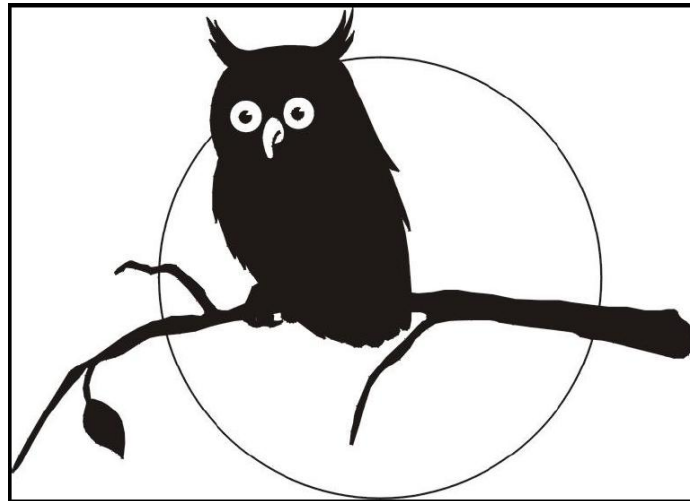


Homeless Watch 2006

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

18th September to 1st October 2006



Nottingham City Council Mini Report

HLG Resource Service

Mar 2007

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at

www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

Background:

The local authorities in Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham City) together identified the need for a third annual survey of homelessness in Nottinghamshire; intended to further the knowledge and understanding of homelessness in the county and the housing and support needs of those people who present as homeless.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2006 was commissioned as a result. The survey findings will be used to inform the review of Homelessness Strategies for each of the eight local authority areas in the County. The findings will also be used by other statutory agencies, including for example the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to inform complementary strategies.

The Homeless Watch Survey 2006 and the development of this report have been undertaken under the supervision of the Homeless Watch Steering Group, which comprises representatives from each of the local authorities in Nottinghamshire including the unitary authority Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the voluntary sector. The format of the survey has been developed by the steering group, based on a form used successfully in previous surveys of this type.

The 2006 survey provides an opportunity both to identify, analyse and understand levels of homelessness and the needs of homeless people in Nottinghamshire at present and to build on the surveys undertaken in the two previous years to identify and analyse trends and changes in homelessness in the county in the last three years.

In addition to the main Homeless Watch report, which covers the results from the snapshot survey for the whole of Nottinghamshire, a series of eight mini reports have been produced, summarising the main findings for each of the eight local authority areas in Nottinghamshire. The main report and the district reports are all available for download from the Homeless Watch website at www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm.

For the purpose of these mini 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 Nottingham City Council are based on presentations by people who were either recorded by the Homeless Watch survey as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in Nottingham **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Nottingham.

A local connection was 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 methodology is consistent with that used in some of the district based homelessness snapshot surveys that have taken place in previous years, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield.

Total numbers of homeless people including children

Table 1: Homeless people in Nottingham or with a local connection to the city

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	401
Children	78
Total	479

There were a total of 456 presentations by homeless adults in Nottingham or by those with a local connection to the city as defined above, with 55 duplicate presentations. After removing duplicates, Table One shows a total of 479 presentations by homeless people including 401 adults and 78 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 644 in 2005, including 541 adults and 103 dependent children; indicating a notable reduction in levels of homelessness compared to the survey findings last year. Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove any duplicate presentations, using the total of individuals rather than presentations unless otherwise stated.

Gender

Table 2: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Female	150	37
Male	238	59
Not Stated	13	3
Total	401	100

Table Two shows the gender breakdown of homeless people presenting during the survey fortnight. The data indicates that 59% of homeless individuals presenting in Nottingham or with a connection to the city were men compared to 58% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Age

Table 3: Age of presenting adults

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	17	18	2	37
18-24 Years Old	51	38	6	95
25-40 Years Old	114	53	4	171
41-59 Years Old	41	16	1	58
60 years old and over	3	0	0	3
No Date of Birth Supplied	12	25	0	37
Total	238	150	13	401

Table Three shows that 9% of those presenting as homeless in Nottingham or with a connection to the city (excluding dependent children) were under 18, compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire and just over 7% in 2005. The gender split amongst homeless people under 18 was roughly equal. Homeless adults aged under 25 represented 33% of total individuals presenting compared with 40% for the county. No under 16 year olds presented as homeless in their own right.

Ethnic Origin

Table 4: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
White: British	289	72
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	22	5
Black/Black British: Caribbean	17	4
Other	12	3
White: Other	10	2
Asian/Asian British: Other	10	2
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	7	2
Mixed: Other	7	2
Black/Black British: African	7	2
White: Irish	5	1
Black/Black British: Other	2	1
Mixed: White & Black African	1	0
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1	0
Chinese	1	0
Not Stated	10	2
Total	401	100

Table Four shows that for Nottingham City around 24% of those presenting were of an ethnic origin other than White British (with 2% where no data was supplied). *(Please note that figures in the percentage column are rounded down to the nearest whole number).* The 2001 census data for Nottingham City shows that 81.1% of Nottingham's population classed themselves as White British with only 15.1% from non-white ethnic groups. The data indicates therefore that that people from a non White British ethnic origin are more likely to have presented as homeless than would be expected given the census profile.

The findings for Nottingham reflect those for the county as a whole where 16.5% of people presenting as homeless were of an ethnic origin other than White British, double the percentage figure for the general population from Black and Minority Ethnic (B&ME) communities in the 2001 census data (8.2%).

This issue is highlighted as a concern within the main survey report.

Household Type

Table 5: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage – Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	369	81	76
Single Parent With Children	32	7	12
Childless Couple	21	5	4
Couple With Children	16	4	5
Not Stated	18	4	3
Total	456	100	100

There is some inconsistency in the data recorded by agencies with different household types recorded for the same person. This makes it difficult to remove any duplicates and therefore the figures shown are for the total of presentations (excluding children) rather than individuals. The data within table five shows that 81% of presentations were by single people compared with 76% for Nottinghamshire and only 7% by single parents compared with 12% for the county as a whole. The proportion of single parents with children shows a notable reduction since last year with 7% (32 presentations) compared with a figure of 11% (68 presentations) for 2005.

Children

Table 6: Age & number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	41
5 – 10 Years Old	22
11 – 15 Years Old	11
16 & 17 Years Old	3
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	78

Table Six shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the children. A total of 78 dependent children were recorded within the data for Nottingham compared with 103 in 2005, indicating a notable reduction compared to last year. The majority of children (52.5%) were under five.

The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families has been highlighted nationally by Shelter in 2006, the 40th anniversary of the BBC film 'Cathy Come Home'. Shelter report the fact that across England, almost 130,000 homeless children are having their health, education and future chances seriously damaged by the lack of a safe, permanent home.

Care leavers

Table 7: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	6
18 – 21 Years Old	7
22 Years Old and Over	30
No Date of Birth Provided	4
Total	47

Table Seven shows that a total of 47 care leavers presented as homeless in Nottingham or with a local connection to the city representing just over 11% of individuals – the same proportion as for Nottinghamshire overall. 26 of the care leavers were in care in Nottingham City, nine in Nottinghamshire and twelve outside the county. In 2005, 76 people are recorded as having been in the care of the local authority as a young person indicating a notable reduction this year.

The issue of homelessness amongst care leavers is highlighted in the main survey report.

Support Needs

Table 8: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	166	36	29
Alcohol Abuse	118	26	18
Ex-Offender	112	25	22
Mental Health	107	23	17
Domestic Violence	61	13	10
Learning Difficulties	42	9	8
Physically Disabled	13	3	4
Not Stated	5	1	1
Other	36	8	9
Total	660	N/A	N/A

Table Eight records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. As different data is recorded by agencies for different presentations by the same person, these figures are based on all presentations rather than the number of individuals. Please note that people could record more than one support need.

The support needs of those in or connected to Nottingham vary from the figures for the whole of Nottinghamshire. In most instances higher levels of support needs amongst the homeless population are recorded for the city. For example, the percentages of people requesting support due to drug and alcohol misuse are notably higher than for the county. The figures presented in table eight are very similar to findings for Nottingham in last year's survey report.

Responses to a separate question that asked whether a person had any support needs show that in the case of 95 presentations (21%) the person specifically stated no support needs.

Where people spent the previous night

Table 9: Previous night's accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage – Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	168	37	27
Friend's Home	113	25	25
Parents' Home	31	7	11
Hostel	28	6	5
Own Home	25	5	9
Other Relative's Home	19	4	6
Custody	14	3	2
B&B Lodgings	9	2	2
Partner's Home	8	2	2
Emergency Bed	6	1	1
Hospital	4	1	2
Grandparents' Home	2	0	1
Social Services	1	0	0
Other	15	3	3
Not Stated	13	3	3
Total	456	100	100

Table Nine provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Nottingham or with a local connection to the district spent the previous night. As 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 presentations (excluding dependent children) rather than the 401 individuals who were homeless.

168 presentations were made by people who indicated that they spent the previous night sleeping rough. The percentage of rough sleepers at 37% is notably higher than the 27% recorded across Nottinghamshire. The data for rough sleepers compares with 194 presentations (30% of the total) in 2005. Only 5% of presentations were made by people who spent the previous night in their own home compared with 9% for the county. 25 presentations representing 2% of total were made by those who spent the previous night in Bed and Breakfast – the same proportion as for the county as a whole.

Rough sleeping in Nottingham

Table 10: Nature of rough sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage – Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Sleeping in Open Air	98	58	55
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	39	23	27
Squat	12	7	8
Don't Know/Not Stated	19	11	10
Total	168	100	100

Table 11: Time spent rough sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage – Nottingham City	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	9	5	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	32	19	19
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	28	17	16
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	34	20	23
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	24	14	12
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	10	6	7
More than 12 Months	22	13	14
Not Stated/Don't Know	9	6	5
Total	168	100	100

It is important to note that there are significant differences in levels of rough sleeping identified by the survey compared to those identified in the annual headcounts of rough sleepers carried out by local authorities, and in particular Nottingham City. The data at table nine shows that 168 presentations were made by people who indicated that they spent the previous night sleeping rough. The most recent Nottingham City headcount found only 2 people sleeping rough. The difference can be explained to a degree by the very different methodologies used. It is not useful to speculate here which figures provide the most accurate picture of true levels of rough sleeping. However, the mismatch between the two sets of findings is unhelpful and is the subject of a recommendation in the main survey report.

Of the presentations made by those in or with a connection to Nottingham City who indicated that they had slept rough the previous night 145 presented in Nottingham itself; 12 in Rushcliffe and the remainder elsewhere/not stated.

Tables Ten and eleven provide more detailed information on the levels and nature of rough sleeping in Nottingham identified by the survey. Table Ten indicates that rough sleepers in (or with a connection to) Nottingham are slightly more likely to sleep in the open air and less likely to sleep in a squat than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. However, it is unlikely, based on common sense observations, that those rough sleepers indicating they slept rough in the open air were doing so in or around the

city centre. Table Eleven shows a very similar breakdown of periods spent sleeping rough by those presenting in or with a connection to Nottingham as for those across Nottinghamshire.

Table 12: Comparison of previous and coming night's 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	Social Services	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	9
	Custody	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	14
	Emergency Bed	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
	Friend's Home	0	0	1	90	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	5	0	4	4	113
	Grandparent's	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Hospital	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
	Hostel	0	0	0	0	0	2	18	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	28
	Other Relative's	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	19
	Own Home	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	15	0	0	0	0	1	4	25
	Parent's Home	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	5	31
	Partner's Home	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	8
	Sleeping Rough	0	0	1	5	0	1	14	1	0	0	1	138	0	3	4	168
	Social Services	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	15
	No Data Supplied	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8	13
	Totals	2	9	11	107	1	3	54	14	16	18	2	154	0	23	42	456

For the 2005 Survey, a new question was introduced to enable comparison of where a person spent the previous night with data about their expected housing circumstances the coming night and the question was repeated this year. Table 12 summarises these responses. Please note that these figures are for all presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than individuals.

Some interesting points that can be drawn from the data are as follows:

- Of the 168 presentations made by people who indicated that they slept rough the night before completing the survey, 154 expected to sleep rough the coming night. 14 rough sleepers were found hostel places.
- 28 people spent the previous night staying in a hostel whilst 54 expected to be able to do so the coming night, including the 14 who had slept rough the previous night noted above.
- 14 people spent the previous night in custody whilst nine expected to be in custody the coming night.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of the recommendations in this year's report repeat or restate those from last year. It is clear from the analysis of this year's survey findings, set out below, that many of the issues and problems highlighted reflect or repeat those highlighted in the survey reports for 2004 and 2005. Whilst this is not a surprise, in that it would not be sensible to expect radical change in the profile of homelessness in Nottinghamshire in one year, or even two, it is a cause for concern. The recommendations in this report focus on issues highlighted in previous years but seek to develop new approaches aimed at finding solutions to persistent problems.

Recommendation One

The County Housing and Homeless Network takes responsibility for monitoring the implementation of county-wide recommendations from this year's survey, developing action plans and involving county-wide bodies such as the County Council, Supporting People and the DAAT as necessary. In the City, the Homelessness Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) takes responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the report.

Recommendation Two

The findings of the 2006 Homeless Watch survey are used to inform the review of each local authority's Homelessness Strategy and each Supporting People Administering Authority's Five Year Strategy and Annual Action Plan.

Recommendation Three

Local Authorities utilise the recommendations made in the 'Causes of Homelessness Amongst Ethnic Minority Populations' (ODPM 2005) to assess the extent of ethnic minority homelessness in their district and work with local community organisations to ensure the housing and support needs of homeless people from ethnic minority backgrounds are recognised and addressed in their local homelessness strategies (Districts and City).

Recommendation Four

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Children's Services use the following recommendations of the Joseph Rowntree report 'Life after Care' to assess the effectiveness of their leaving care services in preventing care leavers from becoming homeless and make changes to services as needed (County and City):

- Local authorities should create employment opportunities for care leavers, offering trainee/apprenticeship positions within the authority.

- A multi-agency approach must be adopted to develop a strategy that ensures young people receive the support they need to maintain tenancies.
- To enable them to make an informed decision, young people should be provided with user-friendly information detailing post-care housing options.
- Pathway planning should pay equal attention to a young person's capacity to manage independently and leaving care services should invest more time and resources in skill-building programmes. Focused/tailored approaches to budgeting, which take account of different scenarios in which young people may find themselves, are important. Also, follow-up support to settle young people in their new environment would ensure that young people don't feel abandoned and isolated, and are given practical advice that could be applied to their own situation.

Recommendation Five

A county-wide multi-agency approach to meeting the support needs of people with multiple needs is developed, which can be implemented at a local level as part of local homelessness strategies (County Wide Group).

Recommendation Six

Supporting People Authorities and DAATs work with local authorities to review the services available to prevent homelessness amongst drug users and to ensure homeless drug users can access and maintain accommodation, support and treatment services and incorporate unmet needs into future plans. (County Wide Group)

Recommendation Seven

Local Authorities review the accommodation and support needs of homeless people with substance misuse difficulties as part of the review of the local homelessness strategies (Districts and City)

Recommendation Eight

The definition of rough sleeping used in the Homeless Watch survey is broader than that used by the DCLG and so more people will define themselves as rough sleeping in this survey than will be counted in rough sleepers' street counts. Nevertheless the mismatch between local rough sleeper counts and the number of people self defining as rough sleeping is unhelpful particularly in securing resources and planning services. This should be investigated further to enable a more accurate analysis of the problem and an effective strategic response. (Districts and City)

Recommendation Nine

Each local authority and Supporting People Authority should include appropriate direct or quick access services for people at the point of homelessness and access to move on accommodation as part of their strategies. (Districts and City and Supporting People Authorities)

Recommendation Ten

All local authorities should have access to a mediation service for young people. Authorities should explore opportunities for joint-commissioning of mediation services. (Districts and City).

Recommendation Eleven

Local Authorities should review the impact of the new Sanctuary schemes and the effect on the numbers of homelessness presentations on the grounds of domestic violence (Districts and City)

