

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Derbyshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Bolsover District Report

HLG Resource Service
March 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 the survey has been carried out in Derbyshire and it can be expected that the response rate will increase should the survey be repeated in future years.

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 Bolsover district. Four agencies in Bolsover 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 Bolsover District 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 Bolsover area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Derbyshire area but as having a local connection to Bolsover.

For the purposes of the survey a local connection is 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 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 Bolsover 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.

Work is currently being undertaken to review the local Homelessness Strategy for Bolsover. The district faces similar problems and issues to the nearby authorities of Bassetlaw, Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire in particular and in response to this is working with these authorities on a range of partnership initiatives to tackle homelessness locally.

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR BOLSOVER DISTRICT

Table One: Homeless People in Bolsover or reporting a local connection to the area

Category	Number
	Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	21
Children	4
Total	25

Table One shows a total of 25 presentations by homeless people in Bolsover or with a connection to the district comprising 21 adults and four dependent children.

Please note: there were no repeat presentations to the survey in the Bolsover district.¹ The data tables set out below use the **21 adults as the total figure** for homeless people in Bolsover.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Bolsover	Bolsover – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Bolsover	16	3
Presentations Outside Bolsover	5	3
Presented in or with a local connection to Bolsover	21	6

Table One (a) shows that of the 21 total adult presentations made in Bolsover or by those with a connection to the district, 16 were made in the district itself and five in other areas.

The table also provides a breakdown of rough sleepers presenting in or with a connection to Bolsover. For the purposes of the survey rough sleeping was defined

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.

as living in something not normally considered to be housing (such as derelict buildings, sheds, vehicles) or sleeping in the open air.

The total number of rough sleepers recorded for the district by the 2008 Homeless Watch Survey was six, half of whom presented to the survey in Bolsover itself.

Table Two: Area where presentation made to survey

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Bolsover	13	76	3	75			16	76
Chesterfield	4	24	1	25			5	24
Total	17	100	4	100			21	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Bolsover or with a local connection to the district actually presented for advice during the survey fortnight. It shows 16 presentations (76%) were made in Bolsover itself and five in Chesterfield by people reporting a local connection to Bolsover.

Table Three: Age

Age Range	Male	Female	Gender Not Stated	Total
16 & 17 Years Old				
18-24 Years Old	4	1		5
25-40 Years Old	6	3		9
41-59 Years Old	6			6
60 years old and over	1			1
No Date of Birth Supplied				
Total	17	4		21

Table Three shows the age of people who presented as homeless during the survey period (not including dependent children). The data indicates that there were no presentations to the survey by homeless young people aged under 18 and that only five presentations (24%) were made by those under 25. This data indicates that homeless people presenting to the survey in Bolsover, or reporting a connection to the district had a generally higher age profile than across the County as a whole, where 39% of the presentations to the survey were made by homeless people aged under 25 years, including 31 presentations by 16 and 17 year olds.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	17	81
Female	4	19
Not Stated		
Total	21	100

Table Four shows that 81% of those presenting to the survey as homeless in Bolsover or with a connection to the district were men and only 19% were women. This is very different from the picture across the County as a whole – where men made up only 59% of the homeless population recorded by the survey. It might be interesting to investigate why the gender balance amongst homeless people in Bolsover should be so different from other areas in the County?

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White: British	20	95
Other	1	5
Total	21	100

The data at Table Five shows that only one person from an ethnic minority group presented to the survey as homeless in Bolsover or with a connection to the district. 2001 census data shows that the ethnic minority population of the district is less than 2% of the total.

Household types

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Single Person (No Children)	17	81	70
Single Parent With Children	1	5	14
Couple With Children	1	5	6
Childless Couple	2	10	9
Not Stated			1
Total	21	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	
11 – 15 Years Old	1
16 & 17 Years Old	
18 Years Old and Over	
Total	4

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

The data within Table Six shows that 81% of presentations were made by single people and 10% by households with children – these figures compare with 70% and 20% for Derbyshire as a whole. This data has a clear relation to the gender breakdown of homeless people presenting to the survey for Bolsover highlighted above.

Table Seven sets out data on the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child and shows four dependent children presented as homeless to the 2008 survey, three of whom were aged four or under.

Homeless Care leavers in Bolsover

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

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

Table Nine: Where People Were in Care

Derbyshire	2
Outside Derbys	1
Total	3

Tables Eight and Nine provide data on homeless people with a history of care presenting in Bolsover or with a connection to the district. The data shows that there were only three presentations by care leavers all of whom were aged over 21. Table Nine indicates that two of the care leavers had been in care in Derbyshire.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Mental Health	7	33	13
Drug Problem	5	24	23
Ex-Offender	3	14	20
Physically Disabled	3	14	3
Alcohol Problem	2	10	13
Learning Difficulties			4
Domestic Violence			6
Other	1	5	10
Total	21	N/A	N/A

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

The data shows that seven presentations, 33% of those presenting to the survey, reported a support need related to a mental health problem. This compares with only 13% of presentations reporting such a support need across the County as a whole and merits further investigation.

Five presentations (24% of the needs reported) were made by people who reported a support need related to a drug problem. This compares with 23% reporting such a need across Derbyshire as a whole. Only three presentations (14%) were made by people reporting a support need related to a history of offending which compares with 20% across the County.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Slept Rough	6	29	18
Own Home	4	19	15
Friend's Home	3	14	23
Other Relative's Home	3	14	10
Parents' Home	2	10	12
B&B Lodgings	1	5	5
Grandparents' Home	1	5	2
Custody	1	5	2
Partner's Home			2
Hostel			3
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			0
Childrens Home or Foster care			0
Other			4
Not Stated			2
Total	21	100	100

Table Eleven provides a breakdown of where those presenting as homeless in Bolsover or with a local connection to the district (excluding dependent children) spent the previous night.

The table indicates that six people (29%) spent the night sleeping rough, compared with 18% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Four people reported spending the previous night in their own home, comprising 19% of presentations compared with 15% for the County and three (14%) at the home of a friend which compares with 23% for Derbyshire as a whole.

Rough Sleeping in Bolsover

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	5	83	36
Sleeping In Open Air	1	17	45
Squat			3
Don't Know			12
Not Stated			4
Grand Total	6	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Bolsover	Percentage - Derbyshire
1 night			16
More than a night up to 1 week	2	33	30
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	1	17	6
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	2	33	20
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths			7
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths			4
More than 12 mths	1	17	7
Don't Know			7
Not Stated			1
Total	6	100	100

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

As highlighted above, the total number of rough sleepers recorded for the borough by the survey was six – which alongside Erewash was the fourth highest number for any area in Derbyshire. Three of the rough sleepers presenting to the survey did so in Bolsover itself.

The data at Table Twelve indicates that 83% of the rough sleepers slept in a building not fit for habitation compared with 36% across the County. Table Thirteen indicates that three rough sleepers had been sleeping rough for more than one month including one person who had slept rough for more than a year; suggesting an issue of entrenched rough sleeping which merits investigation.

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	1															1	
	Custody						1										1	
	Emergency Bed																	
	Friend's Home				2											1	3	
	Grandparent's											1					1	
	Hospital																	
	Hostel																	
	Other Relative's								2							1	3	
	Own Home				1					3								4
	Parent's Home										2							2
	Partner's Home																	
	Sleeping Rough												6					6
	Childrens Home or Foster care																	
	Other																	
No Data Supplied																		
Totals	1			3			1	2	3	2		7			2	21		

Table Fourteen provides data on where the homeless adults who presented to the survey in or with a connection to Bolsover spent the night before contacting a participating agency and where they expected to spend the following night.

The data indicates little change in the circumstances between the two nights of those presenting to the survey in or with a connection to Bolsover. The table shows that six people slept rough the night before presenting to the survey and seven expected to do so the following night.