

OFFERING
YOUNG PEOPLE
AT RISK

A
SAFER
CHOICE



SAFE@LAST
www.safeatlast.org.uk

TEL: **01909 566 977**

SAFE@LAST IS A CHARITY PROVIDING FRONT LINE SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 AND UNDER WHO HAVE RUN AWAY FROM OR BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE HOME AND ARE AT RISK OF HARM.

WHEN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TALK TO **SAFE@LAST**, SOME OF THE MOST COMMON REASONS THEY GIVE FOR RUNNING AWAY ARE:

- Being knocked about at home
- **Emotional neglect**
- Frustrated by rules
- **Being bullied**
- Getting into trouble with the police
- **Family arguments**
- Parents not having enough time for them
- **Breakdown in communications at home**
- To get some space
- **Step-family issues**



FEAR

HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT RUNNING AWAY:

"I ran away because I found out that my mum was taking drugs and when I asked she turned around and shouted at me and put her fist to my face and pushed so hard. So I ran away because I couldn't tell her how she was making me feel."

"Because I was arguing with my step dad and he kept hitting me. I was too scared to tell my mum, so my mum asked me to leave for being argumentative."

"My mum was drinking and was getting violent."

"I couldn't cope with my parents, we just didn't get on because they never wanted me from the day I was born."

"Because I was getting bullied and the house is dirty."

"I was scared to go home because of problems at school and I was stressed."

"Was depressed, cutting myself."

"Mum's depressed and I have to take care of things and I just can't anymore."

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
TELL **SAFE@LAST** THAT WHEN THEY
RAN AWAY, THEY WERE OFTEN IN
DANGER OF:

- Exposure to drugs and alcohol
- **Becoming a victim of a sexual and physical assault**
- Involvement in criminal activities
- **Missing out on education**
- Exposure to dangerous weather conditions
- **Deterioration of physical and mental health**
- Sexual exploitation

WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
TELL US RUNNING AWAY WAS LIKE:

“It was scary and I needed help... I didn't have anyone I could go to.”

“**That place seemed ok in the day. But when it got dark, it was just different. Weird and scary – I didn't sleep at all.**”

“At first I was glad the man came to talk to me. But when he started saying dodgy stuff, I told him to get lost, that I could manage on my own.”

“**It was cold and wet and I was hungry.**”

“You get confused and you can't think straight. That's when you make the wrong choice.”



EXPERIENCES

WHAT DOES **SAFE@LAST** DO?

We listen and help: the freephone helpline 0800 335 SAFE and texting service, text SAFE plus your message to 60777, are open around the clock every day of the week, operated by trained volunteers, and supported by a professional response service. The helpline provides advice, support and practical help to young people at risk through running away.

We prevent children and young people from running again: working with South Yorkshire Police **SAFE@LAST** project workers deliver a successful MISPER (Missing Persons) Scheme for young runaways who are reported missing to the Police and subsequently returned home. We visit children, young people and families and provide ongoing support.

We offer safe alternatives to being on the streets: in April 2007, **SAFE@LAST** opened a Children and Young People's Refuge to provide safe, confidential short term accommodation for children and young people aged 16 and under who are at risk. The **SAFE@LAST** Refuge is the only facility of its kind in the UK outside London and Glasgow.

We educate children and young people about the dangers of running away: **SAFE@LAST** distributes leaflets and posters to Secondary Schools in South Yorkshire, North Notts and NE Derby and runs workshops and corridor events highlighting the dangers of running away and offering safe alternatives.

SAFE@LAST's NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- As members of the ECRC (English Coalition for Runaway Children), **SAFE@LAST** is successfully working with other members so that together we can keep the issues of running away high on the Government Agenda.
- We take an active part in the South Yorkshire RAP (Runaway Action Partnership), which includes South Yorkshire Police, Local Authorities and other voluntary sector agencies.

HOPE

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO, PLEASE HELP US...
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND
RETURN IT WITH A CHEQUE MADE
PAYABLE TO **SAFE@LAST** TO:**

SAFE@LAST

**Unit 1.08 Great House, Waterside Business Park,
Rotherham Road, Dinnington S25 3QA**

- I would like to donate £..... towards **SAFE@LAST**'s work, cheque enclosed.
- I would like to make a regular donation, please send me a standing order mandate.
- Please send me information about volunteering for **SAFE@LAST**.
- Please do not add my details to the **SAFE@LAST** mailing list.

Name

Address

Post Code

Email

Donate by text:

It's so simple to donate a vital £3 to **SAFE@LAST**.
Just text Sam to 84424*.

My Gift Aid declaration

Gift Aid means that for every pound you give us, we get back tax at the current basic rate from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further.

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- Yes**, please tick here if you would like **SAFE@LAST** to reclaim the tax you have paid on donations you have made for the six years prior to this date and any further donations you may make.

Note: You must pay income tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the current tax year.

Print name Date
(individual making this declaration)

Should your circumstances change, please let us know and we will amend our records.

THANK YOU

For more information:

Call **01909 566 977** or visit **www.safeatlast.org.uk**

*The SMS donation will consist of one premium rate text message sent to your mobile phone. A £3 charge will be made to your mobile phone bill, or deducted from your mobile phone credit (as appropriate). The service is operated by CTT on behalf of **SAFE@LAST** 1.08 Great House, Waterside Business Park, Rotherham Road, Dinnington, S25 3QA.

PROBLEMS

Running away is the symptom of a whole range of problems children and young people are trying to cope with.

It is a phenomenon that affects approximately 1 in 9 children and young people aged 16 and under, from a broad range of backgrounds.

However, the large majority of young people who call the **SAFE@LAST** helpline have not been reported missing:

“Only around 22% of overnight runaways are reported missing to the Police”.

(Running Away in South Yorkshire (Smeaton and Rees 2003))





DANGER

We know that children, some younger than 11 years old, are in danger – without money, food or a warm, safe place to shelter. For some young people, running away seems to be the best choice within a much too limited set of options.

Every day in our region, young people are replacing one set of fears in a familiar environment with a different set of fears on the street. What's worse is that they are leaving themselves open to the most despicable sources of abuse and exploitation.

Running Away in South Yorkshire (Smeaton and Rees 2003) also found that:

- **A quarter of young people will sleep rough whilst away from home;**
- 18% of young runaways are thrown out of home;
- **Around one fifth of overnight runaways are under the age of 11;**
- Young runaways are seven times more likely than their peers to have been physically abused (Young Runaways – SEU Report 2002);
- **1 in 8 young people who engage with SAFE@LAST are at risk of sexual exploitation;**
- Around 70% of young people referred to the **SAFE@LAST** MISPER scheme are misusing alcohol or drugs.

RIGHTS

"MANKIND OWES TO CHILDREN THE BEST IT HAS TO GIVE"

United Nations Declaration

The Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the World Summit of 1990 are considered watersheds in the history of child welfare and advocacy.

The rights set out in the Convention can be grouped into three broad categories:

- **Protection:** children have a right to protection from cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation
- **Participation:** children have a right to play an active role in society and to have a say in their own lives
- **Provision:** children have a right to have their basic needs met

The aims of **SAFE@LAST** are built around these principles and we believe that all children and young people have a right to services that meet the Every Child Matters agenda of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and enjoying economic well being. Please contact us for more information:

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Unit 1.08 Great House
Waterside Business Park
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Dinnington
S25 3QA

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email **admin@safeatlast.org.uk**



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Registered Charity No. 1098980