

## CHAPTER 8 : CONCLUSIONS

As discussed in Chapter 3, the main concentrations of areas experiencing social need in Nottinghamshire are in Nottingham, Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood (particularly in Newark town), and Worksop in Bassetlaw. There are marked instances of social need existing alongside areas which are comparatively free from need. Each district in the County has at least one area experiencing social need although the extent of need is far less marked in Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe.

Maps 6.1 to 6.4 show the geographical pattern of social need across Nottinghamshire over the last 30 years. These maps show similar patterns emerging from this distribution in that Nottingham and areas in the former coalfield show marked social need over time.

However, the maps also show some marked differences, with further areas of Mansfield and Ashfield becoming more in need in later years. In addition, the latest map also shows more parts of Greater Nottingham outside the City emerging, along with the north-west of Newark and Sherwood district, and an intensification of need in Newark.

The above findings give clear pointers for future work in certain areas of Nottinghamshire. There has been a debate in Government and amongst regeneration agencies in recent years about the effectiveness of area based initiatives and whether more joined-up work could be more effective in tackling deep seated problems. This study indicates that many aspects of social need are closely interrelated. The *National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*, published by the Government in 2000, had goals aimed at 'bridging the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of England and in all the worst neighbourhoods, to achieve lower long-term worklessness, less crime, better health and better educational qualifications'. In spite of successive funding streams and a variety of area based programmes, social need continues to be a feature affecting many areas of Nottinghamshire. It is likely that these deep seated problems will only be satisfactorily addressed through the concerted efforts of many agencies working together to provide long-term and joined-up solutions to these deep seated needs.

The findings of this report have important ramifications in terms of the identification of those areas most in need and if this work can help to facilitate this process, its production will have been worthwhile.

