

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Broxtowe 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 Broxtowe 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 Broxtowe 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 Broxtowe area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Broxtowe.

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, notably the regular annual surveys conducted in Ashfield for example.

This is the fifth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report which focuses on the Broxtowe 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.

The Broxtowe Inter-Agency Homelessness Strategy 2008 – 2013 sets out the following five key objectives for tackling homelessness in the borough:

- Preventing homelessness by improving housing options and early intervention
- Helping people at the point of homelessness
- Tackling the wider causes and symptoms of homelessness
- Supporting vulnerable people
- Linking homeless people with employment and skills services.

The strategy document identifies a number of trends that are likely to impact on future levels of homelessness in Broxtowe including:

- a potential increase in the numbers of young people who cannot afford to access their own housing
- the rising costs of home ownership and the risk of mortgage repossession
- possible increases in homelessness due to family and friends evicting alongside increasing problems accessing mortgage finance
- vulnerable clients who need support to access and sustain tenancies when leaving institutions
- a need to provide more support and choice based options to victims of Domestic Violence and harassment.

It is envisaged that identifying these trends will enable the borough to tackle the root causes of homelessness over the next five years.

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

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

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR BROXTOWE BOROUGH

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

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	57
Children	25
Total	82

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Broxtowe	Broxtowe – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Broxtowe	42	8
Actual Presentations Outside Broxtowe	17	6
Presented in or with a local connection to Broxtowe	59	14

Table One shows a total of 82 presentations by homeless people in Broxtowe or with a connection to the borough comprising 57 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 25 dependent children.

There were a total 59 presentations by homeless adults in Broxtowe including 2 repeat presentations and not including dependent children. 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 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.

Survey data for 2007 showed a total of 52 presentations by homeless people including 34 adults and 18 dependent children, after the four repeat adult presentations are removed. These figures compare with a total of 70 presentations by homeless people including 47 adults and 23 dependent children in 2006 and 57 in 2005, including 48 adults and 9 dependent children. The data for 2008 therefore indicates a rise in numbers of homeless people presenting in Broxtowe. This is contrary to the decrease in levels of homelessness recorded by the 2008 survey for the County as a whole and to the decreasing trend in Broxtowe reported last year. The number of presentations by homeless adults in or with a connection to Broxtowe

recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey has gone up by nearly 68% since last year and presentations by children have risen by almost 39%.

Table One (a) shows that of the 59 total adult presentations made in Broxtowe or by those with a connection to the borough including repeats, 42 were made in Broxtowe itself and seventeen outside the borough.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Broxtowe. The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 14, with eight presenting in Broxtowe and six outside the borough. The total of 14 rough sleepers represents an increase of almost 36% on the nine rough sleepers recorded last year and again is contrary to the overall trend for the County as a whole recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2008.

Table Two: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ashfield	1	3					1	2
Broxtowe	26	65	14	82	2	100	42	71
Mansfield	1	3	1	6			2	3
Newark & Sherwood	1	3					1	2
Nottingham City	9	23	2	12			11	19
Rushcliffe	2	5					2	3
Total	40	100	17	100	2	100	59	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Broxtowe or with a local connection to the borough actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that 71% of homeless adults presented in Broxtowe itself with eleven presentations (19%) in Nottingham and small numbers in other districts.

Please note that this table shows all 59 presentations, including the two repeats and that 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	3			3
18-24 Years Old	11	7		18
25-40 Years Old	16	6	1	23
41-59 Years Old	6	2	1	9
60 years old and over				
No Date of Birth Supplied	3	1		4
Total	39	16	2	57

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). 21 of those presenting were aged under 25. The percentage of under twenty fives in Broxtowe at 37% of presentations (or nearly 40% if those where no date of birth was supplied are removed from the calculation) is in line with the 38% for Nottinghamshire as a whole. In 2007 homeless people under 25 made up 47% of total presentations (not including repeat presentations) in Broxtowe and 42.5% in 2006.

Only three presentations were made by homeless young people aged under 18 with four last year and seven in 2006. All the under 18's presenting this year were young men. In Nottinghamshire as a whole, young women made up 70% of presentations by under 18's to the Homeless Watch Survey 2008.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	39	68
Female	16	28
Not Stated	2	4
Total	57	100

Table Four shows that 68% of presentations were made by men. When those where no gender was recorded are removed this figure increases to almost 71%. Approximately 30% of presentations were made by women using the same calculation. 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: Other	1	2
Black/Black British: African	2	4
Black/Black British: Caribbean	1	2
Mixed: White & Asian	1	2
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	2
White: British	45	79
White: Irish	2	4
White: Other	2	4
Other	1	2
Total	57	100

According to the UK Census data from 2001, 6.8% of the population of Broxtowe are of a non White British ethnic origin. The ethnic origin data for Broxtowe at Table Five indicates that over 20% of homeless adults are of an ethnic origin other than White British. This issue was highlighted in the survey report last year; the situation appears to have deteriorated slightly since then and is closer to levels recorded in 2006. However, the numbers involved are small with 12 presentations by those from ethnic origins other than White British and it is therefore perhaps unsafe to base any firm conclusions on annual fluctuations.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Kids)	42	74	75
Single Parent With Children	11	19	14
Couple With Children	3	5	7
Childless Couple			3
Not Stated	1	2	1
Total	57	100	100

Table Seven: Age and number of dependent children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	7
5 – 10 Years Old	6
11 – 15 Years Old	5
16 & 17 Years Old	2
18 Years Old and Over	5
Total	25

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

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

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded according to the age of the child. A total of 25 homeless children were recorded by the survey compared with 18 dependent children last year, 23 in 2006 and only 9 in 2005.

Homeless Care leavers in Broxtowe

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	4
Not stated	0
Total	6

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

	Number of This Age With Care History
Nottinghamshire	3
Nottingham City	2
Outside Notts	1
Not Stated	0
Total	6

Tables Eight and Nine provide information on homeless care leavers in Broxtowe or with a connection to the borough. Table Eight shows that six care leavers were recorded as homeless during the survey period – the figure for last year was five and in 2006, three. This data might indicate an increasing trend, but again numbers are small and annual fluctuations should be treated with caution. The six care leaver presentations in 2008 represents just over 10% of total presentations compared with a figure of 19% of presentations (or nearly one fifth) for the County as a whole.

Table Nine shows that of the six care leavers presenting as homeless in or with a connection to Broxtowe, three had been in care in Nottinghamshire, two in the City and one outside the County.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Mental Health	20	34	17
Drug Abuse	16	27	28
Alcohol Abuse	11	19	17
Domestic Violence	8	14	8
Ex-Offender	5	8	20
Learning Difficulties	3	5	8
Physically Disabled	1	2	2
Other	10	17	12
Not Stated	1	2	0
Total	75	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 10 presentations (17%) were made by homeless people who reported no support needs.

The data shows that 20 presentations representing 34% of homeless people presenting in Broxtowe or with a connection to the borough reported a support need related to mental health problems. The percentage figure is twice the 17% reporting such a need for the County as a whole. In 2007 only four presentations representing 11% of the total were made in Broxtowe by homeless people reporting a support need related to their mental health.

16 presentations (27%) reported a support need related to drug use – this figure compares with 15 (32%) last year and seven individuals (15%) in 2006. 11 presentations (19%) were made by those reporting a support need related to alcohol problems compared with 9 presentations (24% of a lower total figure) in 2007.

The proportion of people requesting support due to domestic violence at 14% is close to the 16% for last year and is higher than the 8% for Nottinghamshire as a whole this year and the 10% across Nottinghamshire last year. This data might be seen as consistent with the Homelessness Strategy document 2008-13 which highlights that domestic violence and harassment are the main causes of homelessness in Broxtowe.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Slept Rough	14	24	24
Friend's Home	13	22	27
Other Relative's Home	8	14	7
Own Home	6	10	10
Parents' Home	5	8	12
Hostel	3	5	4
B&B Lodgings	2	3	1
Other	2	3	3
Not Stated	2	3	3
Custody	1	2	2
Partner's Home	1	2	3
Hospital	1	2	1
Children's Home or Foster care	1	2	0
Grandparents' Home			1
Emergency Bed			1
Total	59	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Broxtowe or with a local connection to the borough spent the previous night alongside data for the County as a whole. 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 repeats.

The data shows that 14 presentations (24%) were made by those who reported spending the night sleeping rough prior to presenting to a participating agency; the same proportion of presentations reporting sleeping rough for the County as a whole. 21 presentations (36%) spent the previous night at the home of a friend or relative compared with 34% for the County and only five presentations (8%) reported spending the previous night at their parents' home – compared with 12% for the County. The County-wide survey report highlights that the major reasons for their homelessness stated by those taking part in the survey were that parents or other relatives/friends were no longer willing to accommodate them. 28% identified that parents were unable to accommodate them and 17% identified friends and other relatives being unable to accommodate as the reason they were homeless.

Rough Sleeping in Broxtowe

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	5	36	24
Sleeping In Open Air	6	43	51
Squat			9
Don't Know	2	14	9
Not Stated	1	7	7
Grand Total	14	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Broxtowe	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night	2	14	9
More than a night up to 1 week	6	43	18
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	1	7	18
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	4	29	12
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths			9
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths			12
More than 12 mths			14
Don't Know			5
Not Stated	1	7	3
Total	14	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen set out data on rough sleeping in Broxtowe. As highlighted above the total number of rough sleepers recorded was 14, with eight presenting in Broxtowe and six outside the borough. The total of 14 rough sleepers represents an increase of almost 36% on the nine rough sleepers recorded last year and is contrary to the overall downward trend for the County as a whole recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey 2008.

Table Twelve indicates that six of the fourteen rough sleepers slept in the open air. Survey data at Table Thirteen shows that four of the rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Broxtowe had been sleeping rough for between one and three months.

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	Slept Rough	Other	No Data Supplied	Total
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings				2												2
	Children's Home or Foster care		1														1
	Custody			1													1
	Emergency Bed																0
	Friend's Home			2		11											13
	Grandparents' Home																0
	Hospital							1									1
	Hostel								2							1	3
	Other Relative's Home			1						7							8
	Own Home								1		5						6
	Parents' Home											4			1		5
	Partner's Home								1								1
	Slept Rough					2				1				10		1	14
	Other														2		2
	No Data Supplied					1										1	2
Total	0	1	4	2	14	0	1	4	8	5	4	0	10	3	3	59	

Table Fourteen provides a comparison of where a person spent the night prior to reporting to the survey with data about their expected housing circumstances the coming night. Please note that these figures are for all adult presentations including repeats.

Key points that can be drawn from the data include:

- 14 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and ten expected to sleep rough the coming night
- 13 people spent the previous night at the home of a friend and 14 expected to do so the coming night
- one person reported being in hospital and one person in custody the night before presenting to the survey as homeless
- no one reported being in an emergency bed the night before presenting to the survey and two people expected to spend the coming night in emergency accommodation.