Centrepoint aims to ensure that no young person is at risk because they do not have a safe place to stay.

- One in 20 young people are likely to experience homelessness at some point (Smith et al, 1996). 106,900 single homeless people were estimated in London alone (London Borough Grants, 1999)

- In 2000, a total of 172,660 households were recognised as homeless by local authorities in England. This may represent as many as 410,000 people according to Shelter. However, this figure is just the tip of the iceberg – only representing households whom local authorities have a duty to assist. There are no comprehensive national or local figures on the extent of single homelessness.

- The number of people sleeping rough in England has fallen by 71 per cent over the last three years, according to government figures based on Street counts and local authority estimates. It is estimated that 532 people now sleep rough in England compared to 1,850 in 1998. (DTLR Press Release 3 December 2001)

- Every year more than 100,000 young people run away from home, most are running from abuse or conflict at home. Twenty-eight per cent of young people at Centrepoint projects left home as a result of physical violence and 14 per cent left due to sexual violence.

- One third of homeless young people have some form of mental health problem and one third have attempted suicide.

- Triggers that might precipitate homelessness among those at risk include being told to leave the parental home, leaving care and eviction from a rented or owned home. In addition, lack of access to both private and social housing for single people and cuts in benefits particularly for young people have been identified as contributory factors (G. Randall, Rough Sleeping: A Review of the Research, 1998, see also Greve, 1991, Smith et al, 1998)

For details of further Centrepoint factsheets, please call the Policy and Research unit on 020 7426 5300 or visit www.centrepoint.org.uk