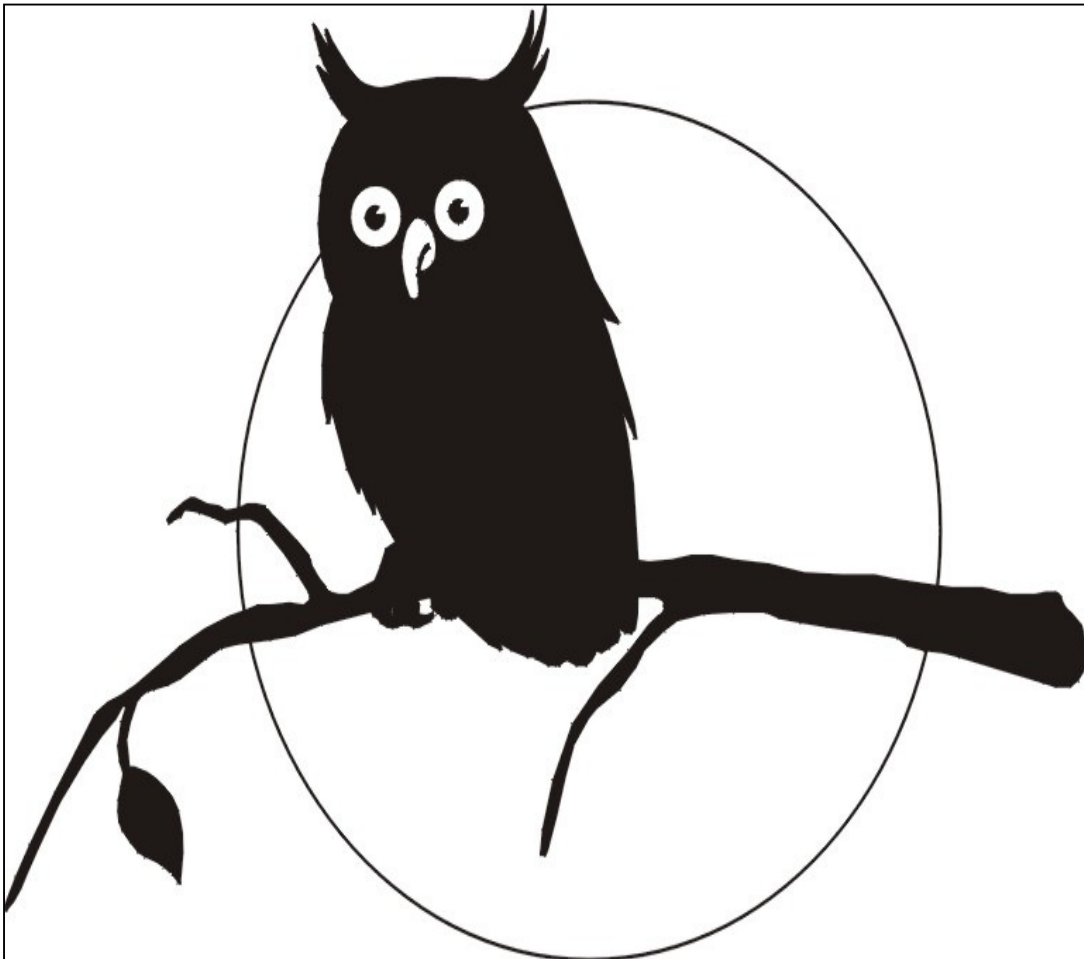


Homeless Watch 2007

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in Nottinghamshire

24th September to 7th October 2007



Ashfield 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 seven boroughs and districts within the county, including Nottingham City.

This report provides an analysis of survey findings concerning homelessness in the **Ashfield** 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 Ashfield 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 Ashfield area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Ashfield.

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 Ashfield 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 Ashfield as those 'presenting in Ashfield'.]

Table One: Homeless People in Ashfield or with a Local Connection to the district

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	95
Children	52
Total	147

There were 110 presentations by homeless adults in Ashfield or by those with a local connection to the district as defined above, with 15 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 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.

After removing repeat presentations and including dependent children, **Table One** shows a total of 147 presentations by homeless people including 95 adults and 52 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 121 presentations by homeless people including 84 adults and 37 dependent children in 2006 and 189 in 2005 (including 135 adults and 54 dependent children); showing an increase on last year but a notable reduction in numbers of adults and a slight reduction in numbers of children compared to the survey findings in 2005.

The increase in numbers of homeless children for Ashfield this year compared to 2006 is consistent with an increase across the county overall highlighted in the main Homelessness Watch Survey report.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Ashfield	Ashfield - Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Ashfield	87	10
Actual Presentations outside Ashfield	23	4
Presented in or with a local connection to Ashfield	110	14

Table One (a) shows that of the 110 presentations made by those with a connection to Ashfield, 87 were made in Ashfield itself and 23 outside the district. It also provides a breakdown for rough sleepers, showing that of the 14 presentations made by rough sleepers, ten were sleeping rough in Ashfield and four outside the district.

Table Two: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ashfield	42	75	43	84	2	67	87	79
Gedling	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
Mansfield	9	16	4	8	1	33	14	13
Nottingham City	5	9	3	6	0	0	8	7
Total	56	100	51	100	3	100	110	100

Table Two provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Ashfield or who have a local connection to Ashfield actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows that the majority (79%) presented in Ashfield itself but that 13% presented in Mansfield, suggesting a link for homeless people between the two districts, particularly amongst homeless men and that 9% presented in the City of Nottingham.

Please note that this table includes repeat presentations.

The tables below have been adjusted to remove any repeat presentations unless otherwise stated.

Table Three: Age by gender

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 &17 Years Old	0	3	0	3
18-24 Years Old	18	19	0	37
25-40 Years Old	19	13	1	33
41-59 Years Old	7	5	0	12
60 years old and over	3	1	0	4
No Date of Birth Supplied	1	3	2	6
Total	48	44	3	95

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). 40% of those presenting were under 25 compared with 49% in 2006 and with 58% in 2005; indicating a decrease in homelessness amongst under twenty fives in Ashfield. The percentage of under twenty fives in Ashfield compares very closely with 41% for Nottinghamshire as a whole whilst the figure for 16 and 17 year olds at only 3% is notably lower than the 8% figure across the county.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	48	51
Female	44	46
Not Stated	3	3
Total	95	100

Table Four provides a gender breakdown of those presenting in Ashfield. It shows that 51% of presentations were by men and 44% by women. The figure for men compares with only 45% in 2006 and with a figure of 57% for the county as a whole.

[Please note that the main survey report indicates a majority of women presenting in Ashfield. This discrepancy arises due to the difference in methodology used for the main report and the district reports explained in the 'Background' section above.]

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	91	96
White: Irish	1	1
White: Other	1	1
Not Stated	2	2
Total	95	100

Table Five indicates that only two presentations were made by those of an ethnic origin other than White British. These findings are consistent with the previous year and show a continued reduction compared to 2005 when the figure for homeless people of non White British ethnic origin recorded by the survey was 6.8%

The 2001 UK census shows that 1.9% of the total population of Ashfield were from an ethnic origin other than White British.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Children)	51	54	69
Single Parent With Children	21	22	17
Couple With Children	12	13	7
Childless Couple	9	9	5
Not Stated	2	2	1
Total	95	100	100

Table Six shows that compared to the household type breakdown for Nottinghamshire as a whole, the figures for Ashfield show a lower percentage of single people; a higher percentage of single parents and a notably higher percentage of homeless couples with children. This is consistent with survey findings from 2006 and 2005. The continued discrepancy between figures for single parents and couples with children in Ashfield and for the county as a whole might merit further investigation.

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	14
11 – 15 Years Old	10
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 Years Old and Over	3
Total	52

Table Seven shows that 52 dependent children were recorded as homeless in Ashfield during the survey period. This figure compares with 37 dependent children in 2006 and 54 in 2005. The clear majority of dependent children (48%) were aged under four years.

As noted above, the increase in numbers of homeless children for Ashfield this year compared to 2006 is consistent with a worrying increase across the county overall highlighted in the main Homelessness Watch Survey report.

Homeless Care leavers in Ashfield

Table Eight: Care Leavers by age

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	5
22 Years Old and Over	2
Not stated	1
Total	8

Table Eight shows that a total of eight care leavers presented as homeless in Ashfield or with a local connection to the district compared to nine last year and 15 in 2005; indicating a continued decrease.

The figure for homeless people with a care background in Ashfield compares favourably with a figure of 19% of presentations (or nearly one fifth) for the county as a whole.

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

Area where in care	Number
Nottinghamshire	5
Outside Notts	1
Nottingham City	1
Total	7

Table Nine shows that of the care leavers presenting in Ashfield, seven of the eight provided information on where they were in care; with five having been in care in Nottinghamshire, one in Nottingham City and one outside the county.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Ex-Offender	25	25	24
Drug Abuse	21	21	25
Mental Health	9	9	13
Alcohol Abuse	7	7	13
Learning Difficulties	6	6	5
Physically Disabled	6	6	2
Domestic Violence	5	5	9
Other	19	19	9
Total	98	N/A	N/A

Table Ten records the support needs of people who presented as homeless in Ashfield during the survey period. Please note that people could record more than one support need, which is why the total is greater than the number of individuals recorded by the survey and that 47 (43%) presentations reported no support needs.

Columns three and four of Table Ten provide comparisons between support needs indicated amongst homeless people in Ashfield and for the county as a whole. They show a generally similar or lower prevalence of support needs in the various categories than for the county with the exception of those with needs relating to a physical disability.

The 2006 report highlighted the issue of drug use in Ashfield with 29% of presentations reporting support needs relating to drug use at that time. This figure has fallen to 21% in 2007. The percentage of those identifying learning difficulties as a support need at 6% is lower than the 8% for 2006 and notably lower than the figure for 2005 (19%).

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Parents' Home	26	24	12
Friend's Home	24	22	26
Own Home	16	15	11
Slept Rough	14	13	24
Other Relative's Home	6	5	6
Hospital	5	5	2
Grandparents' Home	4	4	2
Other	3	3	4
Hostel	3	3	6
Custody	3	3	2
B&B Lodgings	2	2	1
Social Services	1	1	0
Partner's Home	1	1	2
Emergency Bed	1	1	1
Not Stated	1	1	1
Total	110	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Ashfield 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 in the table are for all 110 presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than the 95 individuals who were homeless.

The figures in columns three and four provide interesting comparisons between the situation for homeless people in Ashfield and the county as a whole. For example, a notably higher proportion of homeless people in Ashfield spent the night before contact with an agency in their parents home than for the county and the percentage of rough sleepers is notably lower at only 13% compared to 24% for the county. The figure for rough sleeping in Ashfield is also lower than last year when 18% reported sleeping rough the night before participating in the survey – reflecting the decreasing prevalence of rough sleeping across the county highlighted in the main report. However, there is no room for complacency here since 14 presentations were reported for people sleeping rough in Ashfield the night before contact with an agency participating in the survey.

Rough sleeping in Ashfield

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	5	36	24
Sleeping In Open Air	5	36	53
Squat	0	0	9
Don't Know	4	28	11
Not Stated	0	0	3
Total	14	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent Rough Sleeping

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Ashfield	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 Night	4	29	5
More than 1 Night up to 1 Week	1	7	18
More than 1 Week up to 1 Month	3	21	17
More than 1 Month up to 3 Months	2	14	19
More than 3 Months up to 6 Months	0	0	11
More than 6 Months up to 12 Months	0	0	14
More than 12 Months	1	7	10
Don't Know	1	7	4
Not Stated	0	0	4
Total	14	100	100

Tables Twelve and Thirteen provide more information on rough sleeping in Ashfield, or by those with a connection to the district.. Table Twelve shows that of the 14 presentations made by those reporting as rough sleepers five reported sleeping in buildings not fit for habitation and five in the open air.

Ten of the rough sleepers presenting for advice did so in Ashfield itself and the remaining four in other areas in the county.

Table 13 provides information on how long people were sleeping rough showing notable differences between periods of time spent sleeping rough by those presenting in Ashfield and the county as a whole. For example, a notably higher percentage reported spending one night only sleeping rough in Ashfield than for the county as a whole and the data suggests that there is less of a problem of entrenched rough sleeping for long periods in Ashfield compared to Nottinghamshire as a whole.

Table Fourteen: 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															2
	Custody		2													1	3
	Emergency Bed			1													1
	Friend's Home				20										1	3	24
	Grandparent's					4											4
	Hospital				1		2	1					1				5
	Hostel							3									3
	Other Relative's								4	1			1				6
	Own Home							1		13						2	16
	Parent's Home								3	1	20					2	26
	Partner's Home							1									1
	Sleeping Rough	2			2								10				14
	Social Services															1	1
	Other														3		3
	No Data Supplied															1	1
Totals	4	2	1	23	4	2	6	7	15	20	0	12	0	4	10	110	

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 presentations (excluding dependent children), rather than individuals.

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

- 14 people slept rough the night before completing the survey and 12 expected to sleep rough the coming night

- three people had been in a hostel the previous night and six people expected to be in hostel the coming night – presumably as a result of contact with an agency
- 26 people had spent the previous night in their parents home whilst 20 expected to be at their parents' home the coming night
- five people reported being in hospital the night before reporting to the survey as homeless.

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