

# GARRY'S STORY

## as told by his Head Teacher



“As a head teacher I came across the RUNA project almost by accident. I had not heard of the service before but when one of my pupils really needed help because life at home had broken down I was given their name. The work they do is incredible and can be life changing. For the young man in question, school was another kind of (bad) authority - similar to home and something to run away from. RUNA offered to be a listener, a mediator, a problem solver and more than anything, a voice of reason. They also signpost and act as a link between the many agencies that work with our most vulnerable young people.

The young man in question took up this offer and eventually it paid off. I say eventually because, as you will be aware, there are no quick fixes. RUNA provided a mentor who would be there for this young man whenever he needed it and that was for quite some time. When he left school in Year 11, RUNA continued their work with him. The experience of the team is excellent and they were able to give this boy a glimpse of his life as it would be as a young homeless person. That, along with other interventions, was enough to change the direction he could have been heading – a life on the streets.

I met him again in town recently – he wasn't begging or selling The Big Issue. He was telling me how he is back at home and at college. The best news I could wish for.”