

Sue Leighton-Boyce rang Emily direct the next day 10 May 2011 to explain that we do not have any direct responsibilities for runaways so any figures given would be misleading. The Police, Children & Young Person Directorate (Social Services- child care) CYPD and any voluntary agencies eg ASTRA (in Gloucestershire) specifically set up to assist run away children would be able to help. I advised her to call into her local Housing Advice Team / Homeless person Unit for them to explain further.

As the housing authority we have responsibilities for 16 -18 year olds who are not willing to accept CYPD services but they are all assessed by CYPD. Before the division of LA (child and housing) responsibilities was clarified by the Southwark ruling we accepted the housing duty to this age group and they would have been accommodated in shared accommodation in one of your youth projects. We can supply homelessness data – but it cannot identify services for run-aways from home or care separately in any way. A few young people are brought in by their parents, most have a support worker of some type – connexions, youth worker or family friend explaining that relationships at home have broken down. We can offer 6 free sessions of mediation with both parties – and if unable to remain at home, then they would await a vacancy in a youth project with guaranteed move -on once ready for an independent tenancy. In 13 years I do not remember Police ever bringing in a runaway for us to provide accommodation.

We have out of hours homelessness services provided by the Social Services Emergency Duty Team.

Emily will come back if she needs our homelessness figures.