]