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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SAFE@LAST is a children's charity that works with young people in South Yorkshire who are at risk through running away. The charity provides a range of services including an emergency refuge - one of only two in the country.

On **May 5th 2010** SAFE@LAST will present the event REFUGE@LAST to be held at the Sheffield City Hall. This conference style event will be a unique opportunity for those attending to learn from SAFE@LAST's experience of operating a children's refuge.

Together with partners The Railway Children, SAFE@LAST has recently commissioned an evaluation of their SAFEPLACE refuge which opened in April 2007 and which holds a certificate of exemption under Section 51 of the Children's Act. The findings of this independent evaluation and other aspects of working in the voluntary sector with young people at risk through running away will be shared at the dynamic and informative event and will be highly relevant to anyone working with vulnerable young people.

Confirmed to speak on the day are Emilie Smeaton Researcher and Author of the SAFEPLACE Refuge evaluation, Gervase Phinn Author and raconteur, Andy McCullough National Strategy & Policy Officer, Railway Children and Meredydd Hughes, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police.

Delegates attending the event will also be able to partake in two interactive workshops which cover topics as wide as the need for voluntary organisations to maintain their independence by generating voluntary income through fundraising and how this has been successfully achieved by SAFE@LAST to learning about and discussing flexible and creative ways of engaging young people at risk through running away.

Strategic Runaway Services Director of SAFE@LAST and manager of the SAFEPLACE refuge Tracy Haycox said "We intend to ensure that you will leave this unique event empowered, inspired and excited about making a real difference to children and young people's lives. SAFE@LAST is well known for its popular fundraising events and we will be applying our skills to make this an event with a difference. This is an exceptional opportunity to discover how partners from across the four boroughs in South Yorkshire collaborate to deliver best practice which impacts positively on the phenomenon of young runaways. Those attending will be given vital information on working with young runaways in different contexts from a number of agencies and in particular how to establish a refuge. We expect this event to be popular and there is an early bird discount available for those booking before the 1st March so I would urge anyone who is interested to book as soon as possible"

For more information please visit refugeatlast.org.uk

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For further information

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Note to editors

- SAFE@LAST is a registered charity working with young people who have run away from, or have been thrown out of, the place where they usually live.
- SAFE@LAST is a charity which provides vital services to young people who are 16 and under and at risk through running away.
- SAFE@LAST provides a Helpline service, a Missing Young People's Service encompassing ongoing one to one support, Preventative Workshops and, most remarkable of all the only Refuge outside of London for children and young people under the age of 16.
- Young people present SAFE@LAST with many complex issues including neglect, physical abuse, self harming, forced marriage, conflict and violence at home, sexual exploitation, mental health problems and many more.
- Although the charity receives some grant funding it is heavily reliant on raising funds through events in order to continue to provide essential services when children and young people need them the most.
- Young People that need help can contact SAFE@LAST on their 24hour helpline by calling 0800 335 SAFE, Texting SAFE + their message to 60777 or via webchat available through www.safeatlast.co.uk
- For more information about SAFE@LAST, the services it offers and how you can help visit www.safeatlast.org.uk.