

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Derby City 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 that the survey has been carried out in Derbyshire, and should the survey be repeated in future years it can be expected that the response rate will increase.

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 City of Derby. 17 agencies in Derby 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 Derby City 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 Derby **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to the City.

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 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 Derby 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 Homelessness Strategy for Derby City is being reviewed and it is hoped that a new strategy will be in place by December 2009. The updated Action Plan for the current strategy document identifies the actions necessary to achieve the following ten key strategic recommendations with comments on what has been achieved to date against each action point:

1. Provide more affordable homes.
2. Improve links with private landlords.
3. Provide support for vulnerable households.
4. Improve consultation.
5. Provide specialised accommodation.
6. Co-ordinate Strategic Partnerships.
7. Develop Housing Options Centre resources.
8. Co-ordinating information.
9. New research.

This report can be considered alongside the updated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan for Derby City.

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR DERBY CITY

Table One: Homeless People in Derby City or with a Local Connection to the area

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	80
Children	13
Total	93

Table One shows a total of 93 presentations by homeless people in Derby or with a connection to the City comprising 80 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 13 dependent children.

Please note: there were a total of 87 presentations to the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey by homeless adults in Derby or reporting a connection to the City including 7 repeat presentations.¹ Most of the data tables set out below have been adjusted to remove repeats and use **the 80 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 Derby City	Derby City – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Derby City	84	16
Actual Presentations Outside Derby City	3	1
Presented in or with a local connection to Derby City	87	17

Table One (a) shows that of the 87 total adult presentations made in Derby or by those with a connection to the City including the seven repeats, 84 were made in Derby itself and 3 in other areas.

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 Derby. **The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the City by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 17**; 16 of whom presented to the survey in Derby itself and one in a different area. Rough sleepers therefore made up just over 19.5% of all presentations in or with a connection to Derby. Derby had the second highest number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey across the nine participating local authorities in Derbyshire.

Table Two: Area where presentation made to participating agency

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Derby City	58	97	21	95	5	100	84	97
Derbyshire Dales	1	2					1	1
Erewash			1	5			1	1
Nottinghamshire	1	2					1	1
Total	60	100	22	100	5	100	87	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Derby or with a local connection to the City actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the majority, 84 or 97% presented in Derby itself with small numbers presenting in other areas including one presentation in Nottinghamshire.

Please note that the following tables have been adjusted to remove repeat presentations, using the number of actual homeless adult individuals (80) rather than total presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	3	5		8
18-24 Years Old	17	3	2	22
25-40 Years Old	21	8	3	32
41-59 Years Old	11	4		15
60 years old and over	1	1		2
No Date of Birth Supplied	1			1
Total	54	21	5	80

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that eight presentations were made by young homeless people under 18; five of whom were young women. Homeless people under 25 made up over 37.5% of those presenting to the survey.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	54	68
Female	21	26
Not Stated	5	6
Total	80	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of those presenting as homeless in Derby or with a connection to the City. When invalid data is removed (i.e. where no gender was recorded) 72% of those presenting to the survey were men and 28% were women. This presents quite a different picture to the County as a whole. The proportions of men and women presentations across Derbyshire set out in the main Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 were 60% and 40% respectively.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Asian/Asian British: Other	1	1
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	2	3
Black/Black British: African	8	10
Black/Black British: Caribbean	3	4
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	1	1
White: British	55	69
White: Irish	4	5
Other	6	8
Total	80	100

The data at Table Five shows that 25 people of an ethnic origin other than White British presented as homeless in Derby or with a connection to the City. This represents over 31% of the total of presentations (after invalid data is removed i.e. where no ethnic origin was recorded).

The UK 2001 census found that just under 16% of the population of Derby were from a non White British ethnic origin. The data therefore suggests that people from black and minority ethnic communities are considerably over-represented amongst the homeless population in Derby.

The updated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan highlights that a community cohesion unit has been set up to oversee resettlement for new communities and to

ensure community cohesion and successful integration - which might have some impact on homelessness amongst B&ME communities.

Homeless Households

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Children)	68	85	70
Single Parent With Children	7	9	14
Couple With Children	2	3	6
Childless Couple	3	4	9
Not Stated			1
Total	80	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	3
5 – 10 Years Old	7
11 – 15 Years Old	3
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 Years Old and Over	
Total	13

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

The data within Table Six shows that 68 (or 85% of) presentations were made by single people and 9 (or 12%) by households with children – these figures compare with 70% and 20% for Derbyshire and indicate a higher proportion of single homeless people without children within the homeless population in Derby than for the County as a whole.

Table Seven sets out data on the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child and shows 13 dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey with the majority in the five to ten years age group.

Homeless Care leavers in Derby

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	1
18 – 21 Years Old	3
22 Years Old and Over	3
Not stated	1
Total	8

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

Derbyshire	
Derby City	5
Outside Derbyshire	3
Total	8

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in Derby or with a connection to the City. The data shows that there were eight presentations by care leavers, one of whom was under 18 and half aged 21 or under. Table Nine indicates that of the eight care leavers five had been in care in Derbyshire.

It is difficult to avoid the question as to why young people and in particular 16 and 17 year olds leave care to homelessness or experience homelessness soon after leaving care. There is a clear homelessness prevention issue here that should be investigated.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Ex-Offender	23	26	20
Drug Abuse	22	25	23
Mental Health	15	17	13
Alcohol Abuse	12	14	13
Learning Difficulties	2	2	4
Domestic Violence	2	2	6
Physically Disabled	1	1	3
Other	12	14	10
Not Stated	1	1	1
Total	90	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented during the survey period. It sets out the needs reported for Derby alongside the support needs recorded for Derbyshire as a whole. Please note that people could record more than one support need and that 31 presentations were made by homeless people in Derby or with a connection to the City who reported having no support needs.

The data shows that 23 presentations (26%) were made by people who reported a support need related to offending. This compares with 20% for Derbyshire as a whole.

22 presentations (25%) were made by people who reported a support need related to drug misuse. This compares with 23% reporting such a need across Derbyshire as a whole. 15 presentations were made by those with a support need related to alcohol problems.

The updated Homeless Strategy Action Plan highlights that drug services in the City have been reconfigured and access to services improved. It also states that the reconfiguration of existing alcohol services is being considered to improve access.

The data at Table Ten shows that a support need related to a mental health issue was reported by 15 presentations to the survey.

A support need related to domestic violence was reported by only two presentations to the survey representing 2% of the total compared with 6% of presentations reporting such a need across the County.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Friend's Home	23	26	23
Slept Rough	17	20	18
Parents' Home	10	11	12
Own Home	6	7	15
Other Relative's Home	6	7	10
Hostel	5	6	3
Partner's Home	4	5	2
B&B Lodgings	3	3	5
Grandparents' Home	2	2	2
Custody	2	2	2
Hospital	2	2	1
Children's Home or Foster care	1	1	0
Emergency Bed			0
Other	2	2	4
Not Stated	4	5	2
Total	87	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Derby or with a local connection to the City (excluding dependent children) spent the night prior to participating in the survey. Since 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 87 adult presentations including repeats.

The table indicates that 23 (or 26% of) presentations spent the previous night at a friend's home which compares closely with the 23% for the County and 17 (20%) spent the night sleeping rough – compared with 18% across Derbyshire. Ten presentations were made by those who reported spending the previous night in their parents' home, six in their own home and six at the home of a relative. Two presentations were made by people who had spent the previous night in hospital.

Rough sleeping in Derby

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	1	6	36
Sleeping In Open Air	8	47	45
Squat	1	6	3
Don't Know	5	29	12
Not Stated	2	12	4
Grand Total	17	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Derby City	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night	2	12	16
More than a night up to 1 week	5	29	30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	1	6	6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	4	24	20
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	1	6	7
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	1	6	4
More than 12 mths			7
Don't Know	2	12	7
Not Stated	1	6	1
Total	17	100	100

The data at Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more detail on rough sleeping in Derby recorded by the Derbyshire Homeless Watch Survey 2008.

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the City by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was 17 – the second highest number for any area in Derbyshire. 16 of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Derby and one in a different area.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that eight rough sleepers (47%) slept out in the open air. Table Thirteen indicates an entrenched problem of rough sleeping with six of the 17 rough sleepers (35%) reporting 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	2					1										3
	Custody			1								1					2
	Emergency Bed																
	Friend's Home				14		2			1	1				1	4	23
	Grandparent's				1	1											2
	Hospital						1	1									2
	Hostel				2			3									5
	Other Relative's								5				1				6
	Own Home			1	1					3	1						6
	Parent's Home	1			4			1			3					1	10
	Partner's Home										1	2				1	4
	Sleeping Rough	1		4	1			5					5		1		17
	Childrens Home or Foster Care													1			1
	Other			1											1		2
	No Data Supplied												1			3	4
Totals	4		6	24	1	1	13	5	3	6	3	8	1	3	9	87	

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Derby spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the night after making contact. The figures shown are for all 87 adult presentations including repeats.

The data indicates that:

- 17 people slept rough the night before presenting to the survey and only eight expected to do so the following night

- ten people spent the previous night at their parents' home and eight expected to be at their parents' home the following night
- 23 people were at the home of a friend the night prior to completing a survey form and 24 expected to be staying with a friend the following night
- five people had spent the previous night in a hostel and 13 expected to be in a hostel the coming night.