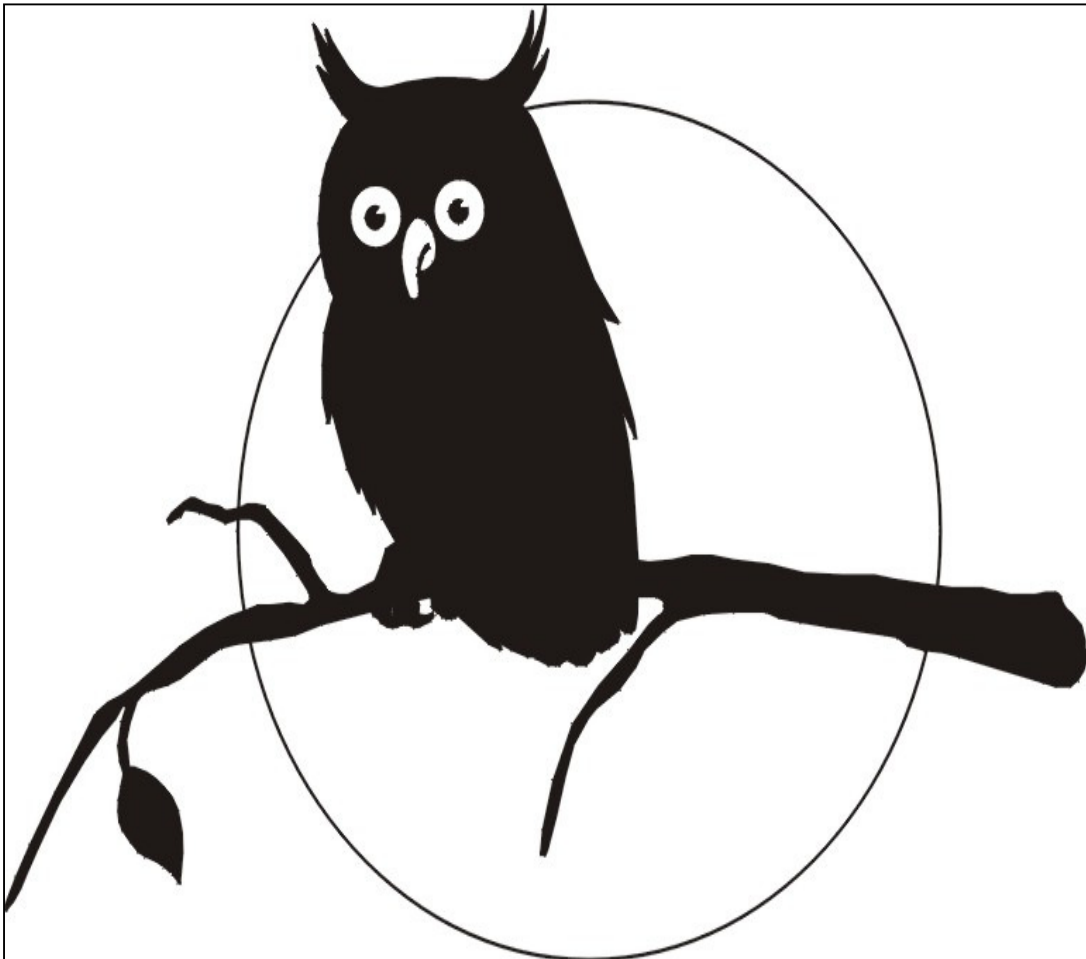


Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

24th September to 7th October 2007



Newark & Sherwood District Council Mini Report

HLG Resource Service
March 2008

Copies of this report are available on the Internet at
www.hlg.org.uk/homelesswatch.htm

Background:

The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey 2007 is a snapshot survey that records details of everyone who presented as homeless to participating agencies in the County during the two week period from 24th September to 7th October 2007.

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 friends 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 boroughs and districts within the county, including Nottingham City.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the **Newark and Sherwood** district.

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 Newark and Sherwood District Council are based on presentations by people who were either recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2007 as receiving advice about their homelessness whilst in the Newark and Sherwood area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Newark and Sherwood.

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.

This is the fourth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report on Newark and Sherwood district takes the opportunity presented by the availability of four years of data to draw comparisons with survey findings from previous years and where possible identify trends in local homelessness.

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

Table One: Homeless People in Newark & Sherwood or with a local connection to the district

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Duplicate Presentations
Adults	63
Children	42
Total	105

There were 75 presentations by homeless adults in Newark and Sherwood or by those with a connection to the district as defined above – including 12 repeat presentations. 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. Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations 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.

After removing repeat presentations, **Table One** shows a total of 63 presentations by homeless adults and 42 dependent children (105 overall) – these figures compare with 65 adults and 28 dependent children last year and 63 adults and 21 dependent children in 2005. The figures indicate that homelessness amongst adults in the district has remained generally stable whilst numbers of homeless dependent children have risen. The figure for homeless children this year is twice that recorded in 2005.

Table One (a) Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Newark & Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood - Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Newark & Sherwood	61	7
Actual Presentations outside Newark & Sherwood	14	4
Presented in or with a local connection to Newark & Sherwood	75	11

Table One (a) shows that of the total presentations by homeless adults in Newark and Sherwood or with a connection to the district, including repeat presentations, 61 presented in Newark and Sherwood itself and 14 outside the district. It also indicates that within the total of 75 there were 11 presentations by rough sleepers – 7 of whom presented in Newark and Sherwood. The number of presentations by rough sleepers at eleven compares with a figure of 15 in 2006. The fall in numbers of rough sleepers recorded in the district is consistent with the overall trend for the county.

Table Two: Area When Advice Was Received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Newark & Sherwood	28	72	31	91	2	100	61	81
Ashfield	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bassetlaw	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gedling	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mansfield	3	8	2	6	0	0	5	7
Nottingham City	5	13	1	3	0	0	6	8
Total	39	100	34	100	2	100	75	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where people presented to a participating agency during the survey period. It shows that of the 14 who presented outside the district five did so in Mansfield and six in Nottingham.

Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove any repeat presentations, using the total of actual individuals rather than presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age of presenting adults by gender

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 & 17 Years Old	1	5	0	6
18-24 Years Old	8	9	2	19
25-40 Years Old	17	9	0	26
41-59 Years Old	6	3	0	9
60 years old and over	1	0	0	1
No Date of Birth Supplied	1	1	0	2
Total	34	27	2	63

Table Three shows the age of adults who presented as homeless broken down by gender. It shows that six presentations were made by homeless people under 18 – this figure compares to 9 last year. The majority of presenting adults were aged between 18 and 40 with the largest single category being those between 25 and 40 – representing 41% of the total. 9.5% of those who presented were under 18 compared with 13% for the whole of Nottinghamshire.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	34	54
Female	27	43
Not Stated	2	3
Total	63	100

Table Four indicates that of those presenting as homeless in Newark and Sherwood or with a connection to the district, 54% were men and 43% women. This compares with figures of 58% and 41% respectively last year and a gender split of roughly 60:40 between men and women across the county in 2007.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	57	90
Gypsy/Traveller	1	2
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	2
White: Other	1	2
Other	3	5
Total	63	100

The UK 200 census found that the non White British ethnic profile for Newark & Sherwood is 3.1% of the population. Table five indicates that six presentations were made by homeless adults from ethnic minorities including one person from the gypsy and traveller community – representing 9.5% of total presentations. The figure for this year is very similar to the 10% recorded last year. This suggests a continued over representation of people from ethnic minority communities within the homeless population. However, as was stated last year, making firm statements about over-representation amongst specific ethnic groups is problematic due to the low numbers recorded.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	33	52	69
Single Parent With Children	16	25	17
Couple With Children	10	16	7
Childless Couple	4	6	5
Not Stated	0	0	1
Total	63	100	100

The data within table six shows that 52% of homeless adults presenting were single people compared with 69% for the county as a whole and 25% were single people with children compared with 17% across the county. The figures for 2006 were 68% single adults and 26% single parents. The 2006 figure for single parents with children was twice the 13% figure for 2005. The actual numbers of homeless single parents were 16 this year, 17 in 2006 and only 8 in 2005 – showing that the increased level of homelessness amongst single parents reported last year remains the case.

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	25
5 – 10 Years Old	12
11 – 15 Years Old	3
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 Years Old and Over	1
Total	42

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the child. A total of 42 dependent children were recorded within the data for Newark & Sherwood compared with 28 last year and 21 in 2005. The single largest group of children was the under fives representing almost sixty percent of the total.

The issue of the effect of homelessness on children and families was highlighted in last years report. Sadly, it appears that the worsening situation reported in Newark and Sherwood last year has persisted into 2007.

Homeless Care leavers in Newark and Sherwood

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 – 21 Years Old	0
22 Years Old and Over	2
Not stated	0
Total	3

Table Nine: Where People were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Nottinghamshire	2
Outside Notts	0
Nottingham City	1
Total	3

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a care history who presented to the survey in Newark and Sherwood or with a connection to the district. Table Eight shows that only three were recorded by the 2007 survey – this compares with a figure of five last year. Table Nine shows that of the three care leavers, two had been in care in the county and one in Nottingham city.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Drug Abuse	14	19	29
Ex-Offender	11	15	27
Alcohol Abuse	8	11	15
Other	4	5	10
Domestic Violence	3	4	10
Learning Difficulties	3	4	6
Mental Health	3	4	15
Physically Disabled	2	3	3
Total	48	N/A	N/A

Table Ten 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 and that 29 (38%) presentations reported no support needs.

The data indicates that the proportions of homeless people presenting with support needs are generally lower for Newark & Sherwood than for Nottinghamshire as a whole. For example, the percentage of people requesting support due to drug misuse abuse at 19% compares with 29% for the county (and with 20% last year); ex-offenders at 15% compares with 22% for the county (and 17% last year) and those with alcohol misuse support needs at 11% compares with 15% for Nottinghamshire (and 11% last year).

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Parents' Home	16	21	12
Own Home	13	17	11
Friend's Home	11	15	26
Slept Rough	11	15	24
Other Relative's Home	8	11	6
Custody	5	7	2
Hostel	3	4	6
Other	3	4	4
Partner's Home	2	3	2
Emergency Bed	1	1	1
Hospital	1	1	2
B&B Lodgings	0	0	1
Grandparents' Home	0	0	2
Social Services	0	0	0
Not Stated	1	1	1
Total	75	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Newark & Sherwood or with a local connection to the district spent the night prior to presenting to an agency participating in the survey. 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 adult presentations including repeat presentations.

The data indicates that:

- 21% of presentations spent the previous night at their parents home compared with only 12% for the county
- 17% spent the previous night in their own home compared to 11% across Nottinghamshire
- 15% of presentations spent the previous night in the home of a friend compared to 26% for the county
- 15% spent the previous night sleeping rough compared with 24% for the county.

One person was evidently discharged from hospital the night before presenting to an agency participating in the survey and no-one spent the previous night in bed and breakfast accommodation. The table shows that five presentations were made by adults who had spent the previous night in custody.

Rough sleeping in Newark and Sherwood

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	7	64	24
Sleeping In Open Air	3	27	53
Squat	0	0	9
Don't Know	1	9	11
Not Stated	0	0	3
Total	11	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	2	18	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	4	36	18
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	2	18	17
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	1	9	19
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	1	9	11
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	1	9	14
More than 12 Months	0	0	10
Don't Know	0	0	4
Not Stated	0	0	4
Total	11	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in Newark and Sherwood or amongst those reporting a connection to the district. Seven of the eleven rough sleepers presenting to agencies participating in the survey did so in Newark & Sherwood and the remaining 4 in other areas. As noted above the number and percentage of rough sleepers is lower than the figures recorded for last year and the figures recorded in 2005.

Table Twelve indicates that rough sleepers in Newark and Sherwood are more likely to be sleeping in unfit buildings and less likely to be in the open air than rough sleepers across the county. Table Thirteen suggests that rough sleepers in Newark and Sherwood spend shorter periods sleeping rough than is generally the case in the county.

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	Social Services	Other	No Data Supplied	Totals
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings																0
	Custody		3		1							1					5
	Emergency Bed							1									1
	Friend's Home				9					1		1					11
	Grandparent's																0
	Hospital						1										1
	Hostel							3									3
	Other Relative's								7				1				8
	Own Home									13							13
	Parent's Home							1	1		12		1		1		16
	Partner's Home											2					2
	Sleeping Rough	1			2								7			1	11
	Social Services																0
	Other														3		3
	No Data Supplied															1	1
Totals	1	3	0	12	0	1	5	8	13	13	2	11	0	4	2	75	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Newark and Sherwood spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the night after making contact. It includes all 75 adult presentations including repeats. The data indicates a generally low level of movement in the circumstances of homeless people presenting in or with a connection to the district.

Report Written by: Paul Pearson (New Ground Consultancy)
Data Analysis: Luke Keegan (Greendawn Accounting)
Data Entry: Cathy Sutton, Sarah Holden
Administration and co-ordination: Sarah Holden, Matthew Pickles
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