Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004

Executive Summary





Introduction

This is the fourth study into social need in Nottinghamshire. The series now covers a 30 year period with the first edition produced in the early 1970s. This is the first time the study has been carried out through the joint efforts of teams in both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils.

Although similar in concept to the Indices of Deprivation Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004 is distinct and remains important because:

- it puts social need into a Nottinghamshire context;
- the zones used have been defined to reflect locally identifiable communities;
- it is the latest in a series of studies which provide an opportunity to look at changing patterns of social need in Nottinghamshire over the last 30 years;
- several indicators have been used which are not available for the Indices of Deprivation;
- in addition to an overall measure of social need, detailed data about the indicators used is contained in the report;
- information has been included showing the relationship between different aspects of social need, through 'correlation coefficients'.

Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004 has been prepared in order to assess the distribution of social need across the geographic county of Nottinghamshire. It should therefore be useful for both policy makers and service deliverers in that it provides pointers to where efforts may need to be directed, both by local authorities and others, to address these needs.

The Extent of Social Need in Nottinghamshire

Of the 380 zones in the Study, 134 zones are found to be in social need as defined by this Study (i.e. they have above the average score for Nottinghamshire as a whole).

The Study identifies 19 zones that experience extreme social need, 50 zones that experience serious social need and 65 zones experiencing moderate social need. These zones are shown on Map 1. According to these definitions, 37.5% of Nottinghamshire's population live in areas experiencing social need. This proportion rises to 74.7% in Nottingham City. Please note this does not imply that these percentages of the population experience above average social need.

The Distribution of Areas in Social Need

A high proportion of areas in social need are concentrated in Nottingham where 62 of the 82 zones experience this to some degree. Mansfield has the second highest number (22), half of all its zones. In contrast, only one zone in Rushcliffe was identified as experiencing social need, and only four in Broxtowe and five in Gedling.

The zones in greatest social need are concentrated to an even greater extent in Nottingham City. Of the 19 zones identified as experiencing extreme social need, 13 are within the City boundaries. Just over half of these are in the inner city area. Of the remaining zones, one is in Bassetlaw (Worksop Manton North, BA37, that has the highest score in Nottinghamshire), four are in Mansfield and one is in Newark and Sherwood.

Of the 50 zones experiencing serious social need 32 are in Nottingham. There are five in Ashfield, five in Mansfield, three in both Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood, and one in each of Broxtowe and Gedling. Of the 65 zones experiencing moderate social need 17 are in Nottingham, there are 13 in both Ashfield and Mansfield, eight in Bassetlaw, six in Newark and Sherwood, four in Gedling, three in Broxtowe and one in Rushcliffe.

Social Need in Nottingham City

Of the 82 zones in Nottingham City, 62 experience some degree of social need as defined in the study.

The areas experiencing extreme social need in Nottingham are varied in both character and location.

Broxtowe East (NO28) is the highest scoring zone in the City (and 2nd highest in Nottinghamshire). Broxtowe West (NO27) has the 5th highest score in the City (and is 7th in Nottinghamshire). Bells Lane (NO18), which neighbours the Broxtowe Estate to the north-east, is also an area experiencing extreme social need.

In the inner city area, all four zones in St Ann's experience extreme social need. These are St Ann's South (NO53, ranked 3rd in Nottinghamshire), St. Ann's Central (NO50, ranked 8th), St Ann's West (NO12, ranked 11th) and St. Ann's East (NO51, ranked 18th).

Both these areas are dominated by public sector housing, but St Ann's is an inner city estate constructed in the early 1970s while Broxtowe Estate on the periphery of Nottingham was constructed between the wars. Although the zone geographies have changed, both Broxtowe Estate and St. Ann's were also highlighted as experiencing some of the most extreme social need in the 1994 Study.

Thirty two City zones experience serious social need. There are clusters to the north-east around Bestwood, Bulwell and Top Valley and in the north-west around

Aspley. Zones in the inner city within this category include Forest Fields East (NO17), All Saints (NO47), The Arboretum (NO48) and Sneinton North (NO68).

Seventeen City zones experience moderate social need. This category takes in further areas of the inner city, including Hyson Green North (NO43) and Forest Fields West (NO45). To the north, Highbury Vale West (NO14) and Highbury Vale East (NO15) are identified as having moderate social need, and to the south, Clifton Estate North (NO78) and Clifton Estate East (NO 82).

Only 20 zones in the City have below average levels of social need. There are some notable concentrations, including the zones that comprise Mapperley, Sherwood and Wollaton. These areas are similar to the 1994 Study.

The use of lower population thresholds for the 2004 Study has enabled the identification of small areas experiencing social need that are in close proximity to more affluent parts of the City. These include Edwards Lane (NO17) that neighbours Sherwood, Nobel Road (NO80) in Clifton, and Lenton Abbey (NO71) near Wollaton.

Social Need in Nottinghamshire County

The analysis shows which districts have the most marked social need. Outside the City of Nottingham, the districts with the most widespread problems are clearly Mansfield and Ashfield, each of which has multiple zones exhibiting serious and moderate social need. The most extensive area of highest social need is in Mansfield which has four zones with extreme need, whereas Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood each have one zone with extreme need.

A closer examination of the pattern of zones shows which zones in each district have the most and least need. The zone with the highest need by far is Worksop Manton North (BA37), which has the highest social need in Nottinghamshire, including the City. There are a cluster of zones showing serious need in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Worksop, various parts of Mansfield and central Newark. One marked feature arising from this analysis is that areas with extreme and serious social need are in close proximity to zones with below average or minimal need.

Ashfield has five zones with serious social need and 13 others with moderate, with a marked concentration of serious social need in Sutton-in-Ashfield. Although 18 zones in the district have high needs, 25 zones have below average need.

Bassetlaw has the zone with the highest social need in the County - Worksop Manton North (BA37). Three other zones in Worksop have serious social need and eight more moderate need. 30 Bassetlaw zones however, including three other Worksop zones, have below average social need.

New Eastwood (BR06) in Broxtowe is the district's only zone with serious need whilst three other zones in Beeston, Stapleford and Eastwood record moderate social need.

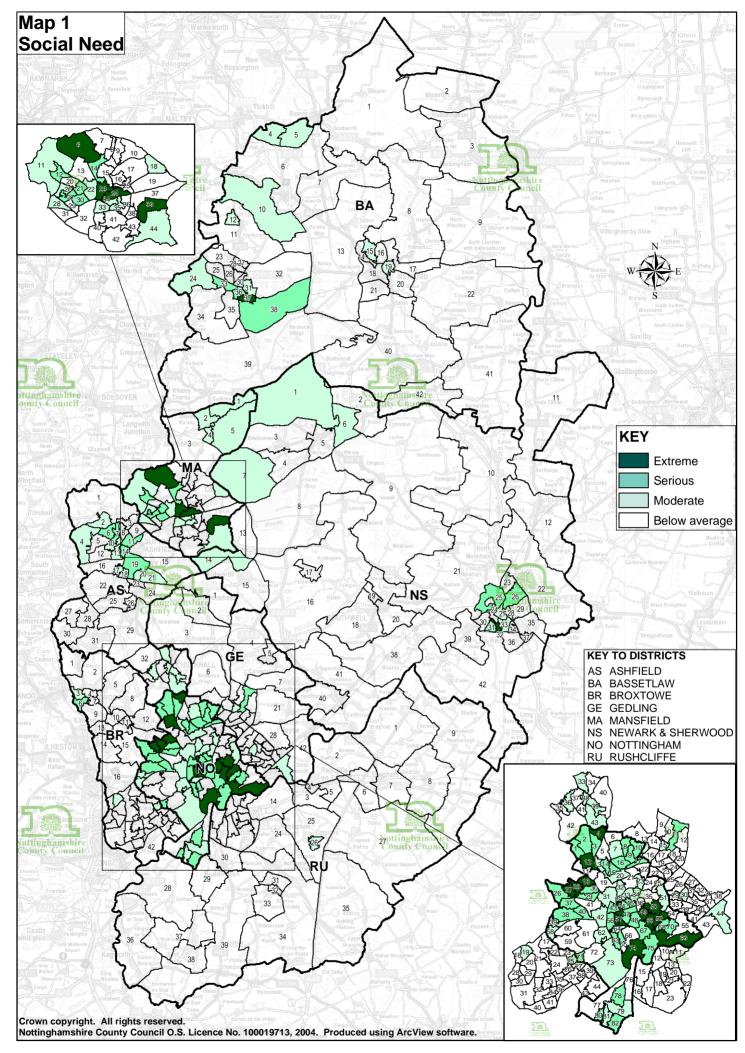
A similar picture emerges from Gedling where only one zone – Arnold Killisick (GE11), has serious need and four other zones, in Daybrook, Arnold, Carlton and Netherfield have moderate need.

Mansfield has the most marked need of all the County districts outside the City. Four zones in Mansfield Woodhouse have extreme need and five others, elsewhere in the district, serious need. Half of all Mansfield's 44 zones are classified as having above average social need.

The most marked cluster of zones with social need in the County area is that concentrated in central Newark, with four zones having extreme and severe need. Two other zones, in Ollerton and Boughton, figure in the six most in need in Newark and Sherwood district.

Although only one zone in Rushcliffe – Cotgrave Central (RU26) - has above average need, a group of West Bridgford zones are amongst the top half dozen in need zones in the district even though all these have below average need.

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Changes in the Location of Social Need

Comparison of Maps 2 to 5 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.

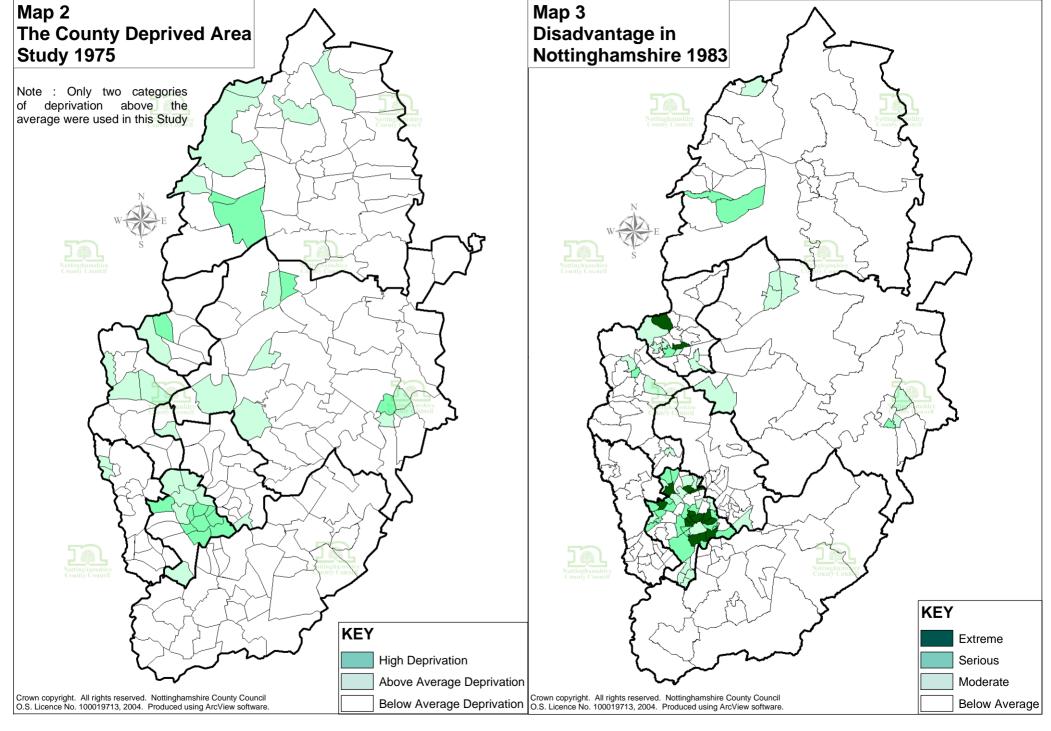
Within Mansfield, social need has become more general with the pattern widening over the last 30 years, although this may also have been affected by the use of ward boundaries in 1975.

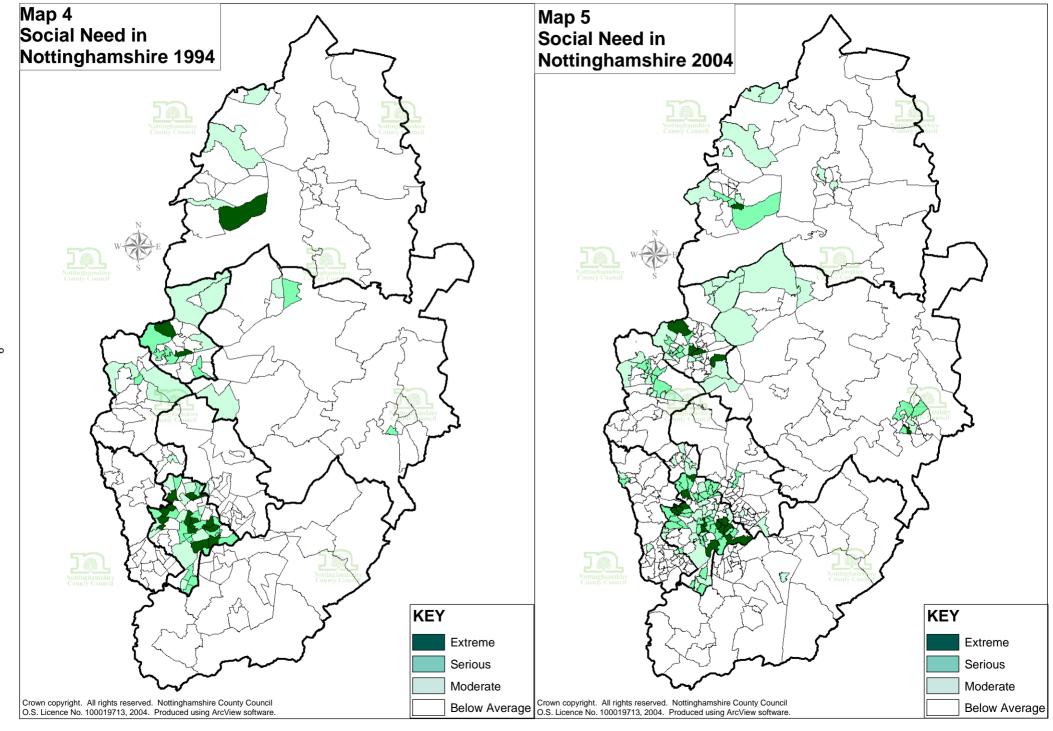
Parts of Newark did badly in the 1975 Study, particularly what was then known as the Newark West ward. The town does, however, figure more in the current Study than in 1983 and 1994.

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 Oxton).

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.





Conclusions

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 2 to 5 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.

Contacts

Further information or copies of the complete Study can be obtained by contacting the teams responsible for publication.

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