

Annual survey of The Big Issue in the North vendors 2004

THE BIG
ISSUE
IN THE NORTH

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The
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social businesses
and charities

Annual survey of The Big Issue in the vendors 2004

The Big Issue in the North is part of The Big Life group of social businesses and charities which provide support and opportunities for people to change their lives. Our work with vendors is based on the following principles:

We believe people are unique

We believe people have unlimited potential

People have the capacity to change

We demonstrate respect

We celebrate achievement

North

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The Big Issue in the North

Registered office
135-141 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LN

Tel: 0161-834-6300
Fax: 0161-832-3237

The Big Issue in the North
Company reg. 3026628

The Big Issue in the North Trust

Registered office
135-141 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LN

Tel: 0161-834-6300
Fax: 0161-832-3237

Registered charity: 1056041
Company reg. 3164559

The Big Life Company

Registered office
135-141 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LN

Tel: 0161-834-6300
Fax: 0161-832-3237

The Big Life Company
Company reg. 4227431

Visit: www.thebiglifecompany.com

This year's survey was carried out by staff and volunteers from The Big Issue in the North/The Big Life Company. The report was written by Ali Watson, Research Manager for The Big Life Company.

Contact:
ali.watson@thebiglifecompany.com

1.0 Introduction

This year's survey, which is the sixth annual audit of our vendors, was carried out during January and early February 2004. Every year *The Big Issue in the North* and The Big Issue in the North Trust conduct such a survey in order to:

- produce statistical information about current vendors that can be compared to the findings from previous research;
- provide data to assist us to develop our policies so that we can offer informed, practical services to our vendors;
- contribute to local and

national debates on tackling homelessness;

- gather together information to support our strategy for attracting funding for future service provision.

This year's audit contains a great deal of information that can be compared with the results of our previous surveys. We have also added new questions on vendors' use of other services and their experiences of begging, and revisited questions on their training needs and the effects of selling the magazine on their levels of drug/alcohol use and crime.

2.0 Summary

This section outlines some of the key findings from this year's survey. More detailed information is contained in the pages that follow.

- vendors are mostly white men in their 20s and 30s (section 3);
- almost 3 in 10 consider themselves to have a disability or long-term illness that limits their daily activity (section 3);
- a quarter of vendors spent time in local authority care before becoming homeless (section 3);
- half have formal educational qualifications (section 4);
- three quarters of vendors have had a formal paid job other than selling *The Big Issue in the North*, although half of these have not worked in the last 3 years (section 4);
- more than 4 in 10 first became homeless before the age of 21 (section 5);
- almost a third of vendors have been homeless for more than 3 years (section 5);
- more than 1 in 7 vendors had spent the previous night sleeping rough, and three quarters had slept rough at some point in the last year (section 6);
- most rough sleeping by vendors is relatively short-term (section 6);
- the main areas of life causing vendors problems were drugs, accommodation, money, employment, eating properly and physical health (section 7);

■ almost half were not using any services other than *The Big Issue in the North* (section 8);

■ 4 in 10 have some form of financial account in which they can deposit money (section 8);

■ 8 in 10 vendors said selling the magazine had helped improve their self-confidence and motivation to change (section 9);

■ half said their drug and/or alcohol use had decreased, and more than 4 in 5 said the amount of crime they committed had fallen since they started selling the magazine (section 9);

■ the majority of vendors want to move on from selling *The Big Issue in the North* and do other things in life (section 10).

3.0 Who are our vendors?

This section describes the main characteristics of our vendors in terms of gender, age, ethnic background and disability. It also

examines whether they spent time in local authority care as a child.

3.1 How many vendors are there?

In the week prior to the start of the survey, a count was made of the number of vendors who bought magazines from each of our three main offices. There were 270 vendors in total: 101 in Leeds, 48 in Liverpool and 121 in Manchester. This figure will change from week to week, but it represents the number of active vendors we had at the start of January 2004.

Not all of the vendors actually sell *The Big Issue in the North* in these

three cities - the magazine is sold on the streets of more than 120 towns and cities across the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside - but vendors are recorded at the office from which they buy their magazines. We also have two smaller 'satellite' offices in Sheffield and Hull (which had 22 and 8 active vendors that week respectively), but as in previous years these vendors have been included in the figures for Leeds, as this is the administrative centre serving both sites.

This year we badged up 304 vendors during the survey (compared to 308 in last year's audit, and 302 in 2001): 116 in Leeds, 56 in Liverpool and 132 in Manchester. Given the number of active vendors in the week prior to the start of the survey, this suggests that the figures are a fair representation of vendors in each of the three cities.

3.2 Gender

The majority of vendors are male, as Table 3.1 shows. The proportion of female vendors has fallen slightly since last year's audit, but has not reached the

levels last seen in 2001 (when only 7% were female). The figures for the three cities are fairly similar, although Leeds has the highest proportion of female vendors this

year, in contrast to 2002, when it had the lowest.

Table 3.1: gender by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
male	89%	93%	92%	91%	90%
female	11%	7%	8%	9%	10%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=116	n=56	n=132	n=304	n=308

3.3 Age

Almost two-thirds of our vendors are aged between 21 and 35 years old. The age profile of vendors has remained fairly stable in recent audits,

although the average age has risen slightly for the second year running to 33 (from 32 in 2002 and 31 in both 2000 and 2001). The youngest person to

approach us for services this year was 18 years of age, and the oldest was 65.

Table 3.2: age by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
16-20 years	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%
21-25 years	20%	5%	11%	14%	14%
26-30 years	28%	21%	21%	23%	28%
31-35 years	28%	30%	29%	29%	26%
36-40 years	18%	20%	17%	18%	19%
41-45 years	4%	16%	10%	9%	7%
46-50 years	-	2%	5%	2%	2%
over 50	-	4%	4%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100% n=116	100% n=56	100% n=132	100% n=304	100% n=308

Leeds has a slightly younger age profile than the other two cities (see Table 3.2), as it did in 2002, with an average age of 31 years, compared to 33 in Manchester, and 35 in Liverpool - where the average age of vendors has risen

by 2 years since the previous audit.

Female vendors are younger than male vendors overall, with an average age of 30 years, compared to 33 for males.

3.4 Ethnicity

As in previous years, most vendors describe their ethnicity as White British. The overall figures are similar to those from 2002, with the slight fall in the proportion of White British vendors balanced out by a small increase in the numbers

from 'any other White' and 'any other ethnic' backgrounds, reflecting the number of Eastern European refugees we badged up this year.

The differences between the three cities are not significant, although none of the Liverpool vendors describe themselves as coming from 'any other ethnic background', as Table 3.3 shows.

Table 3.3: ethnic background by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
White British	86%	87%	82%	85%	89%
White Irish	1%	4%	4%	3%	3%
any other White	4%	6%	5%	5%	3%
Mixed White and Black	2%	-	-	1%	2%
Mixed White and Asian	-	-	-	-	<1%
any other Mixed	1%	-	1%	1%	<1%
Bangladeshi	1%	-	-	<1%	<1%
any other Asian	-	2%	-	<1%	<1%
Black African	-	2%	1%	1%	1%
any other	4%	-	8%	5%	1%
not stated	2%	-	-	1%	1%
TOTAL (missing=6)	100% n=114	100% n=55	100% n=129	100% n=298	100% n=307

3.5 Disability

This year the proportion of vendors (28%) who say they have a disability or long-term illness that limits their daily activity is the lowest it has been since we started

our annual surveys. It is still much higher than the figure of 18% for the population overall, and 13% of those of working age, however (UK Census 2001).

Table 3.4: disability or long-term illness by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
no disability	75%	73%	68%	72%	66%
disability	25%	27%	32%	28%	34%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=116	n=56	n=132	n=304	n=308

Vendors in Manchester were most likely to say they had such a disability, although as in 2002, the differences between the cities are not significant. Female vendors (36%) were slightly more likely to say they had a disability than male vendors (28%), just as they were in

the last two surveys.

Whilst disability is not the same as ill health, a markedly higher proportion of vendors with a disability reported having health problems (see Table 7.1). 51% were currently experiencing

physical health problems (compared to 26% of vendors without a disability) and 35% were having problems with their mental health (compared to 18% of other vendors).

3.6 Time spent in local authority care

A quarter of vendors had spent time in care before becoming homeless. This proportion is somewhat lower than it has been in previous audits, when around 3 in 10 vendors had done so. Only

6% of vendors overall said they first became homeless on leaving local authority care (see Table 5.2).

Vendors in Liverpool were least likely to have spent time in local

authority care in the past, as Table 3.5 shows. A slightly higher proportion of male vendors (26%) than female (21%) said they had been in care.

Table 3.5: local authority care by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
been in care	26%	20%	27%	25%	30%
not been in care	74%	80%	73%	75%	70%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=6)	n=115	n=56	n=127	n=298	n=306

4.0 History of education and employment

This section examines the proportion of vendors with educational qualifications. It also describes the jobs that vendors have done in the past, identifies

how long it is since they were in other forms of employment, looks at the type of work they would like to move into when they stop selling *The Big Issue in the North*,

and highlights the training they think they need to help them get there.

4.1 Educational qualifications

Almost half (49%) of vendors overall have a formal educational qualification, as Table 4.1 shows.

This figure has risen slightly from 2002, but is not as high as the level seen in 2001 (57%), which

was the first year that questions about vendors' qualifications were asked.

Table 4.1: whether vendors have formal educational qualifications by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
qualifications	55%	43%	46%	49%	46%
no qualifications	45%	57%	54%	51%	54%
TOTAL	100% n=116	100% n=56	100% n=132	100% n=304	100% n=308

As in 2002, vendors in Leeds are more likely to have a formal qualification than vendors in either Liverpool or Manchester, but the

differences are not as marked this year. However female vendors (71%) are significantly more likely than their male counterparts

(46%) to have a qualification of some kind.

Table 4.2: level of vendors' highest qualification by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
level 1	36%	6%	18%	23%	33%
level 2	31%	47%	32%	34%	31%
level 3	21%	29%	34%	28%	20%
level 4	8%	6%	11%	9%	9%
occupational only	5%	12%	5%	6%	8%
TOTAL	100% n=39	100% n=17	100% n=38	100% n=94	100% n=92

Note: the table only includes vendors with qualifications where the level of qualification is unambiguous (in both 2004 and 2002 some vendors did not identify grades, so the highest level of qualification is unclear). Level 1 is an NVQ or GNVQ level 1 or GCSEs grades D-F; level 2 is an NVQ or GNVQ level 2 or O levels/GCSEs grades A-C; level 3 is an NVQ or GNVQ level 3 or A levels; level 4 is an NVQ or GNVQ levels 4-5 or a university degree.

Alongside the rise in the percentage of vendors with educational qualifications this year, there has also been an increase in the levels to which they are qualified (see Table 4.2). Vendors

in 2004 are less likely to have Level 1 qualifications only, and more likely to be qualified to Levels 2 or 3 than vendors in last year's survey. The differences between the offices are not statistically

significant, but vendors in Leeds are more likely to have Level 1 qualifications only, whilst the Liverpool vendors are most likely to be qualified to Level 2.

4.2 Previous employment

As has been found in previous surveys, the majority of vendors (75%) have had a formal paid job other than selling *The Big Issue in the North*. This proportion is slowly declining however, from 84% in

2001 and 77% last year. Once again vendors in Liverpool are the least likely to have worked in the past, although the percentages in all three cities vary only slightly from the average this year.

Table 4.3: whether vendors have had a formal paid job prior to selling by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
not had a job before	20%	30%	27%	25%	23%
had a job before	80%	70%	73%	75%	77%
TOTAL	100% n=116	100% n=56	100% n=132	100% n=304	100% n=308

4.3 Length of time since vendors had a job

Half of those vendors who have worked prior to selling the magazine have not done so in the last three years, continuing the pattern seen in previous audits. In

2004 however almost a quarter (24%) had a job within a year of approaching us for services, compared to 18% in 2001 and only 11% last year.

Table 4.4: time since vendors' last job finished by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
in the last 6 months	8%	15%	14%	11%	5%
6-12 months ago	9%	13%	17%	13%	6%
1-2 years ago	12%	13%	8%	11%	12%
2-3 years ago	23%	3%	14%	15%	19%
more than 3 years ago	50%	56%	48%	50%	58%
TOTAL	100% n=93	100% n=39	100% n=96	100% n=228	100% n=236

Note: only includes vendors who worked prior to selling *The Big Issue in the North*.

Leeds vendors are slightly less likely than vendors in either Liverpool or Manchester to have been in paid employment in the

last 12 months, and slightly more likely not to have worked for 2 or more years, but overall there is not a significant difference between

the three cities, as can be seen from Table 4.4.

4.4 Types of job vendors have worked in

Those vendors who had worked prior to selling *The Big Issue in the North* were asked to describe the jobs they had done in the past (see Table 4.5).

The overall profile is very similar to that seen in 2002, and for the third

year in a row, most vendors had previously been employed in some form of manual job. Just under a third (31%) had jobs classified under 'elementary occupations', which is mainly unskilled manual work such as labouring or cleaning, while a

quarter (25%) described their old jobs as 'skilled trades occupations', which includes skilled construction workers, mechanics and electricians. The figures for the three cities are very similar in this respect.

Table 4.5: vendors' previous jobs by Standard Occupational Classification by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
managers/senior officials	1%	-	2%	1%	2%
professional occupations	2%	-	1%	1%	1%
associated professional&technical	4%	3%	5%	5%	4%
administrative&secretarial	1%	-	3%	2%	2%
skilled trades occupations	31%	28%	18%	25%	21%
personal service occupations	4%	8%	2%	4%	3%
sales/customer services	5%	3%	7%	6%	6%
process/plant/machine operatives	9%	13%	17%	13%	12%
elementary occupations	28%	36%	32%	31%	35%
not stated	14%	10%	13%	13%	14%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=93	n=39	n=96	n=228	n=236

Note: only includes vendors who have had a job other than selling *The Big Issue in the North*. Jobs have been coded according to the Standard Occupational Qualification (SOC) used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

4.5 Types of job vendors want to do when they leave *The Big Issue in the North*

We also asked vendors what sort of job they wanted to do when they stopped selling the magazine. 1 in 7 (14%) said they were not

sure what work they wanted to do when they moved into, or that they would be happy to have any job at all (see Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: jobs vendors want to do by Standard Occupational Classification by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
managers/senior officials	3%	-	2%	2%	1%
professional occupations	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
associated professional&technical	10%	14%	11%	12%	14%
administrative&secretarial	1%	2%	2%	1%	<1%
skilled trades occupations	19%	20%	17%	18%	17%
personal service occupations	7%	5%	5%	6%	9%
sales/customer services	4%	7%	7%	6%	4%
process/plant/machine operatives	10%	7%	9%	9%	8%
elementary occupations	10%	9%	17%	13%	10%
training/college course	2%	5%	1%	2%	2%
don't know/not sure/any job	16%	11%	13%	14%	18%
not stated	13%	14%	14%	14%	12%
none/no job	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=116	n=56	n=132	n=304	n=308

Note: jobs have been coded according to the Standard Occupational Qualification (SOC) used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The types of occupation that were described were quite often those in which vendors had worked in the past, so again 'skilled trades occupations' were frequently mentioned. As in 2002, the 'associated professional and

technical' category also scored fairly highly, due mainly to the number of vendors who wanted to go on to work in IT. Once again this year, while 31% of vendors had worked in 'elementary occupations' in the past, only 13%

wanted to do so in the future, reflecting a desire amongst vendors to move into more skilled occupations on leaving The Big Issue in the North. There is little difference between the three cities here either.

4.6 Training needed to get these jobs

Those vendors who told us what sort of work they wanted to do when they stopped selling the magazine were asked what training they thought they needed to help them do this

(see Table 4.7). A quarter said they didn't need any training at all, which may partly reflect the number of vendors who wanted to do the same kind of work that they had done in the past.

Table 4.7: training vendors say they need by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
vocational training	33%	40%	22%	30%
other training	16%	28%	21%	20%
IT/computer skills	20%	20%	15%	18%
driving/HGV/fork lift	16%	25%	14%	17%
basic literacy	5%	8%	10%	8%
finance/accounting	9%	5%	4%	6%
business planning	7%	8%	5%	6%
basic numeracy	1%	10%	5%	5%
sales/marketing	3%	5%	8%	5%
typing	3%	5%	3%	3%
none	21%	15%	33%	25%
(missing=8)	n=75	n=40	n=92	n=215

Note: excludes vendors who didn't know what job they wanted to do, didn't say what job or didn't want a job on leaving The Big Issue in the North. This question was not asked in 2002 so no comparative figures are available. Vendors were asked to indicate all types of training they needed (i.e. multiple responses were possible), so the percentages in each column do not add up to 100%.

Overall vocational training was the most sought after, with counselling, construction, and catering and hospitality training most often mentioned in this context. There was something of an overlap between vocational and

'other' training, with the same three areas again coming up most frequently under this heading. IT training and driving/HGV/fork lift truck training were the only other training needs identified by more than 1 in 10 vendors (10%) overall.

While the differences between the offices are not significant, a higher proportion of vendors in Manchester said they didn't need any form of training to help them move on.

5.0 Becoming homeless

As previous studies have shown, people can find themselves without a home for many different reasons. This section describes

how and at what age vendors first became homeless, and looks at how long they have experienced unsettled housing.

5.1 When did vendors first become homeless?

Almost two-thirds of vendors (60%) had first become homeless by the time they were 25, and over 40% were homeless before their 21st birthday (see Table 5.1). These proportions for early age homelessness are slightly higher

than they were last year, and are approaching the levels seen in 2001, when 46% of vendors were homeless before 21 and 64% were homeless by the time they were 25.

Table 5.1: age at which vendors first became homeless by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
under 16	15%	14%	19%	17%	9%
16-20 years old	24%	14%	28%	24%	26%
21-25 years old	22%	25%	15%	19%	19%
26-30 years old	22%	16%	17%	19%	20%
31-35 years old	12%	16%	12%	13%	14%
36-40 years old	5%	9%	5%	6%	9%
41-45 years old	-	-	3%	1%	2%
46-50 years old	-	2%	2%	1%	1%
over 50	-	4%	1%	1%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=7)	n=111	n=56	n=130	n=297	n=308

As in 2002, a higher proportion of vendors in Manchester had become homeless at an earlier age: 47% of Manchester vendors were first homeless at 20 or under, compared to 39% of vendors in Leeds and 28% of vendors in

Liverpool. Previous audits have shown Liverpool vendors becoming homeless at a somewhat older age than those in the other two cities, and the pattern is repeated this year. Male vendors (41%) were slightly more

likely than female vendors (32%) to have been homeless by the time they were 20; most female vendors said they had first lost their home between the ages of 26 and 35.

5.2 How vendors became homeless

Vendors were asked to describe in broad terms how they first became homeless - in other words, the event or process which led to them losing their home, rather

than the underlying reason for this (for example, "my parents told me to leave" rather than "I was using a lot of drugs").

Table 5.2: how vendors became first homeless by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
split up with partner	28%	27%	24%	26%	25%
kicked out by parents	16%	18%	23%	20%	20%
left home due to problems	19%	18%	16%	18%	17%
left prison	9%	13%	6%	9%	9%
evicted	10%	5%	5%	7%	6%
left care	5%	7%	7%	6%	7%
left the armed forces	-	-	1%	<1%	1%
other	13%	13%	17%	15%	15%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=9)	n=111	n=56	n=128	n=295	n=307

Note: 'other' (n=43) includes: problems in home country, job loss, escaping violence, bereavement, landlord selling up, moving area, illness, going to work abroad.

Splitting up with a partner was the most common reason given by vendors, followed by being kicked out by their parents, and leaving the parental home due to problems (although there is probably a fine dividing line between the latter two). The breakdown of a relationship has been the most frequent response

given for a number of years now, and the figures from 2004 mirror almost exactly those seen in the previous survey. Following a slight dip in 2001, the proportion of vendors who first became homeless on leaving prison remains steady at almost 1 in 10.

As Table 5.2 shows, there is little difference between the descriptions given in each of the three cities, although a slightly higher proportion of vendors in Leeds lost their home through eviction, and more vendors in Liverpool said they first became homeless at the end of a prison sentence.

5.3 Length of homelessness

Vendors without their own tenancy (see Table 6.1) were asked how long they have been homeless or experienced unsettled housing. Almost a third (30%) have been homeless for more than 3 years. This reverses the trend that has

seen the proportion of long-term homelessness fall each year since the survey started, although the levels seen in 2001 (33%) and 2000 (39%) have not yet been reached.

Table 5.3: how long vendors have been homeless by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
less than 3 months	13%	7%	18%	14%	14%
3-6 months	11%	11%	16%	14%	15%
7-12 months	22%	20%	13%	18%	17%
1-2 years	16%	20%	11%	14%	17%
2-3 years	9%	16%	12%	12%	12%
3-5 years	14%	11%	10%	12%	9%
5-10 years	12%	7%	9%	10%	10%
more than 10 years	2%	9%	11%	8%	6%
TOTAL	100% n=90	100% n=45	100% n=116	100% n=251	100% n=247

Note: excludes vendors in own tenancy (n=256; missing=5).

The differences between the cities are not significant, although Manchester vendors are more likely to have been homeless for

over 5 years (20% compared to 16% in Liverpool and 14% in Leeds), as they were in 2002.

6.0 Housing situation

Homelessness does not always mean someone is sleeping on the streets, and previous surveys have shown that by no means all of our vendors are rough sleepers. However the majority of those who have had accommodation in the past have tended to be in temporary or unstable accommodation,

although some vendors will have been supported in moving into their own tenancies since starting to sell *The Big Issue in the North*.

This section explores vendors' current housing situation, and examines the issues around rough sleeping in some depth.

6.1 Current accommodation

Vendors were asked to describe the type of accommodation they slept in the night before they took part in the survey (Table 6.1). With friends or family and in a hostel were the two most common responses, followed by the vendor's own tenancy and sleeping rough. This repeats the

pattern seen in recent years, although the proportion staying with friends or family has risen slightly in 2004, whilst the other three figures have decreased. More than 1 in every 7 vendors had still spent the previous night sleeping rough, however (sleeping rough includes sleeping on the

streets as well as in warehouses, cars or other settings which are not designed for sleeping). For the second year running, the proportion of our vendors with their own tenancy fell slightly, from 23% in 2001 and 19% in 2002 to 16% this year.

Table 6.1: last night's accommodation by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
family/friend's place	38%	30%	33%	34%	24%
hostel	18%	30%	21%	21%	24%
own tenancy	20%	20%	11%	16%	19%
slept rough	14%	13%	16%	15%	18%
squat	4%	2%	8%	6%	3%
bed&breakfast	2%	4%	8%	5%	4%
night shelter	-	-	1%	<1%	4%
other	4%	2%	4%	4%	5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=116	n=56	n=132	n=304	n=307

Note: 'other' (n=11) includes: bedsit; caravan; church; didn't sleep; unspecified flat; flat via refugee action; homeless flat; partner's; prison; van; not stated.

As in previous surveys, it was apparent that most vendors staying with family or friends did not see this as a long-term solution; more than half (55%) of them said they were currently having problems with accommodation. Only those vendors who were living in a squat or sleeping rough were more likely to say they had accommodation problems.

There were some differences in current accommodation between

the cities, although these were not statistically significant. Vendors in Liverpool were most likely to be staying in a hostel, while vendors in Manchester were most likely to be in a B&B or squat, and least likely to have their own tenancy. Generally speaking the figures for Leeds were close to those for vendors overall.

Female vendors were slightly more likely to have slept rough on the night before the survey (21% compared with 14% of males),

while a higher proportion of male vendors (17%) than female vendors (4%) had their own tenancy. Vendors who had been selling the magazine for more than a year were significantly more likely than shorter-term vendors to have their own tenancy (24% compared with 9% of vendors who had been selling for less than 12 months).

6.2 Rough sleeping in the last twelve months

All vendors were asked whether they had slept rough during the last 12 months. Previous experience has shown that most vendors will sleep rough from time to time, even if they are not currently doing so.

Three quarters of vendors (74%) confirmed that they had slept

rough at some point in the last year. This proportion has remained relatively constant in recent surveys. There is very little difference between the cities in this respect (see Table 6.2), although vendors in Leeds were most likely to have slept rough this year, in contrast to 2002, when they were least likely to have done so. It

should be emphasised that vendors do not necessarily sleep rough in the cities from which they sell, so their experiences do not inevitably reflect the situation and/or current service provision within these cities.

Table 6.2: rough sleeping in the last twelve months by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
had slept rough	78%	71%	73%	74%	75%
had not slept rough	22%	29%	27%	26%	25%
TOTAL	100% n=116	100% n=56	100% n=132	100% n=304	100% n=308

As in 2002, vendors who have been selling the magazine for more than a year are significantly less likely to have slept rough in the last 12 months; 67% of them have done so, in comparison with 82% of vendors who have been selling for a year or less. Vendors with drug and/or alcohol problems (79%) are much more likely to have slept rough in the last year

than other vendors (68%).

Those vendors who had slept rough within the last 12 months were asked to say for how many consecutive nights they had done so on the most recent occasion. Previous audits have shown that most rough sleeping by vendors is relatively short-term, and the proportions of both those who

slept rough for a week or less the last time that they did so (41%), and those who spent less than a month sleeping rough on the most recent occasion (62%), rose again in 2004 after falling in last year's survey (Table 6.3). Having said that, 7% of vendors had still spent more than a year on the streets, mirroring the level of longer-term rough sleeping seen in 2002.

Table 6.3: number of consecutive nights spent sleeping rough by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
1 night only	6%	8%	6%	6%	3%
2-7 nights	34%	35%	36%	35%	26%
1-2 weeks	9%	15%	16%	13%	11%
2-4 weeks	7%	18%	5%	8%	12%
1-2 months	13%	5%	7%	9%	8%
2-6 months	15%	10%	10%	12%	24%
6-12 months	8%	5%	12%	9%	9%
1-2 years	8%	5%	3%	5%	4%
2-5 years	1%	-	3%	2%	2%
over 5 years	-	-	1%	<1%	1%
TOTAL	100% n=88	100% n=40	100% n=94	100% n=222	100% n=230

Note: only includes vendors who had slept rough in the last 12 months (n=226; missing=4).

The differences in experiences between the cities were not marked, but vendors in Liverpool were more likely than vendors in Leeds or Manchester to have last slept rough for a month or less

(76% compared to 56% and 63% respectively), and slightly less likely than vendors in the other two cities to have spent more than a year sleeping rough - in a reversal of the situation last year.

6.3 Why vendors sleep rough

Vendors who had slept rough in the last 12 months were asked whether they tried to find a place in a hostel or night shelter on the most recent occasion. Once again the majority (63%) said they had

done so, although the proportion was slightly lower this year, having fallen from 69% in 2001 and 68% in 2002. Vendors in Manchester were the least likely to have tried to find a hostel place this year, in

contrast to 2002, when they were the most likely to have done so, although the differences between the cities were not significant in either year.

Table 6.4: whether vendors tried to get a hostel place by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
tried to get a place	67%	70%	56%	63%	68%
didn't try to get a place	33%	30%	44%	37%	32%
TOTAL	100% n=88	100% n=40	100% n=94	100% n=222	100% n=231

Note: only includes vendors who had slept rough in the last 12 months (n=226; missing=4).

Vendors were also asked why they had slept rough rather than getting some form of overnight accommodation (Table 6.5). As in previous surveys, by far the most common reason given was that the hostels were full. For the third

year running, finding hostels an unattractive option was the next most likely response. Although the proportion of vendors who said they didn't like hostels fell again in this year's survey, some of the other reasons given (such as

wanting to avoid drug users, or having been bullied in hostels in the past) were also related to the unattractiveness of hostels as a place to stay.

Table 6.5: main reason vendors slept rough by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
hostels all full	31%	50%	35%	36%	36%
don't like hostels	7%	3%	11%	8%	11%
didn't know where to look	6%	10%	8%	7%	7%
using alcohol/drugs	8%	15%	3%	7%	n/a
barred from hostels	11%	-	1%	5%	7%
problems getting referred	7%	-	3%	4%	n/a
to avoid drug users	5%	-	6%	4%	n/a
part of a couple	4%	3%	5%	4%	5%
had no ID	4%	-	3%	3%	6%
bullied in hostels in past	2%	3%	2%	2%	n/a
had rent arrears	-	3%	1%	1%	n/a
own a pet	1%	-	1%	1%	2%
like to sleep rough	-	-	1%	<1%	1%
other	14%	15%	19%	17%	26%
TOTAL	100% n=86	100% n=40	100% n=89	100% n=215	100% n=229

Note: only includes vendors who had slept rough in the last 12 months (n=226; missing=11). Five new categories were added in 2004, so there are no comparative figures for these from 2002 (when they were included in 'other'). In 2004, 'other' (n=36) includes: not claiming benefits, too late in the day, not in the right area, not being ready for staying in a hostel.

Vendors in Liverpool were more likely than those in Leeds or Manchester to say there were no hostel places available (unlike last year, when this problem was mentioned most frequently by vendors in Leeds), more likely to say they couldn't find a place because they were using alcohol and/or drugs, and less likely to say

they didn't like hostel accommodation. A higher proportion of vendors in Leeds than in the other two cities claim to be barred from hostels, or say they had problems getting referred.

As ever it should be stressed that vendors do not inevitably look for temporary accommodation in the

cities in which they sell, so their comments will not necessarily relate to services in Leeds, Liverpool or Manchester.

As has been found previously, only a tiny proportion of vendors overall (less than 1%) said that sleeping rough was their preferred option.

7.0 Problems facing vendors

This section examines the problems faced by vendors, with particular reference to their drug and alcohol problems, and to their experience of begging. It also

looks at their possession (or lack of possession) of conventional forms of identification, and some of the difficulties this may cause.

7.1 Problems in life

Vendors were asked whether they were currently experiencing problems in a range of areas (see Table 7.1). It is important to remember that these relate to vendors' own perceptions - there

are many different reasons why people may not acknowledge or wish to say that they are having difficulties in certain areas of their lives.

Table 7.1: problems vendors were currently experiencing by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
drugs	70%	68%	38%	56%	62%
accommodation	52%	57%	51%	53%	55%
money	59%	64%	38%	51%	48%
employment	37%	46%	27%	35%	42%
physical health	34%	38%	31%	33%	38%
eating properly	35%	46%	24%	33%	44%
mental health	20%	29%	23%	23%	26%
education/training	12%	27%	16%	17%	19%
alcohol	13%	23%	18%	17%	15%
personal safety	12%	13%	13%	12%	17%
committing crime	8%	9%	10%	9%	10%
gambling	1%	-	6%	3%	n/a
other	7%	5%	3%	5%	4%
(missing=7)	n=113	n=56	n=128	n=297	n=308

Note: vendors were asked to indicate all the problems they were currently experiencing (i.e. multiple responses were possible), so the percentages in each column do not add up to 100%. Gambling was a new category added this year, so no comparative figure for 2002 is available (gambling was included in 'other' in 2002). In 2004, 'other' includes: relationships, court/criminal justice system, depression, clothing, personal possessions.

As in previous years, the most problematic areas of life reported by vendors overall are drugs, accommodation, money and employment, followed by eating properly and physical health. Vendors were less likely to report having problems with eating properly than they were in 2002, but in all other respects the proportions are not much changed from last year. Interestingly almost all have fallen a little; the only problematic areas reported slightly more frequently than they were in 2002 are money and alcohol.

Drugs, accommodation, money and employment are also the four

main problem areas for vendors in Leeds and Liverpool, although in both the order of priority varies somewhat from that for vendors overall, and in Liverpool problems with eating properly rank equally with employment problems. In Manchester the picture is slightly different, with physical health problems appearing in the top four. Problems with drugs were those most commonly mentioned by vendors in Leeds and Liverpool, whilst it was accommodation problems that were most frequently reported in Manchester.

There were distinct differences between the cities in four of the

twelve problem areas we asked questions about. Vendors in Manchester were less likely to report having problems with drugs than vendors in Leeds or Liverpool, following the pattern seen in each of the last three surveys, and less likely than those in Leeds or Liverpool to say they were experiencing difficulties with money. Liverpool vendors were more likely, and Manchester vendors less likely to report that they were currently having problems with employment and eating properly (in both cases, the figures for Leeds are very similar to those for vendors overall).

Male vendors (19%) were considerably more likely than female vendors (4%) to say they were experiencing problems with alcohol. The gender differences were not statistically significant in any other respect, although a higher proportion of female than male vendors said they were having problems with their drug use (70% compared to 54%), mental health (37% compared to 22%) and current accommodation (63% compared to 52% of male vendors).

Shorter term vendors i.e those who had been selling the magazine for a year or less were markedly more likely to have accommodation problems (58% compared to 43% of vendors who had been selling for more than a year), as would be expected. Vendors must be homeless or vulnerably housed to start selling *The Big Issue in the North*, but through the income they earn and the support services we provide there is more chance of them being able to find suitable accommodation. They were also

much more likely to be experiencing problems with their personal safety (17% compared to 8% of vendors who had been selling for 12 months or more). There were no other significant differences between shorter and longer term vendors, although the longer term vendors were slightly more likely to report having problems with their physical health, education and training, eating properly, and drug and alcohol use.

7.2 Onset of drug and alcohol problems

Those vendors who reported that they were currently having problems with drugs and/or alcohol were asked when this first became problematic for them.

As Table 7.2 shows, 4 in 5 (80%)

said they were having problems with their drug and/or alcohol use before they became homeless. The figure is close to that seen in 2002, and confirms the findings from all our previous surveys - that for the majority of vendors,

problems with substance use precede homelessness. As was the case last year, there was only a small difference between the cities in this context.

Table 7.2: whether drug/alcohol problems preceded becoming homeless by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
before becoming homeless	80%	88%	75%	80%	83%
after becoming homeless	20%	12%	25%	20%	17%
TOTAL	100% n=80	100% n=41	100% n=57	100% n=178	100% n=213

Note: only includes vendors who said they were having current problems with drugs and/or alcohol (n=187; missing=9).

7.3 Use of specialist drug and alcohol services

The same vendors were also asked whether they were seeing anyone such as a GP or specialist drug service on a regular basis about their drug or alcohol use. The results are very similar to last

year, with 50% of vendors who said they were having problems with drugs and/or alcohol currently involved with treatment services, and another 13% using needle exchanges. This means that once

again, more than a third of vendors (37%) with substance use problems were not receiving any form of help and/or support.

Table 7.3: whether vendors were seeing anyone about drug/alcohol use by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
yes, seeing someone	46%	53%	54%	50%	51%
needle exchange only	17%	2%	16%	13%	12%
no, not seeing anyone	38%	54%	30%	37%	37%
TOTAL	100% n=79	100% n=40	100% n=56	100% n=175	100% n=213

Note: only includes vendors who said they were having current problems with drugs and/or alcohol (n=187; missing=12).

Vendors in Liverpool were slightly less likely, and vendors in Manchester slightly more likely than those overall to be engaged

with specialist drug and alcohol services, but the differences between the three cities are not statistically significant.

7.4 Crack cocaine use

Given the marked increase in crack cocaine use observed between 2001 and 2002, once again this year we asked all vendors (and not just those who felt they had current drug problems) whether or not they had used crack in the last 4 weeks. Almost 60% of the 278 vendors who answered this question - or 3

out of every 5 vendors - said that they had done so. Whilst this figure implies that work still needs to be done with vendors around their crack cocaine use, it has changed little since 2002, suggesting that the alarming rise in the proportion of vendors using crack cocaine has levelled out over the last twelve months.

In contrast to the previous survey (when vendors in Liverpool were considerably more likely to have used crack cocaine), the difference in crack use between the three cities is not marked this year, although Manchester vendors are slightly less likely to report having used it in the last 4 weeks.

Table 7.4: whether vendors had used crack in the last 4 weeks by office (all vendors)

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
yes	66%	63%	51%	59%	56%
no	34%	37%	49%	41%	44%
TOTAL (missing=26)	100% n=112	100% n=54	100% n=112	100% n=278	100% n=288

The difference in recent crack use between vendors who said they had current drug and/or alcohol problems (75%) and those who did not (30%) was highly significant, as would be expected. The relative proportions of crack users amongst male and female vendors, and amongst shorter and longer term vendors, varied little from the figures for vendors overall, however.

Whilst two-thirds of vendors who had used crack cocaine in the last month were accessing specialist drug and/or alcohol services (52% were formally engaged with such a service, and a further 14% were using needle exchanges), 34% were not linked into any treatment services at all.

In response to concerns raised by partner agencies about increases

in intravenous crack use amongst service users, we asked those vendors who said they had used crack cocaine in the last month whether or not they had injected it. Just over half (55%) confirmed that they had done so, as Table 7.5 shows.

Table 7.5: whether vendors had injected crack by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
yes, injected	57%	47%	57%	55%
no, not injected	43%	53%	43%	45%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=74	n=34	n=56	n=164

Note: only includes vendors who had used crack cocaine in the last 4 weeks (n=165; missing=1). This question was not asked in 2002 so no comparative figures are available.

7.5 Begging

The last twelve months has seen a crackdown on begging by the government, and considerable concern has been raised in the media around this issue, so for the first time this year we decided to ask our vendors whether they had

ever had to beg, and how long it was since they had last done so. Just over half (58%) of vendors overall told us that they had begged at some point in their lives. There was a marked difference in reported experiences between the

offices, with vendors in Liverpool being much less likely than those in either Leeds or Manchester to say that they had begged in the past (see Table 7.6).

Table 7.6: whether vendors had ever had to beg by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
no, had never begged	34%	59%	42%	42%
yes, had begged at some point	66%	41%	58%	58%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=7)	n=112	n=54	n=131	n=297

Note: vendors have not been asked this question before, so no comparative figures are available.

Whilst there was little difference between the genders in this respect, a significantly higher proportion of vendors who were currently having problems with drugs and/or alcohol (62%) than other vendors (50%) told us that they had begged at some point in their lives.

Just over a quarter of vendors who said that they had begged before had done so within the last three months, but half (50%) had not begged at all in the last year, and almost a third (31%) had last done so more than two years ago (see Table 7.7). Although the differences between the cities are

not significant, vendors in Leeds were more likely to say that it was at least a year since they had last begged.

Table 7.7: when vendors had last begged by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
less than 3 months ago	18%	32%	39%	29%
3-6 months ago	17%	5%	10%	12%
7-12 months ago	7%	18%	10%	10%
1-2 years ago	25%	9%	15%	19%
more than 2 years ago	33%	36%	27%	31%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=72	n=22	n=74	n=168

Note: only includes vendors who said they have begged at some point in their lives (n=172; missing=4). Again this question has not been asked before.

A comparison of when vendors last begged with how long they have been selling *The Big Issue in the North* shows that 30% have not begged since they started selling

the magazine, 32% have done so, and in 32% of cases it is not possible to say, since the time since they last begged and their length of time selling is the same

(the remaining 6% were new vendors).

7.6 Forms of identification

As has been seen in previous surveys, many vendors lack what are generally accepted as conventional forms of identification, and this can cause

them problems in a variety of settings, including gaining access to financial services, and to some forms of temporary accommodation (3% of vendors

this year said they hadn't been able to get a hostel place because they had no ID).

Table 7.8: vendors with current forms of identification by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
birth certificate	30%	43%	36%	35%	41%
passport	13%	23%	15%	16%	15%
driving licence	7%	9%	8%	8%	10%
medical card	19%	27%	32%	26%	n/a
any of these	45%	63%	55%	53%	48%
(missing=6)	n=112	n=56	n=130	n=298	n=308

Note: vendors were asked to indicate all forms of ID they had currently (i.e. multiple responses were possible), so the percentages in each column do not add up to 100%. This was the first time vendors were asked about medical cards, so no comparative figures are available for this category.

For the first time this year, just over half (53%) of vendors overall are currently in possession of at least one form of identification - although the addition of medical cards to the list may be responsible for this increase, given the fact that slightly fewer vendors had birth certificates or driving licences than in 2002.

Nevertheless vendors are still most likely to have a birth certificate, as has been seen in previous surveys.

As Table 7.8 shows, a smaller proportion of vendors in Leeds have some form of ID than of vendors in either Liverpool or Manchester, although the

differences between the cities are not statistically significant. Vendors in Liverpool are much more likely to have ID this year than they were in 2002.

8.0 Other services used by vendors

This section focuses on the services vendors use other than those provided by The Big Issue in the North Trust. The questions about health and financial services

have been asked in previous audits, so comparative figures are available, but those about engagement with other services are new this year.

8.1 Health services

Although nearly three quarters (71%) of vendors are currently registered with a GP (see Table 8.1), this proportion is much lower than it was last year, and is now at a level that was last seen during our *Health Matters* survey in 1997.

It is also low in comparison with the figure of over 99% GP registration for the population as a whole (Health & Personal Social Statistics: Department of Health 2002).

Table 8.1: vendors registered with a GP by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
registered	70%	76%	71%	71%	85%
not registered	28%	24%	29%	28%	14%
don't know	2%	-	-	1%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=7)	n=113	n=54	n=130	n=297	n=307

While only 28% of vendors are currently registered with a dentist (see Table 8.2), this figure is very similar to that seen in 2002, and continues to compare favourably

with the percentages seen amongst vendors in Wales (34%) and the South West (17%) in their most recent surveys. The proportion is still much lower than

the 48% of the general population who are registered with a dentist, however (General Dental Service - Selected Statistics for England: Department of Health 2002).

Table 8.2: vendors registered with a dentist by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
registered	23%	36%	28%	28%	29%
not registered	74%	61%	71%	70%	70%
don't know	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=7)	n=111	n=56	n=130	n=297	n=307

There is no significant difference between the three cities in terms of either GP or dental registration. Nor is there any clear gender difference, although female vendors (78%) are slightly more likely to be registered with a GP than male vendors (71%). However vendors who have been selling the magazine for a year or more are considerably more likely to be registered with a GP than shorter term vendors (82% compared to 65%), although their

rates of dental registration are both very similar to that for vendors overall.

As in 2002, almost half of all vendors said they were currently seeing someone such as a GP, hospital, counsellor or other health worker about a health problem (although they were not asked what this problem was). However, 46% of vendors who felt they currently had problems with their physical health, and 36% of those

who said they were experiencing mental health problems, were not seeing anyone about these.

In contrast to the previous year, when vendors in Liverpool were much less likely to be seeing a health professional than vendors in either Leeds or Manchester, there was little difference between the three cities in this respect, as Table 8.3 shows.

Table 8.3: vendors seeing someone about a health problem currently by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
seeing someone	42%	43%	50%	46%	49%
not seeing anyone	58%	57%	50%	54%	51%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=12)	n=109	n=56	n=127	n=292	n=303

There was no clear gender difference or difference between vendors with and without drug and/or alcohol problems in this

respect, but a higher proportion of vendors who had been selling for more than a year were currently linked into a health service (52%

compared to 41% of vendors who had been selling less than 12 months), although the difference was not statistically significant.

8.2 What other services do vendors use?

While some vendors are referred to other agencies by staff at The Big Issue in the North, others will naturally present to different services independently, so we may not always have a picture of the full range of support services and/or other activities that our vendors are accessing. This year therefore we decided to ask them, and the results are shown in Table 8.4.

Almost half (46%) of the 241 vendors who answered this question said that they were not currently engaged with, or attending any service - except for

the health services mentioned above - other than those provided by The Big Issue in the North Trust. Amongst those who were, the services most frequently accessed by vendors were one-to-one counselling (20%), housing assistance (19%) and educational courses (10%). All of the other service types and/or activities that we asked about were being attended by fewer than 10% of vendors overall.

These same three service types were also most frequently mentioned in each of the three

cities, although in Liverpool employment/training provision and criminal justice agencies were accessed at the same rate as educational courses. In both Leeds (24%) and Liverpool (19%), one-to-one counselling was attended by the highest proportion of vendors, while in Manchester, housing assistance (20%) was the type of service with which vendors were most likely to be engaged. In most cases the figures for the three offices are fairly similar, and where there are differences in the table these are not statistically significant.

Table 8.4: other services attended by vendors by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
one-to-one counselling	24%	19%	18%	20%
housing assistance	22%	12%	20%	19%
educational courses	9%	10%	10%	10%
complementary therapies	5%	2%	9%	6%
criminal justice service	7%	10%	5%	6%
health & fitness training	8%	2%	7%	6%
legal advice/support	7%	7%	4%	5%
social activities	7%	5%	4%	5%
employment/training provision	5%	10%	-	4%
social services	3%	2%	4%	3%
welfare rights	3%	-	2%	2%
child support	1%	2%	3%	2%
befriending service	4%	-	-	2%
sex education & advice	1%	-	1%	1%
other services	8%	14%	13%	11%
none of these services	50%	38%	45%	46%
(missing=63)	n=93	n=42	n=106	n=241

Note: no comparative figures for 2002 are available. Vendors were asked to indicate all other services they were engaged with (i.e. multiple responses were possible), so the percentages in each column do not add up to 100%. 'Other' includes: AA meetings, church, immigration service, music course.

Similarly no clear gender differences were seen, although a slightly higher proportion of female vendors (28%) than male vendors (19%) were attending counselling services. Nor were there any notable differences between longer and shorter term vendors, although vendors who had been selling the magazine for over a year were slightly more likely to be linked with housing assistance (22% compared to 16% of vendors who had been selling less than 12 months) or not to be attending any other service at all (48% compared to 40% of shorter term vendors).

In general vendors who had drug and/or alcohol problems were less likely to be accessing other services. In particular the proportion of this group attending educational courses or health & fitness services was significantly lower than that of other vendors (5% compared to 17%, and 2% compared to 14% respectively). They were also more likely to report that they were not attending any other services (49% compared to 38% of other vendors) although this difference was not statistically significant. Vendors who had substance use problems (9%) were however markedly more

likely to be linked with legal advice services than those who did not (0%).

Vendors were also asked to indicate how often they attended these other services - either daily, weekly, monthly or less often. In almost all cases, weekly was the most common response. Overall 44% of vendors who were seeing a counsellor, 55% of vendors using housing services and 58% of vendors on educational courses (the three most frequently accessed services) attended these on a weekly basis.

8.3 Use of financial services

The proportion of vendors having some form of financial account in which they can deposit money remains unchanged this year, at 39%. Given the problems vendors without such accounts can face,

such as vulnerability to mugging and difficulty saving (as described in our *Out of Pocket* report in 2000), it is important that we continue to support vendors in accessing financial services.

Table 8.5: vendors with financial accounts by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
bank account	11%	21%	41%	26%	23%
building society account	7%	7%	4%	6%	8%
post office account	8%	4%	3%	5%	3%
credit union account	11%	-	-	4%	8%
any of these	33%	30%	47%	39%	39%
(missing=3)	n=114	n=56	n=131	n=301	n=308

Note: vendors were asked to indicate all types of account they had (i.e. multiple responses were possible), so the percentages in each column do not add up to 100%.

In Manchester the Co-operative Bank has run a scheme for a number of years allowing vendors without an address or ID to open an account, and this is reflected in the significantly higher proportion of Manchester vendors with bank accounts (as it was in 2002). Similar links with a branch of the Co-operative Bank in Liverpool city centre were established last year,

and the number of Liverpool vendors with bank accounts is higher in 2004 than it has been in previous surveys. In Leeds a partnership agreement with Leeds City Credit Union means that vendors there are eligible to join - thus explaining the greater likelihood of Leeds vendors having a credit union account.

Overall, vendors in Manchester are much more likely to have some form of financial account than vendors in either of the other two cities.

9.0 Selling *The Big Issue* in the North

This section considers how long vendors have been selling *The Big Issue in the North*, and what sort of impact they say it has had on their self-confidence, motivation to

change, levels of drug and/or alcohol use, and the amount of crime they commit.

9.1 Length of time as a vendor

At the end of 2002, following a review of its Big Futures Programme, which limited all vendors to selling the magazine for a maximum of two years while they were offered support in a range of areas (accommodation, health, drug and alcohol use, education and training, employment, and personal development), the Big Issue in the North Trust made a number of changes to the way it works with vendors. These included the introduction of time limits on selling which are set according to individuals' circumstances.

This change is reflected in this year's figures for the length of time vendors have been selling the magazine, as Table 9.1 shows. Almost half (48%) have been selling *The Big Issue in the North* for more than a year, compared to just under a quarter (23%) in 2002, while more than a fifth (21%) have been selling it for over two years, compared to 7% of vendors last year. These proportions have returned to a similar level to those seen in 2000, just prior to the introduction of the Big Futures Programme and the time limits on selling, when 42% of vendors had

been selling the magazine for more than a year, and 23% had been selling it for over two years.

The results for the three cities are fairly similar, although vendors in Leeds are slightly more likely to have been selling the magazine for a longer period of time - 53% have been selling for more than a year, compared to 48% of vendors in Liverpool and 44% of vendors in Manchester.

Table 9.1: how long vendors have been selling the magazine by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
started today	3%	7%	15%	9%	11%
less than 3 months	10%	16%	11%	11%	24%
3-6 months	17%	16%	15%	16%	22%
7-12 months	17%	13%	16%	16%	20%
1-2 years	34%	23%	22%	27%	16%
more than 2 years	19%	25%	22%	21%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=2)	n=116	n=56	n=130	n=302	n=308

9.2 Impact of selling the magazine

We asked vendors what sort of effect selling *The Big Issue in the North* has had on their self-

confidence and motivation to change things in their lives (see Table 9.2).

Table 9.2: positive effects of selling on self-confidence and motivation by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
self-confidence	78%	83%	79%	79%	87%
motivation to change	87%	87%	82%	85%	88%
	n=109/n=111	n=52/n=52	n=107/n=109	n=268/n=272	n=273

Note: excludes vendors being badged up for the first time (n=274, missing=6 for self-confidence; n=274, missing=2 for motivation).

The figures are slightly lower than last year, but still show the vast majority of vendors feel that selling the magazine and the associated services we provide have helped to improve both their self-confidence and motivation. While around 1 in 7 vendors say that selling has had no effect in this context, only 4% feel their self-confidence has worsened, and fewer than 3% report that selling *The Big Issue in the North* has had a negative effect on their motivation to change.

We also asked vendors who said they were having problems with drugs and/or alcohol what sort of effect selling the magazine has had on their levels of substance use. Half of these vendors (49%) reported that their drug and/or alcohol use had decreased since

they had been selling *The Big Issue in the North*, while 17% said that it had gone up (see Table 9.3). Although not directly comparable, the proportions are similar to those seen in a study in 2001, when 41% of vendors who had used illegal drugs in the last 4 weeks said their drug use had reduced, and 11% said it had increased since they had started selling the magazine.

There was a clear difference between the offices in this respect, with vendors in Manchester being significantly less likely to say that the level of their substance use had fallen as a result of selling the magazine (32% of vendors in Manchester reported that they used a bit less or a lot less now, compared to 54% of Leeds vendors and 60% of Liverpool vendors).

Vendors were also asked to say why they thought their drug and/or alcohol use had changed (they were able to give as many reasons as they liked, so the percentages do not add up to 100%). Amongst those overall (n=28) who said that their use had increased since they started selling, the most common reasons given for this were having more money to spend (75%) and mixing with other drug users (46%). Those vendors (n=79) who said their substance use had fallen were most likely to put this down to having less spare time (39%), being worried about their health (33%), starting to use drug services (32%), and the encouragement given to them by our staff (29%).

Table 9.3: effect of selling on vendors' drug and/or alcohol use by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
use a lot more now	3%	9%	6%	5%
use a bit more now	14%	6%	14%	12%
had no effect	30%	26%	49%	35%
use a bit less now	24%	43%	16%	26%
use a lot less now	30%	17%	16%	23%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=78	n=35	n=51	n=164

Note: only includes vendors who reported having current problems with drugs and/or alcohol, and who were not being badged up for the first time on the day they were audited (n=174; missing=10). This question was not asked in 2002, so no comparative figures are available.

Because we also wanted to know whether selling impacts on the amount of crime vendors commit, we first asked them about their criminal behaviour prior to approaching us for services.

Almost three quarters of vendors (71%) said they had been convicted of a criminal offence before they started selling *The Big Issue in the North*.

Table 9.4: vendors convicted of a criminal offence before they started selling by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
prior convictions	77%	72%	65%	71%
no prior convictions	23%	28%	35%	29%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=107	n=50	n=108	n=265

Note: excludes vendors who were badged up for the first time on the day they were audited (n=274; missing=9). This question was not asked in 2002 so no comparative figures are available.

The differences between the cities are not marked, although vendors in Leeds were slightly more likely to tell us that they had a prior conviction. Nor was there a clear gender distinction; 60% of female vendors and 54% of male vendors said they had been convicted of a criminal offence in the past. However a significantly higher proportion of longer term vendors reported having prior convictions (79% compared to 61% of vendors who had been selling for less than a year), as did vendors with

current drug and/or alcohol problems (78% compared to 60% of other vendors).

Those vendors who had been convicted of a criminal offence in the past were then asked what sort of an effect selling the magazine has had on the amount of crime they commit. As Table 9.5 shows, more than 4 out of 5 (82%) said this had decreased since they had been selling *The Big Issue in the North*. Again the proportions are fairly similar to those seen in a

2001 study, when 3% of vendors said they had committed more crime, and 90% said they had committed less once they had started selling the magazine.

Although the differences between the offices are not statistically significant, a higher proportion of vendors in Leeds reported a fall in the amount of crime they had committed since they started selling the magazine.

Table 9.5: effect of selling on amount of crime vendors commit by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total
commit a lot more now	-	-	1%	1%
commit a bit more now	-	-	-	-
had no effect	10%	23%	23%	17%
commit a bit less now	1%	3%	6%	3%
commit a lot less now	89%	74%	70%	79%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=81	n=35	n=69	n=184

Note: only asked of vendors who said they had been convicted of a criminal offence before they started selling *The Big Issue in the North*, and excludes vendors who were badged up for the first time on the day they were audited (n=188; missing=4). Again this question was not asked in 2002.

Again vendors were asked to give all the reasons why they thought their crime levels had changed. The only one who committed more crime now said this was because *The Big Issue in the North* wasn't well supported by the

public. Amongst those vendors (n=151) who said that the amount of crime they committed had fallen since they started selling the magazine, by far the most common reason given for this was having more money to spend now

(61%), followed by having less spare time (28%), getting encouragement from our staff (20%), using fewer drugs and/or less alcohol (20%), and getting somewhere to live (19%).

10 Vendors' perceptions

We also asked vendors questions about their views of themselves, their future and *The Big Issue in the North*. They were read three statements and asked to say how strongly they agreed or disagreed with these statements. This section explores their responses.

As has been the case in previous surveys, the majority of vendors want to move on and away from their current situation (see Table 10.1). Only a tiny minority overall (1%) say they want nothing more from life than selling the magazine. Vendors in Manchester were

significantly less likely to agree strongly with this statement than vendors in the other two cities.

Table 10.1: "I want more from life than selling *The Big Issue in the North*" by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
strongly agree	71%	67%	47%	60%	57%
agree	27%	29%	44%	35%	35%
neither	1%	4%	9%	5%	6%
disagree	1%	-	1%	1%	2%
strongly disagree	-	-	-	-	<1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=18)	n=110	n=52	n=124	n=286	n=303

Vendors who had reported having problems with drugs were asked how they felt about the statement "I want to be drug free" (Table 10.2). Following the pattern seen in previous years, most (90%) agreed

that they did not want to be using drugs, and as in both 2002 and 2001, a markedly higher proportion of vendors in Leeds said they agreed strongly with this statement. 90% of vendors who

said they had used crack cocaine in the last 4 weeks also agreed that they want to be drug free.

Table 10.2: "I want to be drug free" by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
strongly agree	75%	57%	41%	61%	60%
agree	21%	34%	39%	29%	35%
neither	3%	6%	17%	8%	4%
disagree	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
strongly disagree	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	n=73	n=35	n=46	n=154	n=192

Note: only includes vendors who said they were currently having problems with drugs (n=166; missing=12).

Finally, all vendors were asked what they thought the public's opinion of the magazine was. Just over three quarters (76%) agreed that the public are supportive of

The Big Issue in the North, a proportion which is slightly lower than it has been in previous years (85% agreed with this statement in 2002, and 81% did so in 2001).

Vendors' views about public support were very similar in the three cities, as Table 10.3 shows.

Table 10.3: "The public generally support *The Big Issue in the North*" by office

	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	2004 total	2002
strongly agree	10%	17%	18%	15%	16%
agree	63%	60%	59%	61%	69%
neither	14%	13%	13%	14%	10%
disagree	11%	8%	6%	8%	5%
strongly disagree	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(missing=17)	n=111	n=53	n=123	n=287	n=303

11 Methodology

The following section briefly describes how this year's audit was designed and undertaken, and how the data were analysed.

11.1 Process

Building on the experience of previous years, the survey was conducted as part of our annual

re-badging process, when vendors must prove they are still eligible for our services in order to receive a

new badge number and to continue selling the magazine.

11.2 Sample

Since the aim was to interview all current vendors, they were only given a new badge once the details we hold on our database had been confirmed and they had completed an audit questionnaire -

although they were interviewed after being told that they would be getting a new badge, removing the potential for them to exaggerate their current circumstances in order to be re-badged. Vendors

were not given any incentives for taking part in the survey. A total of 304 vendors across the region were re-badged during the audit period (see Table 11.1).

Table 11.1: number of vendors included in the survey by office

	2001	2002	2004
Leeds (including Sheffield and Hull)	120	125	116
Liverpool	80	84	56
Manchester	102	99	132
TOTAL	302	308	304

11.3 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was based on those used in previous audits, in order that year-on-year comparisons could be made in most areas. However a small number of changes were made following consultations with staff,

and this year we added questions on vendors' use of other services and their experiences of begging, as well as revisiting questions about their training needs and the effects of selling the magazine on their levels of substance use and

crime which have been asked in other research we have undertaken. A copy of the full audit questionnaire is included in Appendix D.

11.4 Fieldwork

The interviews were carried out with vendors by sales staff and vendor support workers from *The Big Issue in the North* and the Big

Life Company. The confidential nature of the survey was stressed to all participants, and all of the interviews took place in a private

space. The survey ran for three working weeks between Monday 19 January and Friday 6 February 2004.

11.5 Data preparation and analysis

The completed questionnaires were input into, and analysed using SPSS v11.5 (which is a statistical computer software

package). Data on gender, age, ethnic background, disability or long-term illness, educational qualifications and previous work

experience were exported from our vendor database into SPSS files and analysed in the same way.

Appendix A

A summary of the findings in Leeds

The vendors

- 89% of vendors are male; 11% are female
- their average is 31 years
- 86% are White British
- 25% say they have a disability or limiting long-term illness
- 26% have spent time in local authority care

Education and employment

- 45% have no formal qualifications
- 80% of vendors have worked before. Of these:
 - 17% had worked within 12 months of being badged up
 - 50% had not worked in the last 3 years
- 21% say they don't need any training to get the job they want

Homelessness

- 39% first became homeless before they were 21
- 28% of vendors without a tenancy have been homeless for more than 3 years

Housing situation

- 20% have their own tenancy
- 14% slept rough the night before they were audited
- 78% had slept rough at some point in the last 12 months. Of these:
 - 31% slept rough on the most recent occasion because the hostels were full

Problems facing vendors

- the main problems affecting vendors are drugs (70%), money (59%), accommodation (52%), employment (37%) and eating properly (35%)
- of those with drug and/or alcohol problems:
 - 80% had problems with these before they became homeless
 - 38% were not using specialist drug & alcohol services
- 66% of vendors had used crack in the last 4 weeks; 57% of these had injected it
- 66% had begged at some point in their lives. Of these:
 - 58% had not begged in the last year
- 55% have no conventional form of ID

Other services used

- 70% are registered with a GP
- 23% are registered with a dentist
- 50% said they weren't using any services (except for health services) other than those provided by *The Big Issue in the North*
- the other services most commonly used by vendors were one-to-one counselling (24%), housing assistance (22%), and educational courses (9%)
- 33% have a financial account of some kind

Selling the magazine

- 19% have been selling *The Big Issue in the North* for more than 2 years
- 78% said selling had improved their self-confidence
- 87% said it had increased their motivation to change things in their lives
- 54% of those with drug and/or alcohol problems said their substance use had decreased since they started selling the magazine
- 77% had been convicted of a criminal offence prior to badging up. Of these:
 - 90% said the amount of crime they committed had fallen since they started selling the magazine
- 98% say they want more from life than selling *The Big Issue in the North*

Appendix B

A summary of the findings in Liverpool

The vendors

- 93% of vendors are male; 7% are female
- their average age is 35 years
- 87% are White British
- 27% say they have a disability or limiting long-term illness
- 20% have spent time in local authority care

Education and employment

- 57% have no formal qualifications
- 70% have worked before. Of these:
 - 28% had worked within 12 months of being badged up
 - 56% had not worked in the last 3 years
- 15% say they don't need any training to get the job they want

Homelessness

- 28% first became homeless before they were 21
- 27% of vendors without a tenancy have been homeless for more than 3 years

Housing situation

- 20% have their own tenancy
- 13% slept rough the night before they were audited
- 71% had slept rough at some point in the last 12 months. Of these:
 - 50% slept rough on the most recent occasion because the hostels were full

Problems facing vendors

- the main problems affecting vendors are drugs (68%), money (64%), accommodation (57%), employment (46%) and eating properly (46%)
- of those with drug and/or alcohol problems:
 - 88% had problems with these before they became homeless
 - 45% were not using specialist drug & alcohol services
- 63% of vendors had used crack in the last 4 weeks; 47% of these had injected it
- 41% had begged at some point in their lives. Of these:
 - 45% had not begged in the last year
- 37% have no conventional form of ID

Other services used

- 76% are registered with a GP
- 36% are registered with a dentist
- 38% said they weren't using any services (except for health services) other than those provided by *The Big Issue in the North*
- the other services most commonly used by vendors were one-to-one counselling (19%), housing assistance (12%) and educational courses, criminal justice agencies and employment training/provision (all 10%)
- 30% have a financial account of some kind

Selling the magazine

- 25% have been selling *The Big Issue in the North* for more than 2 years
- 83% said selling had improved their self-confidence
- 87% said it had increased their motivation to change things in their lives
- 60% of those with drug and/or alcohol problems said their substance use had decreased since they started selling the magazine
- 72% had been convicted of a criminal offence prior to badging up. Of these:
 - 77% said the amount of crime they committed had fallen since they started selling the magazine
- 96% say they want more from life than selling *The Big Issue in the North*

Appendix C

A summary of the findings in Manchester

The vendors

- 92% of vendors are male; 8% are female
- their average age is 33 years
- 82% are White British
- 32% say they have a disability or limiting long-term illness
- 27% have spent time in local authority care

Education and employment

- 51% have no formal qualifications
- 73% have worked before. Of these:
 - 31% had worked within 12 months of being badged up
 - 48% had not worked in the last 3 years
- 33% say they don't need any training to get the job they want

Homelessness

- 47% first became homeless before they were 21
- 30% of vendors without a tenancy have been homeless for more than 3 years

Housing situation

- 11% have their own tenancy
- 16% slept rough the night before they were audited
- 73% had slept rough at some point in the last 12 months. Of these:
 - 35% slept rough on the most recent occasion because the hostels were full

Problems facing vendors

- the main problems affecting vendors are accommodation (51%), drugs (38%), money (38%), physical health problems (31%) and employment (27%)
- of those with drug and/or alcohol problems:
 - 75% had problems with these before they became homeless
 - 30% were not using specialist drug & alcohol services
- 51% of vendors had used crack in the last 4 weeks; 57% of these had injected it
- 58% had begged at some point in their lives. Of these:
 - 42% had not begged in the last year
- 45% have no conventional form of ID

Other services used

- 71% are registered with a GP
- 28% are registered with a dentist
- 45% said they weren't using any services (except for health services) other than those provided by *The Big Issue in the North*
- the other services most commonly used by vendors were housing assistance (20%), one-to-one counselling (18%) and educational courses (10%)
- 47% have a financial account of some kind

Selling the magazine

- 22% have been selling *The Big Issue in the North* for more than 2 years
- 79% said selling had improved their self-confidence
- 82% said it had increased their motivation to change things in their lives
- 32% of those with drug and/or alcohol problems said their substance use had decreased since they started selling the magazine
- 65% had been convicted of a criminal offence prior to badging up. Of these:
 - 76% said the amount of crime they committed had fallen since they started selling the magazine
- 91% say they want more from life than selling *The Big Issue in the North*

Appendix D

Confidential questionnaire: Vendor Audit 2004

Every year we carry out a survey like this to tell us who our vendors are and what they think about selling *The Big Issue In the North*. The information you tell me will be treated confidentially and will only be seen by our Research Manager, who will add it to the information collected from all our other vendors to produce a report which will help us to provide you with a better service.

If you are asked a question that you don't want to answer, you do not have to do so, and you don't have to give a reason why.

Office

- Hull
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- Manchester
- Sheffield

Vendor reference no:

New badge no:

1: How long have you been selling *The Big Issue in the North* (this time around if you've had more than one spell selling)?

- started today → if starting today, go to question 4
- less than 3 months
- 3-6 months
- 7-12 months
- 1-2 years
- more than 2 years

2: What effect has selling the *The Big Issue in the North* had on your self-confidence?

- increased it a lot
- increased it a bit
- had no effect
- made it a bit worse
- made it a lot worse

3: What effect has selling *The Big Issue in the North* had on your motivation to change things in your life?

- increased it a lot
- increased it a bit
- had no effect
- made it a bit worse
- made it a lot worse

4: Where did you sleep last night?

- slept rough
- bed & breakfast (B&B)
- own tenancy → if own tenancy, go to question 5
- squat
- hostel
- night shelter
- family/friend's place
- other

please say where _____

5: How long have you been homeless or experienced unsettled housing (please say for this time around if you've had more than one spell of being homeless)?

- less than 3 months
- 3-6 months
- 7-12 months
- between 1 and 2 years
- between 2 and 3 years
- between 3 and 5 years
- between 5 and 10 years
- more than 10 years

6: How old were you when you first became homeless?

- under 16
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- 31-35
- 36-40
- 41-45
- 46-50
- over 50

7: How did you first become homeless? (please describe the event or process e.g. 'I was kicked out by my parents', not the underlying reason e.g. 'I was using drugs'). Please tick one box only.

- left care
- split up with partner
- kicked out by parents
- left parents home due to problems
- evicted
- left prison
- left the armed forces
- other
please state what _____

8: Have you slept rough at any time in the last year? By sleeping rough we mean sleeping on the streets, in a car or anywhere else that isn't normally used for sleeping.

- yes
- no → if no, go to question 12

9: Thinking about the last time that you slept rough, how many consecutive nights did you sleep rough for?

- for 1 night only
- 2-7 nights
- 8-14 nights
- 15-30 nights
- more than 1 month to 2 months
- more than 2 months to 6 months
- more than 6 months to 1 year
- more than 1 year to 2 years
- more than 2 years to 3 years
- more than 3 years to 5 years
- more than 5 years to 10 years
- more than 10 years

10: When you last slept rough, did you try to get a place in a hostel or a night shelter?

- yes
- no

11: What was the main reason you slept rough rather than getting a place in a hostel or a night shelter? Please tick one box only.

- hostels all full up
- didn't know where to look
- don't like hostels
- barred from hostels
- had no ID
- was using alcohol or drugs
- own a pet
- part of a couple
- had rent arrears
- wanted to avoid drug users
- bullied in hostels in past
- problems getting referred
- like to sleep rough
- other
what? _____

12: Before you became homeless, were you ever in care?

- yes
- no

If the vendor has had a formal paid job in the past, go to question 13; if not go to question 14

13: When you worked prior to selling *The Big Issue In The North*, what was your job title? Please say what you actually did, not who you worked for or where you worked e.g. 'a teacher' not 'in a school'.

14: What job do you want to do when you stop selling *The Big Issue In The North*? Again please say what you want to do, not who you want to work for or where you want to work e.g. 'a mechanic' not 'in a garage'.

15: What training do you think you might need to help you get this job?

Please tick all the training that applies.

- none
- basic literacy (reading)
- basic numeracy (maths)
- IT/computer skills
- typing
- finance/accounting
- sales/marketing
- business planning
- driving/HGV/fork lift
- vocational training

please say what _____

- other training

please say what _____

16: Here are some areas of life that some people might have problems with. Are you having problems with any of these areas at the moment?

Please tick all the areas that apply to you.

- accommodation
- employment
- education/training
- physical health
- mental health
- money
- committing crime
- personal safety
- eating properly
- gambling
- drugs → if yes, go to question 17, otherwise go to question 21
- alcohol → if yes, go to question 17, otherwise go to question 21
- other areas

what area/s? _____

17: When did your drug or alcohol use first become a problem for you, before you became homeless or afterwards?

- before
- afterwards

If the vendor is getting badged up for the first time today, go to question 20

18: What effect do you think selling *The Big Issue* in the North has had on your drug or alcohol use?

- use a lot more now
- use a bit more now
- had no effect
- use a bit less now
- use a lot less now

19: What makes you say that?

Please tick all the reasons that apply.

- more money to spend
- mixing with other drug users
- started using drug services
- got into detox
- encouragement from staff
- got somewhere to live
- got involved in *The Big Issue* in the North projects
- pressure from family/friends
- worried about health
- less spare time
- other reason

what reason? _____

20: Are you seeing anybody on a regular basis at moment about your drug or alcohol use? This could be a GP or a specialist drug service.

- yes
- needle exchange only
- no, no-one

N.B. the following questions are for all vendors

21: Have you used crack cocaine (base, freebase, gravel, rock, stones, wash) in the last 4 weeks?

- yes → if yes, did you inject it? yes no
- no

if the vendor is getting badged up for the first time today, go to question 20

22: Were you ever convicted of a criminal offence before you started selling *The Big Issue* in the North?

- yes
- no → if no, go to question 25

23: What effect has selling *The Big Issue* in the North had on the amount of crime you commit?

- commit a lot more now
- commit a bit more now
- had no effect
- commit a bit less now
- commit a lot less now

24: What makes you say that?
Please tick all the reasons that apply.

- more money
- using fewer drugs/less alcohol
- less spare time
- motivation from The Big Issue in the North staff
- got somewhere to live
- got involved in The Big Issue in the North projects
- pressure from family/friends
- worried about criminal record
- using more drugs
- mixing with other offenders
- other reason
what reason? _____

N.B. the following questions are for all vendors

25: Have you ever had to beg?

- yes
- no → if no, go to question 27

26: When was the last time you begged?

- less than 3 months ago
- 3-6 months ago
- 7-12 months ago
- 1-2 years ago
- more than 2 years ago

27: Are you registered with a local GP/doctor i.e. one with a practice in this area?

- yes
- no
- don't know

28: Are you registered with a local dentist i.e. one with a practice in this area?

- yes
- no
- don't know

29: I don't want to know why, but are you seeing anybody at the moment about any sort of health problem? This means someone like your GP, a hospital, a counsellor, a complementary therapist or any other health worker.

- yes
- no

30: Do you currently attend any of the following types of service provided by someone other than The Big Issue in the North?

Please tick all the services in the list you are attending/involved with at the moment.

For each service attended, please tick how often you normally go.

daily = 4-7 days a week; weekly = 1-3 days a week;
monthly = less than weekly but at least once a month

	attend	daily	weekly	monthly	less often
complementary therapies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
health and fitness training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
befriending service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
one-to-one counselling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
sex education & advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
criminal justice service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
welfare rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
legal advice/support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
child support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
social services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
educational courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
employment/training provision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other - what? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other - what? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other - what? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
none of these services	<input type="checkbox"/>				

31: Do you have any of the following identification documents? Please tick all those you still have now, not those you once had and have lost/stolen.

- birth certificate
- passport
- driving licence
- medical card

32: Do you have an account with any of the following where you could deposit money? Please tick all those you have.

- bank
- building society
- post office
- credit union

Finally I'm going to read you a few statements, and I'd like you to say how you feel about them.

33: The public generally support *The Big Issue* in the North

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither
- disagree
- strongly disagree

34: (N.B. ask only if a drug user) I want to be drug free

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither
- disagree
- strongly disagree

35: I want more from life than selling *The Big Issue* in the North

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither
- disagree
- strongly disagree

That's the end of the questionnaire – thanks for taking the time to go through it with me.

The Big Issue in the North

The Big Issue in the North gives homeless people across the north of England the opportunity to earn a legitimate income. Vendors buy the magazine for 50 pence and sell it for £1.20 keeping the 70 pence profit they make. All vendors wear an ID badge and sign up to a code of conduct which governs the way they sell the magazine.

Please only buy from badged vendors.