

## **CHAPTER 6 : COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS STUDIES**

### **Introduction and Caveats**

Now that four studies of social need have been carried out for Nottinghamshire, spread over 30 years, there is a good opportunity to examine the distribution of social need over a considerable time period. Changes in the methodology, indicators and zones used mean that this examination cannot be very precise, but it is possible to draw some conclusions about general patterns.

It is important to bear in mind that such an examination can only look at changes in the distribution of social need, not the absolute levels of social need. For instance, housing conditions have improved markedly over the last 30 years and unemployment is much lower than it was 10 years ago. Some other factors, particularly those relating to social order, may have worsened.

The first section below looks at the number of zones in greatest social need which were in each District in the last three studies. The wide variation in the population of zones in the 1975 Study (see the next paragraph) means that it is not valid to include it in this analysis.

The second section examines the distribution of social need identified by the studies in more local detail. Map 6.1 shows the pattern of social need identified in the 1975 Study. This was a ground-breaking study, setting a precedent which a number of other local authorities followed. The zones which it used were not, however, very sophisticated. Wards were used in urban areas and civil parishes in rural areas, meaning that there was a wide variation in their population. However, because of the methodology used (a complicated statistical technique called 'principal component analysis'), this does not appear to have affected the distribution as shown on a map to any great extent.

Maps 6.2 and 6.3 show the distribution in the 1983 and 1994 Studies. These used the same methodology and zones as each other and broadly the same indicators.

Map 6.4 shows the current Study. Although the zones are different to the two previous studies, the methodology is the same and the indicators are broadly similar.

### **Changes in the Distribution of Social Need between Districts**

Tables 6.1 to 6.5 show the number of zones in the above average social need categories by District for the last three studies. A reasonable conclusion from these, taking account of the changes in zone size, is that the areas with the most extreme social need are as concentrated in Nottingham as they have been since 1983, but that those with lower levels of above average social need may be more extensively spread across other parts of Nottinghamshire than they were in the 1983 Study.

When looking at these tables it is important to bear in mind that the total number of zones increased from 210 to 380 between the 1994 and 2004 Studies. Also,

because of the way in which the new zones were devised, the average size of zones is now rather larger in Nottingham than elsewhere. This will affect the scale of apparent changes in the tables to some extent (i.e. all other things being equal, the proportion of zones in social need that are in the City would now be lower than in 1994 due to the change in zone size). This has been taken into account in the commentary below.

**Table 6.1 : All zones with above average social need**

	1983	1994	2004
Ashfield	4	6	18
Bassetlaw	3	4	12
Broxtowe	0	0	4
Gedling	1	1	5
Mansfield	8	11	22
Newark & Sherwood	7	4	10
Nottingham	43	41	62
Rushcliffe	0	0	1
Nottinghamshire	66	67	134

**Table 6.2 : % of all zones in the District which have above average social need**

	1983	1994	2004
	%	%	%
Ashfield	18	27	42
Bassetlaw	14	18	29
Broxtowe	0	0	9
Gedling*	5	4	11
Mansfield	35	48	50
Newark & Sherwood*	28	17	24
Nottingham	77	73	76
Rushcliffe	0	0	3
Nottinghamshire	31	32	35

\* One zone which was not in social need (Ravenshead) was changed from Newark and Sherwood to Gedling between the 1983 and 1994 studies, due to a district boundary change.

When all zones with above average social need are taken together, the proportion in Nottingham has fallen, from two-thirds (43 out of 66) in 1984 to less than half (62 out of 134) in 2004. This change must, however, be affected by the average population of City zones being higher than elsewhere, as the percentage of the Nottingham's zones with above average social need (76%) is practically the same in the current Study as in 1983, and is actually slightly higher than in 1994. The percentage of all zones in Nottinghamshire with above average social need rose slightly in the same period, from 31% in 1983 to 35% in 2004. Mansfield and Ashfield are the two districts where the proportion of their zones with above average social need is greater than in Nottinghamshire as a whole. Mansfield exceeded the Nottinghamshire percentage in all of the Studies, although by much more in the last two. Ashfield did not exceed the Nottinghamshire percentage until the current Study.

**Table 6.3 : Zones with extreme social need**

	1983	1994	2004
Ashfield	0	0	0
Bassetlaw	0	1	1
Broxtowe	0	0	0
Gedling	0	0	0
Mansfield	2	2	4
Newark & Sherwood	0	0	1
Nottingham	12	14	13
Rushcliffe	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	14	17	19

The proportion of the zones with extreme social need which is in Nottingham has fallen from 12 out of 14 (86%) in 1984 to 13 out of 19 (68%) in 2004. This scale of change is likely to be affected by the larger average population size of City zones.

**Table 6.4 : Zones with serious social need**

	1983	1994	2004
Ashfield	1	1	5
Bassetlaw	2	0	3
Broxtowe	0	0	1
Gedling	0	0	1
Mansfield	1	5	5
Newark & Sherwood	1	2	3
Nottingham	17	16	32
Rushcliffe	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	22	24	50

The proportion with serious social need which is in Nottingham has fallen from 17 out of 22 (77%) in 1983 to 32 out of 50 (64%) in 2004. Once again, this scale of change is likely to be affected by the larger average population size of City zones. The Districts with the biggest increases are Ashfield and Mansfield. Although both Districts had increases from one to five, in Mansfield this happened between 1983 and 1994, whereas in Ashfield it did not happen until after 1994.

**Table 6.5 : Zones with moderate social need**

	1983	1994	2004
Ashfield	3	5	13
Bassetlaw	1	3	8
Broxtowe	0	0	3
Gedling	1	1	4
Mansfield	5	4	13
Newark & Sherwood	6	2	6
Nottingham	14	11	17
Rushcliffe	0	0	1
Nottinghamshire	30	26	65

The proportion of zones with moderate social need which is in Nottingham also fell, from 14 out of 30 (47%) in 1983 to 17 out of 65 (26%) in 2004. This scale of change is less likely to be totally due to the larger average population size of City zones. Again, Ashfield and Mansfield showed the greatest increase, together with Bassetlaw.

## **Changes in the Location of Social Need**

Comparison of Maps 6.1 to 6.4 shows that there has been little change in the more detailed pattern of social need in the last 30 years.

Broadly the same parts of Nottingham, Mansfield and Worksop came out as worst in 1975 and 2004. Within Nottingham, although the inner city is still prominent, there is now an increased emphasis on the north and north-west of the City, particularly parts of Bulwell and Bestwood/Bestwood Park. The use of ward boundaries in 1975 may be at least a partial explanation of this.

Within Mansfield, social need has become more general with the pattern widening over the last 30 years, although this may also have been affected by the use of ward boundaries in 1975.

Parts of Newark did badly in the 1975 Study, particularly what was then known as the Newark West ward. The town does, however, figure more in the current Study than in 1983 and 1994.

Some of the less urban former mining areas (Boughton, Ollerton, Harworth, Blidworth and Bilsthorpe) seem to fare better in the current study than in 1975 and, to a lesser extent, 1994. Warsop is ranked higher in the last two Studies than previously.

The use of parishes in 1975 came up with some areas of rural deprivation which have not been repeated since (e.g. Mattersey, Gringley-on-the-Hill and Oxtun).

Eastwood had areas of above average social need in 1975. These have recurred in the current Study, possibly due to the use of smaller zones. The smaller zones may also have contributed to the identification of parts of Cotgrave, Carlton, Beeston, Stapleford and Retford as having above average social need. Hucknall is also shown as having a wider distribution of social need than previously. Within Gedling, whereas Netherfield was the most deprived area in 1975, by 2004 it had been replaced by Killisick.

