



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SAFE@LAST is a registered charity working with and on behalf of young people at risk through running away. We are based at Dinnington, near Sheffield and were established in response to an acute need for services for the 1 in 9 children under the age of 16 in South Yorkshire who are affected.

Ten years ago our Founder Trustee, Hilary Massarella MBE, watched a documentary about a 14 year old girl who had been severely abused by several adults including her own parents. The girl finally prostituted herself in a lorry park to earn enough money to run away from what was happening to her.

For two years Hilary researched the issues around running away. There was no doubt, in South Yorkshire, as in many places across the country; children were feeling they had no alternative but to run away. Awareness of the problem desperately needed to be raised and something practical and long lasting urgently needed to be created.

Looking at today, SAFE@LAST is now delivering its services across all four boroughs in South Yorkshire and continues to strive for excellence resulting in the best outcomes for young people.

### Activities

SAFE@LAST currently operates:

- **SAFEplace Children's Refuge** - opened in April 2007 and based at a confidential location in South Yorkshire, this is the only children's refuge in the UK outside of London. SAFE@LAST provides 2 bed spaces of the 9 in the UK.
- **Children's Helpline (Call, Text, Webchat) 0800 335 SAFE** – operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (by SAFE@LAST staff and volunteers 9.30am-8pm and by the National Runaways Helpline out of these hours).
- **MISPER (Missing Persons) Project** – working closely with South Yorkshire Police, SAFE@LAST Project Workers support children at risk of running away with the many and varied issues and problems that lead them to go missing.
- **Education** – we recognise that prevention is as important as providing services that react to those who have run away. SAFE@LAST therefore regularly gives talks and presentations to children at a variety of schools, highlighting the helpline number.
- **Street to Schools work** – working with children and young people whose running away or going missing disrupts their education.

- **Detached Street Work** – working on the street of Sheffield delivering targeted youth work to young people.

## Job Requirements

- **Working hours** – the successful candidate will be required to work mainly weekdays but will need to be flexible in their hours. There may be some work in the early mornings or work in the early evenings. Most on call duties will also be undertaken in evenings – please see below for more detail.
- **Probation Period** – the post will be offered to the successful candidate subject to the completion of a successful 6 month probation period in addition to the uptake of 2 appropriate references. SAFE@LAST is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This post is subject to an enhanced check with the Criminal Records Bureau. *In addition, please see enclosed ‘safeguarding statement’.*
- **Helpline** – the successful candidate will be expected to undertake helpline training in order to answer helpline calls from children and young people during office hours.
- **On Call** – In time the successful candidate will be expected to take on call responsibility for the helpline. This involves being available by phone to helpline operators up until 11pm to offer advice and support. The successful candidate will also be required to make decisions concerning when a child may need to be admitted to the SAFEPLACE refuge and will be required to transport that young person to the SAFEPLACE refuge and admit them to the service. On call shifts are paid in addition to the advertised salary at £23 per shift. The successful candidate can expect to work approx 10 - 15 on call shifts a month. Appropriate training and support will be given before these duties are expected to be undertaken.
- **Holiday** – the successful candidate will be expected to take their annual leave during the school holidays.
- **Length of Contract** – This post is funded until spring 2013 in partnership with AVIVA and Railway Children as part of the Street To School Program

## Benefits

- **Free Parking** – Staff and volunteers are able to park for free at the current office location at Waterside Business Park
- **Volunteering Opportunities** – Many members of staff take up the opportunity to volunteer for SAFE@LAST either on an ongoing basis (such as undertaking Helpline duties), or on an ad hoc basis (for example, to support a particular event).
- **Training & Development** – SAFE@LAST is a member of many groups (including Voluntary Action Sheffield, Doncaster CVS, Youth Action and the like) and as such often accesses free

or discounted training courses for its staff and volunteers. There will be an expectation that the successful candidate will undertake NVQ qualifications and other relevant training at the appropriate level.

- **Charity Reputation** – SAFE@LAST has an excellent reputation and is well respected by the wider community, children and young people, other agencies including South Yorkshire Police and many others. Several members of staff have won awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions; including most recently our Founder Trustee Hilary Massarella was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List.
- **Supportive Culture** – we are proud of our supportive staff and volunteer team and work across all departments with the aim of keeping children and young people safe.

### **Street to School Work**

SAFE@LAST has been operating a successful missing persons scheme in South Yorkshire since 2004. The scheme provides ongoing one to one support to children and young people that are at risk through running away. The majority of referrals to this work are received from South Yorkshire Police who automatically generate a referral when a young person has been reported missing from home and then returned. Referrals are also received from other agencies, schools, parent/carers and family members and from young people themselves through the SAFE@LAST helpline.

The MISPER scheme has been very successful and supports young people with a variety of issues including family conflict, bereavement, domestic violence and many others.

It has become apparent that there is a need to address the issue of children who are missing from education as many have a history of running away from home or going missing from the place they usually live.

As a result of this, funding has been secured from the Railway Children to develop a new scheme in Sheffield which aims to meet the needs of the young people with histories of running away who are missing from education.

The successful candidate will be expected to work on a one to one basis with young people surrounding their issues of being missing from education. Work will need to take place with educational establishments, including Schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) etc in Sheffield to establish robust referral routes.

As this is a relatively new piece of work, having started in May 2010, the successful candidate will need to be flexible and creative in their approach to developing and delivering the work.

### **Street to School AVIVA and Railway Children**

This work in Sheffield is in partnership with international charity Railway Children and AVIVA under their Street to School programme.

AVIVA's Street to School programmes around the world recognise that every child living and working on the street has the right to fulfil their potential. AVIVA will champion the needs of street children in the communities in which we live and work.

AVIVA's customers take out policies to look after themselves and their families but sadly many street children often have no-one to protect and care for them in the same way.

AVIVA knows they can't help all the world's street children but want to help as many as we can. Life on the street without parental care or adult supervision is tough — these children are highly vulnerable. They are exposed to health risks, are often victims of abuse, exploitation and violence. These children are easy targets and can feel lost and let down by society.

In partnership with Railway Children a leading charity working with street children across the world (including the UK) we are looking to make substantial change for children who runaway or are on the streets.

Children who run away are recognised in research as missing out on education and as a consequence have less positive life opportunities (*"Off the Radar" Railway Children 2009*). SAFE@LAST has been identified as an organisation with a proven track record with improving the lives of children that runaway and an ideal organisation to pilot the street to schools programme in the UK.



## **Safeguarding Statement: Employment**

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SAFE@LAST is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects staff and adults who work with young people to share this commitment.

There is a proactive, rigorous and robust recruitment process in place to gather evidence regarding the suitability of candidates to work with young people as well as their suitability for the post for which they are applying to.

All offers of employment are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check on recruitment. In addition, all staff are required to provide details of two independent referees who will be required to complete a written report on the candidate. Personal referees will not be accepted, neither will testimonials.

Application forms are thoroughly checked and employment history scrutinised. Any discrepancies or anomalies in information provided or issues arising from references are taken up prior to interview.

All candidates called for interview will be expected to bring the original certificates as proof of qualifications, plus original documents such as passport or driving licence to prove identity. Successful candidates will be required to give their National Insurance number.

It is the responsibility of all who work at SAFE@LAST to put the safeguarding and welfare of young people before all else.

If you have **any** concerns regarding the welfare of a young person please report them immediately to:

- Tracy Haycox, Strategic Runaway Services Director
- Hayley Holmes, Senior Project Worker

*Created August 2011*