

**Client Group: Homeless People**  
(including homeless families, Single Homeless and  
Rough Sleepers)

**Needs Analysis**  
(Refreshed December 2008)

*'Supporting you to build an independent life'*

## **Introduction**

This client group includes households who have been accepted by local authorities as being homeless and in priority need, have been placed in temporary accommodation and who have a range of support needs. This includes homeless women with children and single homeless people. This client group also includes rough sleepers, i.e., those people who have no form of housing and are bedding down for the night on the street.

### **How is homelessness defined?**

Broadly speaking, the law defines somebody as being homeless if they do not have a legal right to occupy any accommodation, or if their accommodation is unsuitable to live in. This can cover a very wide range of circumstances, including, but not restricted to, the following:

- having no accommodation at all
- having accommodation that is not reasonable to live in, even in the short term (e.g. because of violence or health reasons)
- having a legal right to accommodation that you cannot access (e.g. if you have been illegally evicted)
- living in accommodation you have no legal right to occupy (e.g. living in a squat or temporarily staying with friends).

Many people only associate homelessness with sleeping on the streets, but this conceals the range and scale of the problem. The reality is that the vast majority of homeless people are families or single people who are not 'sleeping rough'. Some may be staying with relatives and friends on a temporary basis. Others live in temporary accommodation, such as bed and breakfast hotels, hostels, night shelters, and refuges. For many, this means living in poor quality accommodation that is detrimental to their health and well-being. To understand what homelessness really is, it is important to first consider what a 'home' is. A home is not just a roof over your head. It is a place that provides security, privacy, and links to a community and a support network. It needs to be affordable, with support if necessary. Homeless people lose or lack all these things.

### **Legal definitions of homelessness**

To access housing assistance under the homelessness legislation, a household must make an application to a local authority, which will then be assessed in accordance with specific criteria. Under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, the authority must have 'reason to believe' that the household is:

- Eligible – The right to remain in the country and to access public funds.
- Homeless – Homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days, or unreasonable to remain or unable to enter the accommodation.
- In priority need – Some reasons may include: households that contain a pregnant woman or are responsible for dependent children; households with a 16- to 17-year-old or a care leaver aged 18 to 21; or where someone in the household is vulnerable, for example, because of old age, mental or physical health problems, or if they have been 'institutionalised' by being in prison, care or the armed forces
- Unintentionally homeless – that they have not deliberately done, or failed to do something, that caused them to become homeless, such as failing to make rent or mortgage payments when they could have afforded to do so.
- Local Connection – The applicant has to have a local connection to the council they have approached as homeless

Authorities have a duty to provide temporary accommodation for some of these households while they make further enquires. Households considered to meet all the above criteria are described as 'statutory homeless'. Authorities have a duty to continue to provide temporary accommodation for these households until settled accommodation can be found for them.

*Source: Shelter factsheet, Housing and homelessness (www.shelter.org.uk)*

The Department for Communities and Local Government's primary source of data on statutorily homeless households is the quarterly **P1E** return titled *Local Authority activity under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act*. Completion of these returns is not mandatory for LAs but the final response rate is currently around 95 per cent.

Limited summary data on local authorities' homelessness acceptances, use of temporary accommodation, average length of stay in Bed & Breakfast (B&B) as collected in the quarterly P1E, and additional information on lettings to homeless households by social landlords are also collected via the **Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return**.

### **Rough Sleeping Estimates in England**

Each year, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publishes a national figure, to establish the position against the baseline established in 1998 of 1,850 people sleeping rough. As with the baseline figure, this is based on a combination of the most recent street counts and estimates.

Rough Sleeping counts are conducted by local authorities in partnership with local homeless agencies. Street counts provide a snap-shot of the number of people sleeping rough in a given geographical area on a single night. Single night counts may not capture the larger number of people who may have experience of sleeping rough over the course of a year, but they enable progress to be measured over time. DCLG estimates that, as at June 2005, there were 459 people sleeping rough in England on any single night. This is the lowest recorded level.

**SUPPLY**  
**Current Supporting People Position**

**Homeless Families**

Current Supporting People Spend (2008/09) **£80,931**  
**0.8% of total SP pot**

Summary of services funded by Supporting People:

**Floating Support: 13 units**  
**Outreach Service: 10 units**

Total number of people supported **23**

**Breakdown by District/Borough:**

**Table 1: Supporting People Provision -**

	Floating Support			Outreach		
	% of total spend	No. of units	% of units	% of max. total spend	No. of units	% of units
North Warwickshire BC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	0	0	0	60.61%	10	43.48%
Rugby BC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stratford-on-Avon DC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwick DC	39.39%	13	56.52%	0	0	0

Average utilisation of services in 2007/8:

Floating support: **99.53%**  
Accommodation based: **66.1%**

**Single Homeless**

Current Supporting People Spend (2008/09) **£1,025,014**  
**10.08% of total SP pot**

Summary of services funded by Supporting People:

Accommodation Based: **165 units**  
Floating Support: **17 units**

Total number of people supported **182**

**Table 2: Supporting People Provision -**

	Floating Support			Accommodation based		
	% of total max. spend	No. of units	% of units	% of total max. spend	No. of units	% of units
North Warwickshire BC	2.83%	8	4.49%	0	0	0
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	2.83%	8	4.49%	17.31%	36	20.22%
Rugby BC	0	0	0	31.50%	51	28.65%
Stratford-on-Avon DC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwick DC	0	0	0	45.52%	75	42.13%

Average utilisation of services in 2007/08:

Floating support:	98.3%
Accommodation based:	99.25%

**Total number of people supported overall 205**

### Information from Sectorial Overview

- SP currently have 13 contracts with eight different providers for this client group, at a total annual cost of £1,105,945. There are two floating support services, ten accommodation based services and one outreach service.
- Stratford-on-Avon has an identified gap in service provision and preliminary work indicates that people are sleeping rough in this District. This is the only remaining district without any homeless provision and it is recognised that this is required.
- North Warwickshire has low Supporting People provision, with only 2.83% of the total client group spend and no accommodation-based support.
- There are no accommodation-based services for homeless families and women only services, and no services that work specifically with people from BME backgrounds.
- Further work also needs to be carried out in assessing those homeless people who are not accepted as statutorily homeless and in priority need.

### Waiting List

**Table 3: Single Homeless and Homeless Families with support needs, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

Service Type	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
<b>Single Homeless: Accommodation Based</b>	0	34	11	0	34	<b>79</b>
<b>Single Homeless Floating Support</b>	4.5	4.5	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Homeless Families: Floating Support</b>	0	0	0	0	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Homeless Families Outreach Service</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>91</b>

Source: Supporting People

## **CURRENT POSITION WITHIN WARWICKSHIRE**

In Warwickshire, the number of households accepted as homeless and in priority need over the period 2001-2005 increased by approximately 41% from 442 to 623. However in more recent years the numbers have reduced to levels more broadly comparable with 2001/02.

**Table 4: Statutory homeless household acceptances - Households accepted as homeless and in priority need during the year**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
North Warwickshire	6	29	22	50	35	31	15
Nuneaton & Bedworth	74	110	121	173	98	92	82
Rugby	70	52	99	92	-	84	81*
Stratford-on-Avon	133	166	161	103	153	73	130
Warwick	159	182	201	205	153	99	122
<b>Warwickshire</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>430</b>

Sources: P1E Rugby figure for 2007/08 were only available for 3 of the 4 quarters. The figure in this table has been adjusted on the assumption that the missing quarter figures were at the same rate as those in the other 3 quarters.

In Warwickshire, 74% of those accepted as homeless and in priority need during 2007/08 were households with dependent children and/or a pregnant women.

**Table 5: Statutory homeless household acceptances – Percentage of those Households accepted as homeless and in priority need during the year with dependent children and/or a pregnant woman**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
North Warwickshire	100%	90%	86%	84%	83%	71%	80%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	81%	67%	65%	75%	81%	77%	71%
Rugby	97%	96%	80%	59%	-	73%	75%
Stratford-on-Avon	29%	53%	52%	59%	67%	75%	62%
Warwick	69%	57%	75%	70%	63%	85%	88%
<b>Warwickshire</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>74%</b>

Sources: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix 2005, P1E

## **Rough Sleepers**

Table 6 shows information taken from the 2005 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix which presents data from the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) return.

**Table 6: Estimate of the Number of People Sleeping Rough in Warwickshire–June 2005**

LA Name	2005 HSSA ESTIMATE	STREET COUNT		
		Date of Count	2005/06	2006/07
North Warwickshire	0-10	01/03/2005	0-10	0-10
Nuneaton & Bedworth	0-10	28/01/2005		
Rugby	0-10	#		
Stratford-on-Avon	0-10	#		
Warwick	0-10	#	0-10	0-10

Source: Local Authority Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), June 2005 and recent street counts that have been undertaken.

All local authorities in Warwickshire estimated that there were between 0 and 10 people sleeping rough within their district in 2004/05. Two districts, North Warwickshire and

Nuneaton & Bedworth also carried out street counts during the year. However, neither recorded any people sleeping rough.

## Case Studies

Appendices A, B and C give more details of aspects of homelessness in individual districts as follows:

### Appendix A - Homeless People, including those sleeping rough, in Stratford-on-Avon District area

### Appendix B – Homeless Monitoring in Rugby Borough

### Appendix C – North Warwickshire Housing Needs Snapshot Survey

## Supporting People Client Database Information

The client record data analyses people who enter a Supporting People funded service during a set period. The figures below show who has started using a service between April 2007 and March 2008. Details of anyone already in a scheme prior to April 2007 will not be included in this breakdown.

Tables 16, 17 and 18 show that there were a total of 386 clients registered on the 'Supporting People' database whose primary need has been assessed as being homeless. This includes single people and families with support needs in addition to rough sleepers. The vast majority of clients (nearly 87%) are single homeless people with support needs. 49% of new clients were assisted through supported housing, 34% through the direct access service 13% received floating support. The majority of Single Homeless and Rough Sleepers are male. Homeless Families receiving support were overwhelmingly female. 9% of all new clients were from black and ethnic minority groups.

**Table 16: New service users under the 'Supporting People' programme, 2007/08, whose primary need was assessed as being 'Single Homeless' (339 Clients)**

Client Age										Service Type				Client Gender			Client Ethnicity					
Under 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	unknown	Direct Access	Floating Support	Resettlement Service	Supported Housing	Female	Male	Unknown	White British	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or other ethnic group	Mixed	Unknown
74	47	71	28	52	37	14	8	-	8	129	22	3	185	100	232	7	299	9	13	2	7	9

Provider											
Bromford Carinthia	Charnwood House	Christian Alliance H.A.	Coventry & Warwickshire YMCA	FCH Housing & Care	Fry Housing trust	Home Group	Mayday Trust	Orbit H.A.	Salvation Army	Tophill	Warwick D.C.
4	9	29	16	4	45	8	22	40	129	22	11

17: New service users under the 'Supporting People' programme, 2007/08, whose primary need was assessed as being 'Homeless Families' (42 Clients)

Client Age										Service Type				Client Sex			Client Ethnicity		Provider				
Under 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	unknown	Floating Support	Sertvice	Supported Housing	Women's Refuge	Female	Male	Unknown	White British	Black or Black British	Bromford Carinthia H.A.	Christian Alliance H.A.	Orbit H.A.	Warwick D.C.	WDVSS
2	6	14	9	6	4	-	-	-	1	29	6	4	3	39	2	1	38	4	11	1	6	21	3

Table 18: New service users under the 'Supporting People' programme, 2007/08, whose primary need was assessed as being 'Rough Sleepers' (5 Clients)

Client Age										Service Type		Client Sex		Client Ethnicity		Provider		
Under 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	unknown	Direct Access	Supported Housing	Male	Unknown	White British	Unknown	Fry Housing Trsut	Home Group	Salvation Army
				2	1	1			1	3	2	4	1	4	1	1	1	3

## P1E Homeless Returns 2007/08

P1E data contains detailed information on those households presenting themselves as homeless to a Local Authority. This dataset is updated quarterly. The following analysis uses data from April 2007 to March 2008.

P1E figures for Rugby were only available for quarters 1,2 and 4. The figures have been adjusted on the assumption that the figures for quarter 3 were equal to the average figure for the other three quarters.

**Table 19; Applicant households for which decisions were taken between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

Status	NW	NB	Rugby	SOA	Warwick	Total
Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need	15	82	81	130	122	<b>430</b>
Eligible, homeless and in priority need, but intentionally so	4	55	16	16	61	<b>152</b>
Eligible, homeless but not in priority need	62	25	4	55	21	<b>167</b>
Eligible, but not homeless	170	65	20	88	132	<b>475</b>
Ineligible households	0	9	0	3	11	<b>23</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>1,247</b>

**Table 20; Age breakdown of applicant households eligible for assistance and unintentionally homeless, 2007/08**

Age group	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
16-24	9	41	28	37	53	<b>168</b>
25-44	5	33	42	55	58	<b>193</b>
45-59	1	8	8	20	11	<b>48</b>
60-64	0	0	0	8	0	<b>8</b>
65-74	0	0	0	3	0	<b>3</b>
75+	0	0	2	7	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>429</b>

**Table 21; Ethnic Origin of Applicants accepted as homeless and in priority need, 2007/08**

	Ethnic Group																
	White British	White Irish	White Other	Total White	Black or Black British: Black - African	Black or Black British: Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black - Other	Total Black	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	Any other Asian background	Total Asian	Total Mixed	Total Other	Not Stated	Total of all ethnic groups
North Warwickshire	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Nuneaton & Bedworth	80	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	82
Rugby	62	0	2	64	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	4	1	0	9	79
Stratford-on-Avon	123	0	4	127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	130
Warwick	83	1	8	92	3	0	2	5	4	0	0	0	4	0	1	20	122
Total	363	1	12	378	3	1	2	6	5	4	0	0	9	3	3	29	428

**Table 22; Main reason for loss of settled home for those applicant households eligible for assistance and unintentionally homeless, 2007/08**

Main reason for loss of settled home	NW	NB	Rugby	SOA	Warwick	Total
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	6	25	14	20	35	100
Relatives/friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	0	13	4	6	8	31
Non violent breakdown of relationship with partner	1	6	8	9	11	35
<b>Violence</b>						
Violent breakdown of relationship, involving partner	0	8	6	14	12	40
Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons	0	3	0	0	1	4
Racially motivated violence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other forms of violence	1	4	2	0	0	7
<b>Harrassment, threats or intimidation</b>						
Racially motivated harrassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other forms of harrassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mortgage arrears (repossession or loss of home)	0	4	4	7	2	17
Rent arrears	0	2	0	1	0	3
Loss of rented or tied accommodation	5	12	22	30	51	120
Require to leave NASS accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Left an institution or LA care:</b>						
Left prison/on remand	1	0	0	0	0	1
Left hospital	0	1	0	1	1	3
Left other institution or LA care	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Other reasons for loss of last settled home:</b>						
Left HM forces	0	1	1	0	0	2
Other reasons	1	3	17	41	1	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>427</b>

## Homeless Families

**Table 23; Households eligible for assistance and unintentionally homeless, 2007/08, because of resident dependent children**

Applicant whose household includes dependent children	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
<b>Main Priority Category:</b>						
1 Child	0	32	29	41	57	<b>159</b>
2 Children	5	15	16	20	19	<b>75</b>
3 Children or more	3	7	8	10	16	<b>44</b>
All	3	54	53	71	92	<b>273</b>
<b>Secondary Category</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: P1E Data

The highest number of families eligible for assistance were in Stratford District, with 130 homeless families, followed by Warwick District 122 homeless families. 297 (69%) of all households eligible for assistance had one or more children.

## BVPIs

**Table 24; BVPI's scores from 2005/06 to 2007/08**

BVPI	Year	NW	N & B	Rugby	Stratford	Warwick
202	2007/08	-	0	5	7	
	2006/07	-	0	5	7	
	2005/06	-	0	5	6	
203	2007/08	46%	-17.64%	-		
	2006/07	86%	- 12.2%	37.3%	- 7%	
	2005/06	133%	10.8%	22.2%	47.1%	
213*	2007/08	2.0	3.91	1.0	2.0	
	2006/07	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	
	2005/06	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	
225	2007/08	45.4%	54.5%	63.6%	63.6%	
	2006/07	36.4%	36.4%	45.4%	63.6%	
	2005/06	36.4%	36.4%	9.1%	36.4%	

\* per 1000 households

- not recorded

202 – Rough Sleeper Count

203 - The percentage change in the average number of families, which include dependent children or a pregnant woman, placed in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation compared with the average from the previous year.

213 - The number of households who considered themselves as homeless, who approached the local housing authority's housing advice service(s), and for whom housing advice casework intervention resolved their situation

225 – Assesses overall local authority effectiveness of services to help survivors of domestic violence

## **Assumptions of Need**

- Some districts automatically provide support to anyone placed in emergency accommodation – is this the most appropriate way of providing support, or would a general floating support service provide a more flexible service to people who have a demonstrable need and are at risk of losing their tenancy?
- How many homeless people are not accepted as statutorily homeless and in priority need i.e., how many are turned away by local authorities? How many fall within the hidden homeless category – sleeping on friends sofas etc.?
- SP services were provided to 5 people classed as rough sleepers. Local counts found between 0 and 10 people – need more accurate numbers, would more direct access provision be appropriate for this client group?
- North Warwickshire Borough Council accepted 15 households as statutorily homeless in 2007/08.

## **QUALITATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Strategic Context**

- In the National Homelessness Strategy, the Government has set a new target to halve the number of households living in temporary accommodation by 2010. Authorities are developing plans to meet this reduction and assessing how robust their action plans are for meeting the aims of the Government's broader homelessness strategy.
- The Ethnic Minorities Fund is to identify good practice and support local authorities and their partner stakeholders to develop innovative ways to tackle and prevent homelessness amongst ethnic minority populations.
- The SP team are key representatives on local housing boards and work in partnership with local authorities and other homeless forums set up throughout the County. The Commissioning Body has also set a medium term priority to investigate and undertake further work around the homelessness sector.

### **Implications of Service Unavailability:**

- Bad housing puts a burden on families, relationships, health, education, and people's well-being

### **Specific Omissions in Provision:**

- Service provision in Stratford-on-Avon District
- Limited provision for homeless families
- Low Supporting People provision in North Warwickshire

## **Feedback from Supporting People Big Event and the Partnership Day**

- At the Supporting People event, of the total money allocated to the client groups by the event attendees using the 'post box' exercise, 5.1% was received by 'Single Homeless with support needs', 4.7% by 'Homeless Families with support needs', and 3.6% by 'Rough Sleepers'.
- At the Partnership Day, using the same 'post box' exercise, 'Homeless Families with support needs' received 5.6% of the total money allocated to the client groups, 'Single Homeless with support needs' received 11.6%, and 'Rough Sleepers' were allocated 2.5% of the money.

## APPENDIX A

### **Case Study – Homeless People, including those sleeping rough, in Stratford-on-Avon District area**

#### Introduction

This case study provides statistical information relating to people who sleep rough in Stratford-on-Avon District.

Councils are required each year to report the extent of nightly rough sleeping within their area to Central Government as part of the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). For 2004-05, Stratford-on-Avon District Council reported an estimate of 0 – 10 rough sleepers. The Council needs to be sure that this is an accurate measurement because the Government requires a head count to be carried out if the number of rough sleepers each night exceeds 10.

It is anticipated that this statistical information will enable the Council and its partner organisations to develop services and accommodation solutions for this client group.

#### Background

The needs of rough sleepers in Stratford District have been previously identified, as follows:

- Research was conducted on behalf of the Stratford District Housing Forum in 1997 and 2000;
- In July 2000, the District Council commissioned research as part of the development of the Single Homeless Strategy. This research concluded that there was a requirement for direct access emergency accommodation to meet the needs of single homeless people in the District, including rough sleepers;
- In 2003, the Council produced its Homelessness Strategy 2003 – 2008 in which the need for emergency access accommodation in the District was identified as an objective.

The Stratford District Partnership Community Plan 2005 – 2015 has identified the provision of short stay emergency accommodation for anyone who is homeless as one of the key housing priorities of local residents.

Aim 2 of the District Council's Housing Strategy 2006 – 2011 is to enable more people to live independently in better quality homes, and included in the action plan is a commitment to conduct a feasibility study to providing additional accommodation for the single homeless, including emergency access.

Aim 3 of the Council's Housing Strategy 2006 - 2011 is to reduce homelessness and included in the action plan are commitments to engage with rough sleepers and to ensure that those sleeping rough are on the Council's Housing Waiting List.

The driver from Central Government is to reduce and eradicate rough sleeping. The Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly the ODPM) said in June 2005 that recorded levels of rough sleepers nationally were at the lowest reported levels since the formation of the Rough Sleepers Unit in 1998.

## Supporting Information

### **Single homeless people of all ages, including people who sleep rough**

Stratford District Housing Forum, a group made up of a wide range of local statutory and voluntary organisations that deal with, or regularly come across, people in the District who have housing problems, has over a number of years regularly carried out multi-agency monitoring exercises to identify the housing and support needs of single people. The most recent monitoring exercise was carried out in June 2007.

This is the most detailed information available to the Council of the true picture of rough sleeping within the District, with contributions from the following agencies: Bromford Housing Group, Citizens Advice Bureau, Charnwood House, Community Alcohol Service, Connexions, Stratford District Council's Housing Advice Team, Mustard Tree Project, Probation, Salvation Army, Social Services, Stonham Housing Association, Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Service (WDVSS) and the Young Housing Project.

Monitoring conducted during June 2007 established:

- A continuing need for a transitional housing scheme
- 65 single people experienced housing difficulties in June 2007
- 11 different people slept rough at different times in June 2007
- 32 single people considered themselves to be homeless, including 11 people who were sleeping rough.

Of the 32 single people who considered themselves to be homeless in June 2007, including the 11 people who were sleeping rough:

- There were more men than women
- Most were aged 25 to 39 years. The age breakdown of these single people are shown below in Table 7.

**Table 7: Age breakdown of single homeless people in Stratford-on-Avon, June 2007**

<b>Age of homeless people</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
16 - 17	1
18 - 24	7
25 - 39	20
40 - 59	2
60 - 79	1
80+	1
<b>All</b>	<b>32</b>

- Some 26 people were from the Stratford-on-Avon District, whilst six were from outside the area.
- Some 27 people were White British, and five were non White British
- Most people who considered themselves to be homeless were either sleeping rough or staying with family or friends.
- Among the most common reasons for people becoming homeless, a third had been asked to leave by family or friends, some 18% were homeless as a consequence of a non violent relationship breakdown, and 10% were homeless because of debt/rent arrears.

- Twenty seven people had support needs, with the most common unmet support needs being housing support, help with benefits, assistance with training and employment, alcohol and drugs.

With regards to the 11 different individuals sleeping rough, all were men, all aged 25-39 years except for one 18 year old, and ten were White British and one was Polish. The main reason for their loss of accommodation was being asked to leave by family or friends. Table 8 includes the rough sleeper counts of previous monitoring exercises.

**Table 8: Rough Sleeper Counts in Stratford-on-Avon District**

Month	Rough sleepers
May 2005	12
November 2005	13
June 2007	11

**Home District** of the 11 different rough sleepers:

- 7 Stratford-on-Avon District
- 1 Warwick District
- 1 Devon (present in area for a number of years)
- 1 Birmingham (spent past 13 years in the area)
- 1 Middlesex

Three of the eleven people sleeping rough had no identified support needs, whilst eight had a variety of support needs, as shown in Table 7, with the most common being housing support, followed by alcohol misuse and help with benefits. Of the four people with alcohol misuse issues, three also had drugs misuse issues.

**Table 9: Support needs of the rough sleepers, June 2007**

Support needs	Number of individuals
Housing support	5
Alcohol misuse	4
Help with benefits	4
Training/ employment	3
Physical disability	3
Drugs misuse	3
Learning disability	1
Mental ill health	1

Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council, 2007

#### Type of provision required

Currently the nearest emergency access accommodation available to anyone who is deemed not to qualify for permanent housing under homelessness legislation is in Coventry. Stratford-on-Avon District Council is the only local authority in Warwickshire with no accommodation based units or floating support units for this particular client group.

The type of accommodation required would be in the form of a six to eight purpose built transitional housing scheme with specialist support for people who sleep rough. The scheme will include one to two bed spaces for single people who are homeless in an emergency but who do not qualify for permanent accommodation under homelessness legislation because they are deemed not to have a priority need. The main purpose of the scheme would be to prepare people to live independently.

## Information from Stratford District Council's Housing Waiting List

The Council is able to look at information produced from the Housing Waiting List to establish levels of housing need throughout the District.

Applicants who have no settled address are able to register on the list as being of "no fixed abode" and research on these applicants as at September 2008 is shown below:

**Table 10: Housing Waiting List Information in Stratford-on-Avon**

Total on waiting list	"no fixed abode" (of which, single person households)	% of those on waiting list
2946	85 (69)	2.8%

Of the 122 single people registered as "no fixed abode" it can be assumed that some of these may be sleeping rough.

## Information from the Salvation Army

Since 2004, the Council has reported annually on the numbers of rough sleepers in its area as a Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI). This aims to measure the authority's performance in achieving and sustaining reductions in levels of rough sleeping.

To assist with these calculations, Stratford District Council uses information provided by the Salvation Army, who give snap-shot figures of the numbers of rough sleepers they deal with along with a breakdown of different types of rough sleeper (regulars, short term, itinerant). Information provided for 2005-06 is given below in Table 8 (NB: these are average numbers):

**Table 11: Rough Sleeper Numbers dealt with by the Salvation Army**

2005/06	Number of people per night		
	Regulars	Short term (2 – 4 weeks in the area)	Itinerant (1 – 2 nights in the area)
Q1 (April – June)	3 - 4	1 - 2	1 - 2
Q2 (July – September)	6 - 7	1 - 2	1 - 2
Q3 (October – December)	3 - 4	0	0 - 1
Q4 (January – March)	2 - 3	0	0 - 1

Source: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army monitoring indicated that in 2006-2007 on any single night an average of seven people sleep rough in Stratford-on-Avon District, although this figure may be an underestimation considering not all those who are sleeping rough will be in or around Stratford Town and making contact with the Salvation Army.

## Information from CORE

CORE (COntinuous REcording) is a system developed jointly by the National Housing Federation (NHF) and the Housing Corporation.

Housing Associations and Local Authorities provide information on their allocations each year.

The table below shows the numbers of allocations in Stratford District area where sleeping rough was given as the type of accommodation the household lived in immediately prior to rehousing.

**Table 12: Allocations in Stratford-on-Avon District where sleeping rough was given as the type of accommodation the household lived in immediately prior to rehousing**

Year	Total Lets	Rough Sleepers	% of total lets
2005/06	497	7	1.4
2004/05	558	3	0.5

Source: CORE

These figures show that some rough sleepers are being rehoused by housing associations in this area.

**Summary**

- The collation of this data demonstrates that there are people sleeping rough in Stratford-on-Avon District area
- The information obtained via the May and November 2005, and June 2007, monitoring exercises is supported by Salvation Army figures, Housing Waiting List data and information provided by housing associations on allocation
- There is long standing evidence of the need for an accommodation solution in Stratford District for local single homeless people who may be sleeping rough, and this is supported by data which shows that the majority of those sleeping rough have Stratford District as their “home” district (64%)

## APPENDIX B

### Case Study – Homeless Monitoring in Rugby Borough

As in Stratford-on-Avon District, Rugby Borough Council carries out monitoring exercises with various other local statutory and voluntary organisations. Key findings from the survey in 2008 monitoring exercise are as follows:

- 142 individuals were reported to be homeless in 2006, 75 in 2007 and 171 in 2008..
- Some 26 people were sleeping rough at some point during the 2008 exercise.
- As shown Table 10, for those people where the information was provided, the highest proportion of those experiencing homelessness were staying with family and friends at the time of the exercise.

**Table 13: Current housing situation of those people recorded during the 2008 monitoring exercise**

Current Situation	Persons	%
Staying with family and friends	65	38%
Sleeping Rough	26	15.2%
Private renting	32	18.7%
Owner occupier	9	5.2%
Council/ HA tenant	7	4.1%
Lodgings	2	1.1%
Other	30	17.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	

Source: Rugby Borough Council

- Table 14 includes the reason/s for homelessness. The most cited reasons were being asked to leave by family or friends, relationship breakdown and the ending of an accommodation agreement.

Please note that some people gave more than one reason and therefore the total number of replies will not be the same in Table 14 as in either of the other 2 tables.

**Table 14: Reasons for homelessness, monitoring exercise 2008**

Reason(s) for Homelessness	Number
Asked to leave by family/friends	62
Relationship breakdown	28
Accommodation agreement ending	20
Repossession / eviction	13
Leaving prison	13
Non racial harassment, abuse or violence	10
Violent relationship breakdown	8
Debt, rent arrears	8
Seeking independence	8
Pregnancy	6
Loss of tied accommodation	4
Leaving care	4
Overcrowding	3
Leaving hospital	3
Racial harassment, abuse or violence	2
Other	31

Source: Rugby Borough Council

Please note that some people cited more than one support need and therefore the total number or replies will not be the same in Table 15 as in either of the other 2 tables.

**Table 15: Support needs of homeless, monitoring exercise 2007**

<b>Support Needs</b>	<b>Number</b>
None	39
Housing support	40
Help with benefits	29
Mental ill health	22
Drugs misuse	18
Alcohol misuse	15
Physical disability	10
Learning disability	7
Other	21
<b>Total</b>	

*Source: Rugby Borough Council*

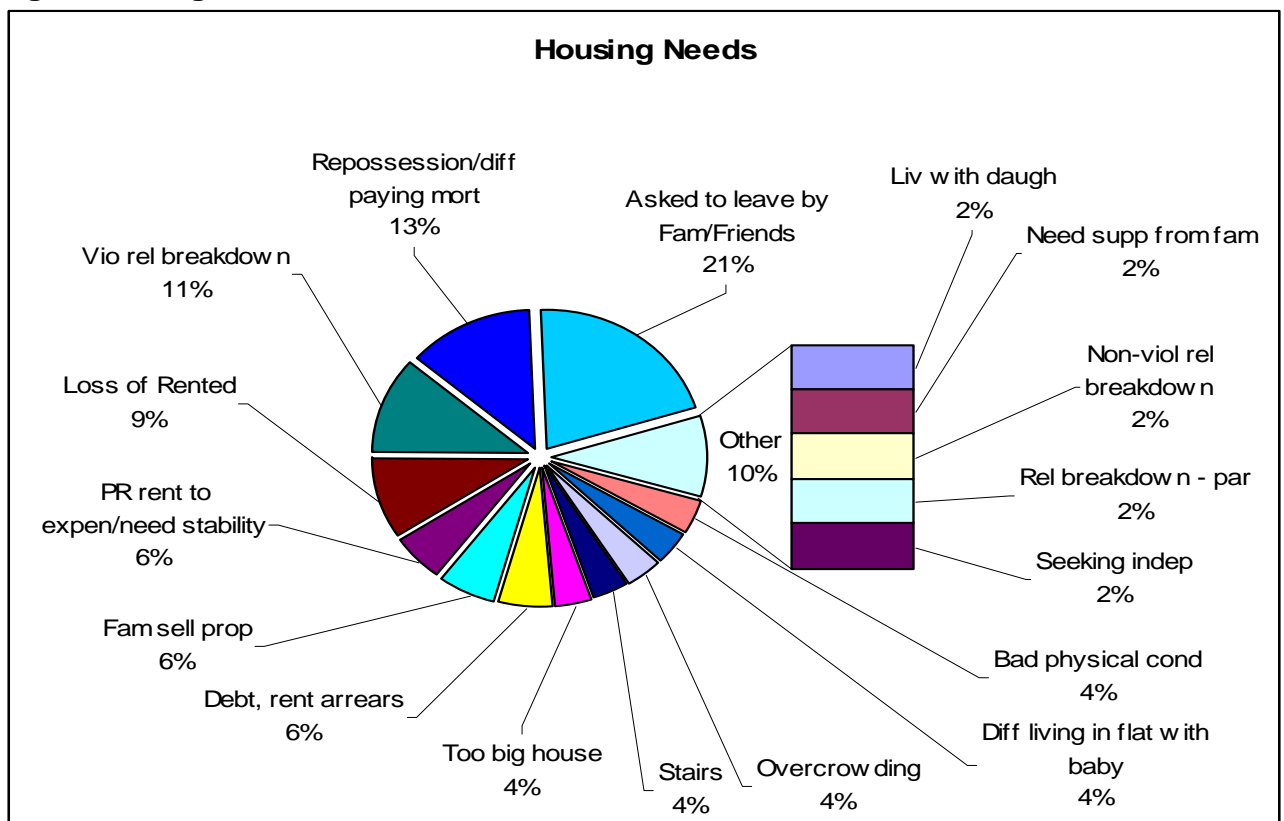
## APPENDIX C

### Case Study – North Warwickshire Housing Needs Snapshot Survey

In February 2008, North Warwickshire Borough Council in partnership with the Accommodation Forum undertook a Housing Needs Snapshot Survey.

In all, 52 households were recorded in the survey which contained 66 people. The following graph shows that the highest reason for housing difficulty is 'asked to leave by family or friends (21%)', the next are 'repossession (mortgage)' (13%) and 'violent relationship breakdown (11%)'.

**Fig 3 Housing Need breakdown**



It can be seen in Table 11 that 42% of people seen were couples and 55% were single people. It might be significant that females made up the majority of the single figure. The figures will be slightly biased towards single people as some of the agencies involved mainly offer their service to single people.

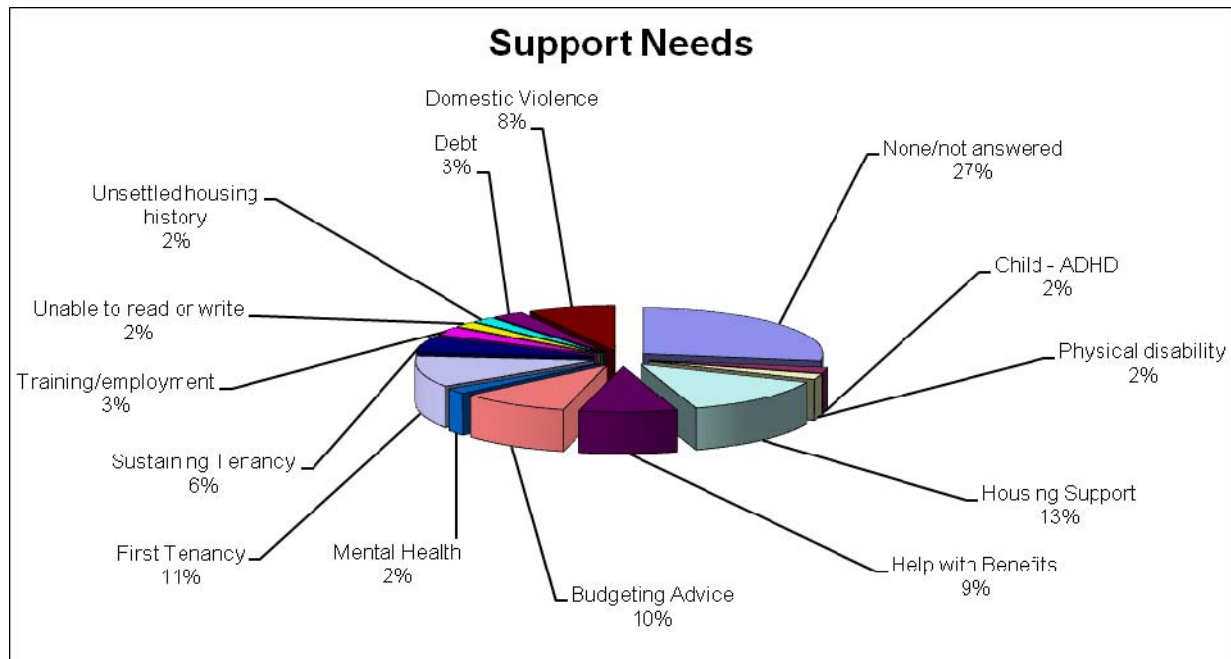
**Table 11 Sex of people seen – Snapshot Survey**

	Total	Percentage
Male	10	15%
Female	26	40%
Couple (m/f)	28	42%

<b>Not Answered</b>	2	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	66	<b>100%</b>

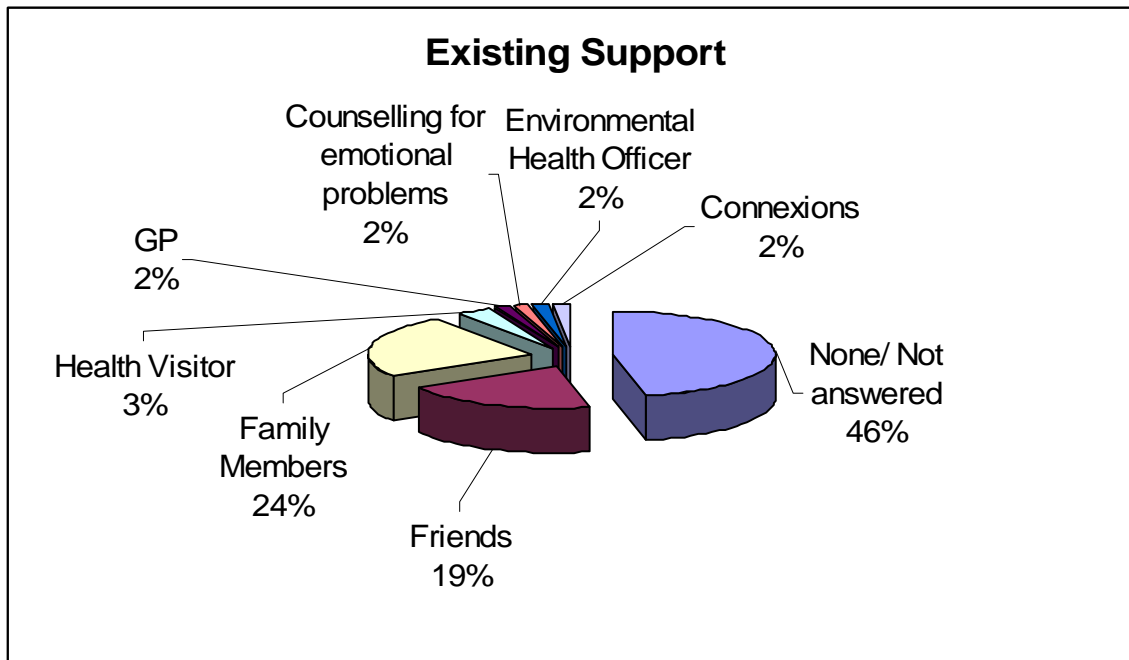
The Chart below was compiled to exactly what was reported and shows that the majority of respondents did not identify a support need (27%). The highest support need was generic 'Housing Support' (13%).

**Fig 4 Support needs – Snapshot Survey**



Family members (24%) and Friends (19%) made up the majority of existing support for people in the survey as seen below:

**Fig 5 Existing support – Snapshot Survey**



As information was not completed by all agencies in the authority area and it was only a snapshot survey of a month, it is difficult to draw conclusions. However, it is interesting to note:

- Two of the housing difficulty reasons were similar to traditional figures that of 'loss of accommodation because being asked to leave by family or friends' and 'violent relationship breakdown'.
- Repossession (mortgage) was relatively high and it might be useful to investigate this reason further in relation to service and housing options provision