

Homeless Watch 2008

A Snapshot Survey of Homelessness in
Nottinghamshire

29th September to 10th October 2008



Newark & Sherwood District 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 Newark & 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 & Sherwood 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 Newark & Sherwood area **or** recorded as seeking advice whilst in another Nottinghamshire authority area but as having a local connection to Newark & Sherwood.

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.

This is the fifth survey of its kind carried out across Nottinghamshire and this report which focuses on the Newark & Sherwood district 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 Newark and Sherwood Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2008 – 13 sets out four core objectives for tackling homelessness in the district as to:

- prevent homelessness, wherever possible
- provide help at the point of homelessness
- provide an accessible, modern and effective Housing Options Service
- develop effective partnerships, as a vehicle for providing holistic services.

The strategy has been informed by a Homelessness Review carried out in 2008. The key findings of the review include:

- the main cause of statutory homelessness in Newark & Sherwood during 2007/08 was Parent, Friend or Relative exclusion and the second main cause was the end of an Assured Shorthold tenancy
- Newark & Sherwood is experiencing 1.75 times the rate of acceptances from private sector Assured Shorthold tenancies compared with the national picture
- Loss of accommodation due to violence is the third largest factor contributing to the level of statutory homeless acceptances in Newark & Sherwood
- 70% of accepted homelessness applications during 2007/08 were from households including dependent children.

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

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

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT

Table One: Homeless People in Newark & Sherwood or with a Local Connection to the district

Category	Number Adjusted Figure to Take Account of Repeat Presentations
Adults	48
Children	13
Total	61

Table One shows a total of 61 presentations by homeless people in Newark & Sherwood or with a connection to the district comprising 48 adults (after repeat presentations have been removed) and 13 dependent children. These figures compare with a total of 105 presentations last year, comprising 63 presentations by homeless adults and 42 dependent children; 93 presentations comprising 65 adults and 28 dependent children in 2006 and 94 presentations comprising 63 adults and 21 dependent children in 2005. **Presentations to the survey this year by homeless adults are down by almost 24% on numbers recorded last year and numbers of homeless dependent children have fallen by 70% compared with last year. The totals recorded this year are the lowest recorded by the Homeless Watch Survey for Newark & Sherwood since 2005.**

Please note that there were a total 57 presentations by homeless adults in Newark & Sherwood or reporting a connection to the district including nine repeat presentations.¹ 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.

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.

Table One (a): Presentations and Local Connection

	All in Newark & Sherwood	Newark & Sherwood – Rough Sleepers Only
Actual Presentations in Newark & Sherwood	47	4
Presentations Outside Newark & Sherwood	10	5
Presented in or with a local connection to Newark & Sherwood	57	9

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, 47 presented in Newark and Sherwood itself and 10 outside the district.

The table also provides data on rough sleeping in Newark & Sherwood recorded by the survey. **It indicates that within the total of 57 adults there were 9 presentations by those reporting sleeping rough**; four of whom presented in Newark & Sherwood District. The total of nine rough sleepers compares with eleven last year, 15 in 2006 and 16 in 2005. **The number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey this year is down by 43% compared with 2005.** The main County-wide Homeless Watch Survey Report 2008 highlights a 34% decrease across the County in numbers of rough sleepers presenting to the survey this year compared with 2005.

Table Two: Area where advice was received

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Mansfield	3	10	2	8	5	9
Newark & Sherwood	23	74	24	92	47	82
Nottingham City	4	13		0	4	7
Rushcliffe	1	3		0	1	2
Total	31	100	26	100	57	100

Table Two provides a more detailed breakdown of where people presented to a participating agency during the survey period. It shows that the great majority, 47 or 82% presented in the district itself with small numbers in other areas including nine in Mansfield district and seven in Nottingham City.

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

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
16 &17 Years Old	2	7	9
18-24 Years Old	10	5	15
25-40 Years Old	10	3	13
41-59 Years Old	6	2	8
60 years old and over		1	1
No Date of Birth Supplied	1	1	2
Total	29	19	48

Table Three shows the age of adults who presented as homeless broken down by gender.

The survey recorded nine presentations by homeless young people aged under 18. This compares with six people under 18 last year and nine in 2006. Almost 19% of presentations were by those under 18. The data shows that seven of the nine under 18s recorded this year were young women. The main County-wide survey report for 2008 highlights an increasing problem of homelessness amongst young women with 70% of presentations by 16 to 17 year olds across the County being young women.

The majority of presenting adults were aged between 18 and 40 with the largest single category being those between 18 and 24 – representing 31% of the total. This is a change from last year when the largest single category was in the 25 to 40 age range – representing 41% of the total.

Table Four: Gender

Gender	Number	%
Male	29	60
Female	19	40
Total	48	100

The data at Table Four indicates that 60% of homeless adults presenting to the survey were men and 40% women. This is almost identical to the gender breakdown recorded by the 2008 survey across the County as a whole of 59% men and 39% women.

Table Five: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
Black/Black British: African	1	2
White: British	47	98
Total	48	100

The data at Table Five shows that only one presentation was made by a homeless person of an ethnic origin other than White British. This is a change from last year when 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 UK 200 census found that the non White British ethnic profile for Newark & Sherwood is 3.1% of the population.

Table Six: Household Type

Household Type	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Single Person (No Kids)	40	83	75
Single Parent With Children	5	10	14
Couple With Children	2	4	7
Childless Couple			3
Not Stated	1	2	1
Total	48	100	100

Table Seven: Age & Number of Dependent Children

Age of Children	Number of Children in this Age Range
0 - 4 Years Old	12
5 – 10 Years Old	1
11 – 15 Years Old	0
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 Years Old and Over	0
Total	13

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

The data within Table Six shows that 83% of presentations were made by single people and 14% by households with children – these figures compare with 75% and 21% for the County as a whole. This data presents a different picture from the finding of the recent Homelessness Review in the district which states that 70% of accepted homelessness applications during 2007/08 were from households including dependent children. [It should be made clear that the findings of the recent Homelessness Review relate to those accepted by the district council as statutorily homeless only.]

Table Seven shows the number of children recorded by the survey according to the age of the child. As highlighted above, the 13 dependent children presenting to the survey this year is 70% fewer than the 42 recorded by the survey in 2007.

Homeless Care leavers in Newark & Sherwood

Table Eight: Age of Care Leavers

Age	Number of This Age With Care History
16 & 17 Years Old	0
18 – 21 Years Old	6
22 Years Old and Over	1
Not stated	0
Total	7

Table Nine: Where people were in Care

Nottinghamshire	5
Nottingham City	0
Outside Notts	1
Not Stated	1
Total	7

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 seven care leavers presented to the survey in 2008. This compares with only three in 2007 and five in 2006.

Table Nine shows that of the seven three care leavers, five had been in care in Nottinghamshire.

Table Ten: Support Needs

Support Needs	Number	Percentage of Presentations- Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Alcohol misuse	13	23	17
Drug misuse	8	14	28
Domestic Violence	6	11	8
Ex-Offender	5	9	20
Mental Health	5	9	17
Learning Difficulties	4	7	8
Physically Disabled	2	4	2
Other	1	2	12
Total	31	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 23 (40%) presentations reported no support needs.

The data indicates that 13 presentations or 23% reported a support need related to alcohol misuse. This figure compares with 17% for the County as a whole reporting such a need. Survey data last year showed that eight people or 11% reported a support need related to alcohol misuse. The proportion of presentations reporting support needs related to drug misuse and to offending are lower than last year and around half the figures recorded for the County as a whole.

A support need related to domestic violence was reported by six people presenting to the survey this year compared with only three last year.

Table Eleven: Previous Night's Accommodation

Where Person Spent the Previous Night	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Friend's Home	15	26	27
Other Relative's Home	9	16	7
Slept Rough	9	16	24
Parents' Home	9	16	12
Own Home	6	11	10
Partner's Home	3	5	3
B&B Lodgings	2	4	1
Hospital			1
Emergency Bed			1
Childrens Home or Foster care			0
Hostel			4
Custody			2
Grandparents' Home			1
Other	2	4	3
Not Stated	2	4	3
Total	57	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 repeats.

The data indicates that:

- 26% of those presenting spent the previous night at the home of a friend – which is almost identical to the figure for the County and compares with only 15% for Newark & Sherwood last year
- 16% spent the previous night at their parent's home compared with 12% for the County as a whole. Last year's survey indicated that 21% of presentations spent the previous night at their parents home compared with only 12% for the County
- nine people or 16% of presentations spent the previous night sleeping rough, compared to 24% for the County
- two people spent the previous night in B&B accommodation.

Rough sleeping in Newark & Sherwood

Table Twelve: Type of Rough Sleeping

Slept Rough Type	Number	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
Building/Structure Not For Habitation	4	44	24
Sleeping In Open Air	5	56	51
Squat			9
Don't Know			9
Not Stated			7
Grand Total	9	100	100

Table Thirteen: Time spent sleeping rough

Time Rough Sleeping	Number in This Category	Percentage - Newark & Sherwood	Percentage - Nottinghamshire
1 night			12
More than a night up to 1 week	2	22	9
More than 1 week and up to 1 month	1	11	12
More than 1 mth and up to 3 mths	1	11	18
More than 3 mths and up to 6 mths	3	33	18
More Than 6 mths and up to 12 mths	2	22	9
More than 12 mths			14
Don't Know			5
Not Stated			3
Total	9	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.

As highlighted above, **the number of rough sleepers recorded by the survey this year is down by 43% compared with 2005.**

Four of the nine rough sleepers presenting to agencies participating in the survey did so in Newark & Sherwood and the remaining five in other areas.

Table Thirteen shows that five of the nine rough sleepers, or 55%, had spent more than three months sleeping rough when they reported to the survey.

Table Fourteen: Comparison of Previous & Coming Nights Accommodation

		Where Person Is Sleeping the Night Following Contact With An Agency															
		B&B Lodgings	Childrens 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	Sleeping Rough	Other	No Data Supplied	Total
Where Person Slept The Night Prior To Seeing Agency For Advice	B&B Lodgings	1				1											2
	Childrens Home or Foster care																0
	Custody																0
	Emergency Bed																0
	Friend's Home					11	2	1								1	15
	Grandparents' Home																0
	Hospital																0
	Hostel																0
	Other Relative's Home				1	1				6						1	9
	Own Home				1						4				1		6
	Parents' Home	2										4			1	2	9
	Partner's Home												2		1		3
	Slept Rough					3				1				5			9
	Other														2		2
	No Data Supplied													2			2
Total	3	0	0	2	16	2	1	0	7	4	4	2	7	5	4	57	

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. The data is for all 57 adult presentations including repeats.

The table indicates that:

- nine people spent the previous night sleeping rough and seven expected to sleep rough the coming night
- nine people spent the previous night at their parents' home and only four expected to be with their parents the coming night
- no-one was in a hostel the night before presenting to the survey but two people expected to be in hostel accommodation the coming night.