REACH:

A new model of intervention for children before, during and after they run away

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RAILWAY children

Fighting for street children

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Authors and contact details

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About the authors

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For further information about the Reach model please contact:

Disclaimer

This research and report has been undertaken and written by York Consulting LLP. Views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Railway Children.

Acknowledgements

Foreword

Children and young people face many dangers when missing from home or care: new cases of sexual exploitation and gang violence appear in the media almost daily and behind the headlines are children, alone and at risk on the streets. It is completely unacceptable that we leave the youngest and most vulnerable in our society to a life on the streets when we have already failed to protect them in their homes or Institutional care.

Railway Children's work is focused on creating and enabling sustainable solutions for children and young people who live on the streets. Here in the UK our first meaningful step in achieving this goal was to undertake research on why children turn to the streets, how they survive and ultimately what they need in order to be safe and have opportunities in their lives.

In 2009 we published the findings of our study in our report 'Off the Radar'. The research highlighted high levels of violence and abuse experienced by children both at home and on the streets, with services failing to meet their complex needs. The children and young people we spoke to were therefore spending substantial periods of time away from home or care, with survival behaviours placing them increasingly at risk and further from the help they needed.

In response to our research our next step was to design an intervention model that could meet the needs of children before, during and after incidents of running away or going missing and in 2010 we launched our Reach model.

We focused implementation of the Reach model in four key areas – London, South Yorkshire, Glasgow and Edinburgh – with each area interpreting the model to meet their local needs, resources and relationships. Pivotal to all aspects of the model is positive and strong partnerships with the police, social care and the voluntary sector, ensuring local ownership and sustainability.

Providing evidence for our model, demonstrating what works, with who and why is critical if we are to convince people to invest in us and our solution. This report explores the impact of our model in South Yorkshire with our partner SAFE@LAST and demonstrates how the right services at the right time can significantly reduce risk, make sound economic sense and ultimately achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

I would like to thank Aviva for their belief and trust in our model and support in its implementation. Working together as part of the global Street to School programme we have delivered an evidenced solution for children surviving alone on our UK streets.

Terina Keene
Chief Executive, Railway Children

Glossary

- **Young people:** in the context of this report this refers to children and young people aged 16 and under, as this is SAFE@LAST's client group.

- **Young runaway:** the term 'young runaway' refers to a child or young person up to the age of 18 who has run away from their home or care placement, has been forced to leave, or whose whereabouts is unknown[1].

- **Missing:** the police and senior policy makers refer to young people who run away as 'missing'. Therefore, reference to missing young people is used only in the context of working with the police.

- **Detached:** the term 'detached' refers to young people who, as a result of running away for long periods of time, are disengaged from mainstream society, not in education and not receiving support from any agency[2].

- **Push factors:** the things a young person might be running from, for example problems at home, family break-up, mental health problems, bullying and teenage pregnancy[3].

- **Pull factors:** the things a young person might be running to, for example friends (especially for young people in care) or a boyfriend who may be grooming them for sexual exploitation[4].

- **Sexual exploitation:** the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 is defined as that which: *"involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability."* (Department for Education 2012)[5].

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1   DCSF (2009). *Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care.* DCSF. London.
2   Railway Children (2009). *Off the Radar: Children and Young People on the Streets in the UK.* Railway Children. Cheshire.
3   DCSF(2009). *Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care.* DCSF. London.
4   ibid
5   Department for Education (2012). *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: National Action Plan Progress Report.* Department for Education. London.

Introduction

1. For the past 15 years, Railway Children have worked to support children around the world who live on the streets, or are at risk through running away from home or care. In the UK, they support local projects in England and Scotland and work to raise awareness and improve support among services in the community. They also play an important role in shaping policy and practice in the support of young runaways.

2. The Reach model has been developed by Railway Children to provide services for young people before, during and after episodes of running away. The concept of the Reach model was developed from previous research[6] funded by Railway Children that evidenced a lack of support for young people who run away from home or care.

The Reach model

3. The Reach model includes awareness raising and preventative support, as well as more tailored, one-to-one support with young people and their families or carers.

4. The Reach model has seven distinct elements that encompass both prevention and support:

- **Preventative education:** working in partnership with schools, youth clubs, social care residential homes and community centres to raise awareness of the risks of running away among young people.

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6   Railway Children (2009). *Off the Radar: Children and Young People on the Streets in the UK.* Railway Children. Cheshire.
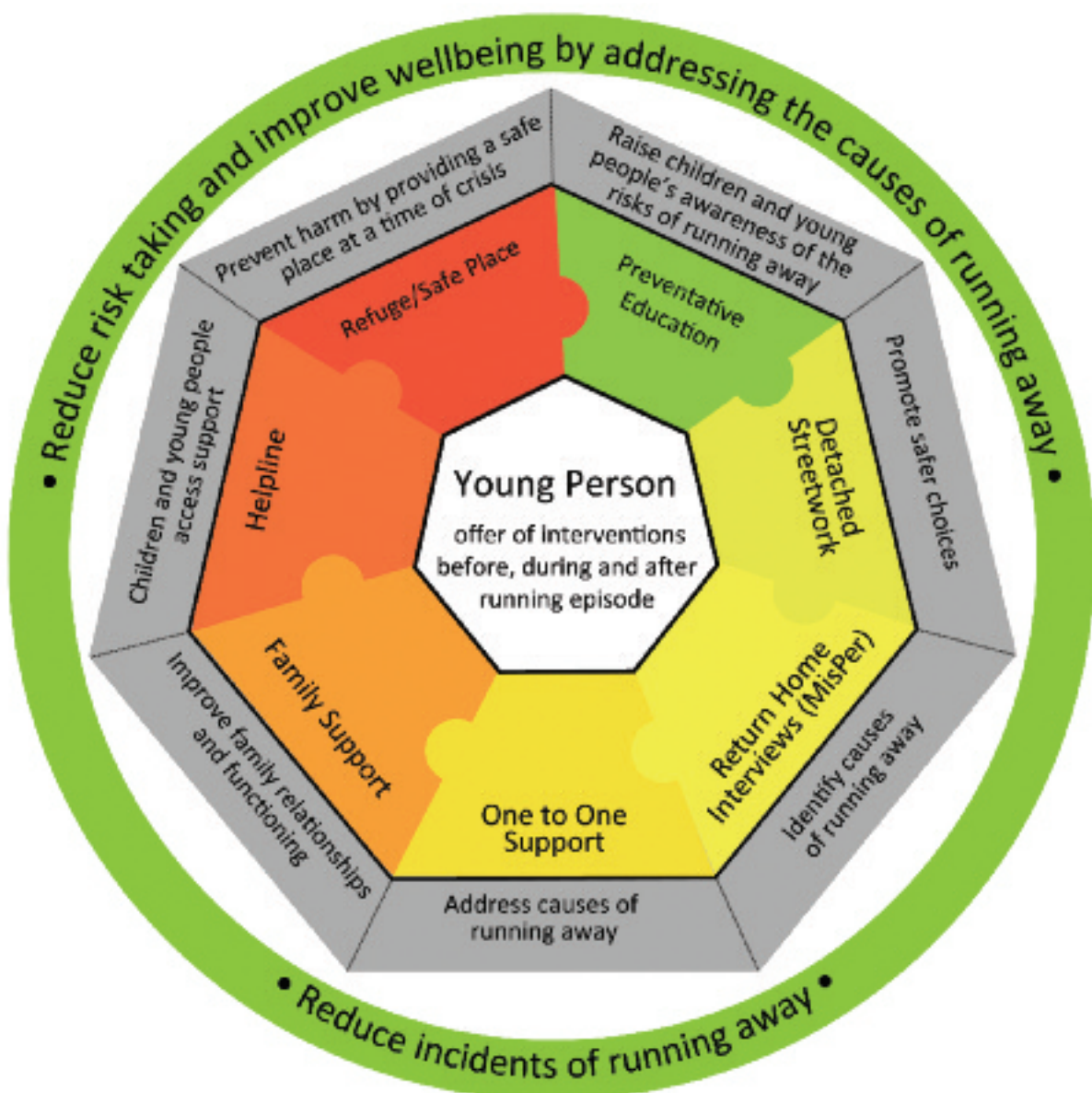
- **Detached street work:** taking the service to the streets with dedicated detached street workers, delivering sessions to introduce their service to potentially vulnerable young people.

- **Local helpline:** providing information and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week through telephone, web access and text services.

- **Refuge[7]/safe place:** emergency, safe accommodation for young people unable to be accommodated elsewhere for a maximum of 14 consecutive nights.

- **Missing person return interviews (MisPer):** conducted by an independent agency with the young person who has run away to help identify the reasons why they ran away and prevent it happening again.

- **One-to-one casework:** support for the young person from a dedicated key worker who helps them identify the reasons why they run away and reduce the likelihood of repeat running.

- **Family support:** for the parents/carers of the young person who is running away to help address the issues and concerns within families that may be causing the young person to run away.

5. One of the deliverers of the Reach model in England is SAFE@LAST, based in South Yorkshire. SAFE@LAST is a charity funded by a combination of private and public funding, alongside charitable donations, gifts and fundraising activity. SAFE@LAST delivers all elements of the Reach model, apart from family support[8].

6. To be effective, the support delivered through the Reach model needs to be part of a community response, therefore working in partnership with other services such as schools, social services, mental health and family support services. It also needs to contribute to local policies and procedures such as runaway protocols and local safeguarding strategies to ensure that support is consistent and the runaways service is integrated with key services (police and social services in particular).

Aims of the evaluation

7. As a way of understanding the value of the Reach model, York Consulting was commissioned by Railway Children to undertake an evaluation of the support delivered by SAFE@LAST; to evidence the impact of the support on young people; and to calculate the potential cost savings of this support.

8. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the extent to which the Reach model operated as an effective form of support for young people in terms of reducing their risk levels and preventing young people from running away. Specific objectives were to:

- determine the outcomes achieved as a result of the Reach model, including assessing the impact of the different forms of support, as well as the combination of support for young people;

- identify good practice in delivery that could inform future replicability of the Reach model;

- determine the resulting cost effectiveness of the approach;

- provide recommendations to support the effective development and delivery of the Reach model in other geographical areas.

Methodology

9. From the outset, young people played a central role in the evaluation process. They formed a youth panel which was involved in selecting the evaluators and also advised on the research methods to be used by the evaluation team.

10. The evaluation was a layered case study comprising:

- 12 individual case studies of young people supported by SAFE@LAST;

- a case study of the SAFE@LAST service;

- a case study of the partnerships and services surrounding SAFE@LAST that work with and provide support for the children and young people supported by SAFE@LAST;

- a case study of the local context and how this influences and impacts on the support provided.

11. The evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to evidence the outcomes and impact of the Reach model.

12. **Qualitative data:** a range of qualitative approaches was undertaken, including semi-structured interviews, focus groups and observations of meetings. These included:

- *Individual case studies of 12 young people:* interviews with the young person, their parent or carer, their key worker, and staff from other services supporting the young person.

- *SAFE@LAST case study:* interviews with key workers, runaways' education officers, strategic level staff and families. Observations of meetings and the delivery of support were also undertaken, as well as focus groups with practitioners and volunteers.

- *Partnership case study:* interviews with key stakeholders at both a strategic and operational level, including representatives from local authorities working with SAFE@LAST, representatives from Children's Services, the police, schools and social services.

13. **Quantitative data** were used to demonstrate impact, validate the qualitative findings, and for the costing element of the study. These included:

- *Key worker risk assessments:* key workers provided risk assessments of 53 young people supported by SAFE@LAST on entry to and exit from support. These assessments were validated by the research team through a review of 20 of these young people's case files.

- *Performance data:* data were obtained from SAFE@LAST which provided information on outputs: for example the number of young people supported and the number of return interviews conducted.

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7   The definition of a refuge is provided in Section 51 of the Children's Act 1989 where provision can be made for children in need of a safe place to stay for up to 14 days when a child is at risk of significant harm.
8   SAFE@LAST has trialled support for parents through student social workers' placements.

- *A fiscal return on investment calculation:* used to assess the net financial impact of the Reach model. The emphasis of analysis was on the fiscal or public purse benefits of the intervention, and the results provided a 'benefit to cost' ratio showing savings made for every £1 invested.

Analysis

14. Pre-agreed themes were used to construct an evaluation and an outcomes framework and also to define the topic guides for the semi-structured interviews. The quantitative and qualitative data collected were then subject to a thematic analysis. Evidence was collected and analysed around the following three key themes:

- the young person's behaviour and needs prior to working with SAFE@LAST;
- the nature and scope of the support provided by staff from SAFE@LAST;
- the influence and impact of the support on the young person's critical thinking and behaviour.

15. The findings from the research were validated in the following ways:

- validation meetings with Railway Children, SAFE@LAST and other key partners;
- case study write-ups and other relevant parts of the final report were validated by young people and key workers;
- the final report was reviewed by SAFE@LAST and Railway Children.

The extent of running away in South Yorkshire

16. SAFE@LAST data showed that between April 2011 and March 2012 the service received 1,641 referrals for support for young people running away or going missing. This rate of referral shows the extent of running away incidents in South Yorkshire. The vast majority (95%, 1,562) of these referrals were from the police. SAFE@LAST worked closely with the police's missing persons' officers to identify young people in need of support.

17. A total of 437 of these referrals were for first time runaways. The number of interviews conducted by SAFE@LAST with young people upon their return from going missing between April 2011 to March 2012 was 314 (representing 72% of first time referrals). SAFE@LAST tried to contact all first time runaways, but many did not respond or did not want assistance. A total of 742 of these referrals were for young people in care.

What are the risks for young people who run away?

18. Young people who run away are at risk of a series of longer-term negative outcomes that are costly, not only to themselves but also to the services and local communities that provide support, and ultimately, to the public purse. Previous research has shown a relationship between running away, poor school attendance, low levels of attainment[9] and the risk of becoming NEET[10].

19. The more a young person runs away, the more detached they can become from their family and school, and the more likely they are to get into trouble with the police and engage in other risky behaviours, such as substance misuse. A young person's mental health is at considerable risk as their lives become more chaotic and they also experience insecure living arrangements[11]. Reasons for running away are strongly related to issues with home life[12]. Young people are also at serious risk of physical, emotional and sexual abuse when they run away[13].

20. Young people who run away need dedicated support to help both them and their families. The Reach model has been developed in South Yorkshire as a way of providing young people with the necessary range of help they need.

The Reach model of support: a local response

21. SAFE@LAST is funded through a mix of public funding (South Yorkshire Police and the four local authorities), private and grant funding, gifts and donations to provide:

- **Preventative education:** for primary and secondary age pupils to raise awareness of the risks of running away. All Year 6 primary pupils attend Crucial Crew, an interactive scenario session delivered by the emergency services in partnership with the voluntary sector. Work in secondary schools is integrated into the PSHE curriculum[14] for pupils in Years 7 and 9. SAFE@LAST also works in pupil referral units and residential children's homes with young people who are at relatively high risk of running away. Between April 2011 and March 2012, 33,000 children and young people benefitted from these sessions.

> *"They are superb presenters and really engage with our young people ... bringing in illustrations which are very suitable to their level."* (PSHE co-ordinator)

- **Detached street work:** delivered by qualified youth workers from SAFE@LAST in one borough (Sheffield) and targeting known 'hot spots'. Initially, this work focused on the city centre to target young people who had become detached from mainstream society[15] but owing to local city centre dispersal policies, the focus moved to work with young people in parks and local communities. Youth workers developed links with neighbourhood police officers and were sometimes accompanied by practitioners from other services,

9   LSN, IOC (2009). *Tackling the NEETs Problem.* LSN. London. The Children's Society (2005). *Still Running 2.* The Children's Society. London.
10 Not in Education, Employment or Training
11 Stephens, J (2002). *The Mental Health Needs of Homeless Young People.* The Mental Health Foundation.
12 Insley Consulting (2011). *Homelessness Prevention: Can we Afford Not To? Reconnecting Families to Prevent Homelessness.*
13 Railway Children (2009). *Off the Radar: Children and Young People on the Streets in the UK.* Railway Children. Cheshire. UK and All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2012). *Report from the Joint Inquiry Into Children Who Go Missing From Care.*
14 Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.
15 Railway Children (2009). *Off the Radar: Children and Young People on the Streets in the UK.* Railway Children. Cheshire.

such as drug workers. This work reached 959 young people in April 2011 to March 2012.

> *"…they are different than other youth workers, they listen and give us advice if we have any issues to solve and another thing I'd say thanks for too, is for the hot chocolate and for the things that we needed."* (Young person)

■ **A helpline:** this ensures that young people have access to advice, information and support at any time. SAFE@LAST provides a response until 8pm, after which calls are routed to the helpline (116000) run by Missing People. An on-call manager from SAFE@LAST is available to receive calls up to 11pm after which time Missing People continue to deal with calls themselves.

Between April 2011 and March 2012, 562 calls were received and the web chat facility was used by 199 young people.

> *"We have good back up ... that's the really good thing, we can properly help young people."* (Volunteer)

■ **The refuge:** this is considered a last resort for young people who have nowhere else to go. Access to the refuge is tightly managed by SAFE@LAST, which results in low usage. SAFE@LAST key workers responding to a young person's request to stay in the refuge work with the young person to explore all possible alternatives before admitting them. Between April 2011 and March 2012 the refuge was used for ten bed nights; since April 2012 it has been used for a further ten bed nights.

For the small number of young people who used the refuge it provided support at a critical time.

> *"Last year I got kicked out of my house and social wouldn't do owt with me. If SAFE@LAST weren't there I would have been in bushes."* (Young person)

■ **Missing person return interviews:** SAFE@LAST is part funded by the police and the local authorities to conduct missing person return interviews, and to offer follow-up support to young runaways where this is deemed necessary.

During the period from April 2011 to March 2012, SAFE@LAST conducted 314 return interviews.

> *"Sometimes we'll go into a home and it's clear we're not needed. ... Other times, there are some serious concerns."* (SAFE@LAST Key worker)

■ **One-to-one casework:** Young people valued the opportunity to receive support to address their issues from someone who they felt was 'on their side' and was not from a statutory service. In April 2011 to March 2012, over 220 young people received tailored one-to-one support from SAFE@LAST staff.

> *"She made me think about what I was doing and that ... and sometimes it made me stop. ... It drove me mad but I could hear her in my head."* (Young person)

Parents also valued the support their children received which, in many instances, they had been unable to access from other services.

> *"I was desperate for help and nobody was listening, nobody wanted to know."* (Father)

■ **Family support:** this element of the Reach model was trialled by SAFE@LAST but was not being provided during the evaluation period. The research found a clear need for this element of the Reach model to be in place, as young people were often running from parental problems such as poor mental health, domestic violence and alcoholism. The family and one-to-one support provided during the trial period was valued by parents.

> *"Just to get help with the family atmosphere and help improve life at home. I tried to get help from social services but I couldn't."* (Parent)

Impact of the Reach model on young people at risk through running away

22. Key workers were asked to rate 53 young people's levels of risk on entry to and exit from support. These risk assessments were validated by researchers. **Table 1** shows the most common high and medium level risks identified by key workers when young people entered support and were exited from support.

Table 1: Risk levels of young people on entry to/exit from SAFE@LAST support				
Type of risk	**High entry**	**High exit**	**Medium entry**	**Medium exit**
Running away	21 (40%)	3 (5%)	21 (40%)	5 (9%)
Relationships with family members	15 (28%)	3 (6%)	17 (32%)	18 (34%)
Emotional and mental well-being	8 (15%)	1 (2%)	23 (43%)	10 (19%)
Relationship with peers	7 (13%)	2 (4%)	21 (40%)	10 (19%)
School attendance	9 (17%)	6 (11%)	18 (34%)	10 (19%)

23. On entry to support, a total of 21 (40%) young people were recorded as being at high risk of running away, with the same number at medium risk of running away. The table shows that young people's risk of running away had reduced considerably on exit from support: only three young people were classified as at a high risk of running away[16] and most were at low or no risk of running away.

24. The other main areas of high and medium level concerns identified were relationships with family members: 32 (60%) young people were identified with high or medium level concerns on entry to support.

> *"I'd come home and go straight up to my bedroom … at night I'd jump out the bedroom window because I just wanted to be out of the house."* (Young person)

16 The service was still working with two of these young people and the third had been referred to the sexual exploitation team.

> *"Before* [support] *there was no talking, only shouting and screaming and punishments, there was nothing good."* (Mother)

25. Key workers worked closely with young people to help improve communication and understanding with parents/carers. Positive impacts were identified concerning family relationships. The number of young people identified with high level risks in this category had reduced from 15 (28%) to 3 (5%) between entry to, and exit from, support.

However, despite the reduction in high level concerns, it should be noted that some level of concern regarding family relationships remained for 21 (40%) young people when they were exited from support.

26. Encouraging young people to consider the impact that peers have on their decision making and behaviour was a key focus for the one-to-one support provided by SAFE@LAST. On entry to support 28 (53%) young people were recorded as having medium or high level concerns regarding their peer relationships, and on exit this had reduced to 12 (23%). Often working in partnership with schools, the support encouraged young people to reflect on the influence of their friends.

> *"SAFE@LAST help bring a different dimension to our work, they give young people an option to change which we sometimes struggle to do. ... They* [young people] *often see school as part of the problem."* (Pastoral worker)

27. School attendance also showed some improvements, with a reduction from 27 (51%) young people recorded with high or medium level concerns on entry, to 16 (30%) on exit. However, this also shows that there were still a significant number of young people with high and medium level concerns regarding their school attendance and highlights the entrenched nature of non-attendance for many of the young people who run away. In a number of cases key workers were working closely with young people and school staff to support young people's engagement with school.

> *"I know she's there for me … I can rely on her. … If it wasn't for* [name of key worker] *I'd not be here* [school]*."* (Young person)

28. The number of young people identified as having high and medium level concerns about their emotional and mental health also reduced from 31 (58%) to 11 (21%) between entry to and exit from support. Key workers who provided one-to-one support for young people focused on raising their self-esteem and discussed issues affecting their emotional well-being. A total of 12 referrals were made to other services for mental health support. Some young people had high level mental health concerns which required a referral to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). Key workers were often frustrated at the lack of information sharing between CAMHS workers and SAFE@LAST and felt that finding a way to improve this would be helpful for young people.

29. The evidence shows positive impacts on risks directly linked to being on the streets, such as personal safety and sexual exploitation. Changes in these risks are shown in **Table 2** (n=53).

Table 2: Concerns of young people on entry/exit to SAFE@LAST support		
Type of risk	**Entry**	**Exit**
Personal safety	44 (83%)	18 (34%)
Engagement in inappropriate activities outside the home	34 (64%)	16 (30%)
Concerns about availability of family support network	22 (41%)	16 (30%)
Concerns about family violence/abusive behaviour	20 (38%)	7 (13%)
Risk of becoming pregnant (n=37)	20 (54%)	9 (24%)
At risk of sexual exploitation	20 (38%)	12 (23%)

30. On entry to support the majority of young people (83%) had concerns identified regarding their personal safety. On exit, this figure had reduced to 34% of young people with concerns. On entry to support, 54% of girls were identified as being at risk of becoming pregnant, whilst 38% of young people were considered to be at risk of sexual exploitation. On exit from support, these figures had reduced to 24% and 23% respectively.

31. Not all young people's risks were removed due to the entrenched nature of their needs, vulnerabilities and relationships. The service was forced to make some difficult decisions regarding closing cases, particularly where young people were approaching 17 years of age as SAFE@LAST works with young people aged 16 or under.

What did the Reach model cost to deliver and what were the potential savings?

32. The total cost of the Reach model (excluding family support) was **£455,989**. A total of 222 young people received one-to-one support and therefore the average cost per young person was **£2,054**.

33. Using the Fiscal Return on Investment (FROI) methodology, the total savings generated from the Reach model as a result of a reduction in young people's risk factors was **£1,126,869**. After applying a sensitivity analysis to account for possible increase in risk levels in young people and attribution (did support provided through SAFE@LAST account for all changes?), it was estimated that the Reach model delivered a saving of **£845,152** to the public purse over a one year period. This can be represented as an **FROI of 1.85**. This means that for every £1 invested in young people through SAFE@LAST, the public purse realises £1.85 in costs avoided as a result of the reduction in support needs for young people.

34. With an investment of £112,030 from the four South Yorkshire local authorities and South Yorkshire Police force, South Yorkshire benefits greatly in the longer term from this investment.

Can we afford not to invest in the Reach model?

35. For each missing person's case, there is an estimated cost of approximately £1,000[17] to £1,300[18] to the state, in

17 The Children's Society (2011) *Making Runaways Safe: Launch Report.* The Children's Society. London.
18 West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police (2012) *Establishing the Cost of Missing Persons Investigations.* University of Portsmouth. Portsmouth.

terms of resources required to log and respond to cases alone (not accounting for the costs to the public purse in dealing with a young person's needs as described above). Therefore, any reduction in the numbers of young people running away could make a sizeable saving to policing costs.

36. When considering that nearly half of sentenced prisoners report having run away as children[21], without this investment we are potentially storing up significant future demands on the public purse and failing many of our most vulnerable young people.

Recommendations

37. This research evidenced that the Reach model is a valuable and cost effective model of support for young people who are at risk through running away. The following recommendations are provided to ensure future models of delivery are developed on the knowledge of what works.

38. Recommendation One: Investment in the Reach model should be part of a local area's strategic response to safeguarding young people who run away.

There is ample evidence from research that young people who run away are at risk of drug and alcohol misuse, offending, and sexual exploitation. Therefore incidents of running away should be recognised as a safeguarding issue and Local Safeguarding Children Boards should stipulate how local services should respond to safeguard young people. Young people using SAFE@LAST services displayed a range of risks, which were measurably reduced through one-to-one work. This represented a FROI of £1.85 for every £1 spent.

39. Recommendation Two: Improved data on running away are needed to enable local areas to commission services and monitor the impact of support on levels of running away.

Local areas need accurate data showing patterns of running away. This will enable effective commissioning of services and the ability to monitor levels of running away in local areas. Significantly, information regarding young people who run away should be shared between services to ensure that all other apparent risks affecting young people, such as sexual exploitation, can be dealt with as early as possible.

40. Recommendation Three: Implementing all elements of the Reach model prevents an escalation of risk in young people and addresses the needs of young people who run away.

The value of a local Reach model is in the complementary services it offers to young people through different access points. The research found that young people presented with a wide range of risks which were addressed through one-to-one work, often after assessment at a missing persons return interview. This was complemented by the helpline, the preventative work in schools and on the streets and, at times of crisis, the refuge. Although most young people interviewed had been referred by the police, there were other ways to access services by self-referral through the helpline: an important factor given that only a third of young people who run away are reported missing[22].

Although family support work was not fully operational at the time of this evaluation, family relationships were high on the list of presenting risks, and it was clear that many young people were running away from problems in the family. Services delivering the Reach model should consider young people's needs in the context of the family and ensure any necessary support for parents is offered, or referrals to appropriate agencies are made.

41. Recommendation Four: The Reach model should be delivered through the voluntary sector, in collaboration with partners.

Local areas should provide dedicated support to young people at risk through running away. Children's Services alone do not have the capacity to respond to this need and young people are more likely to engage with non-statutory support. Young people interviewed spoke of SAFE@LAST being 'on their side' and distinct from statutory services, and other professionals acknowledged the positive relationships that resulted from SAFE@LAST's position as a voluntary agency.

42. Recommendation Five: The Reach model should be funded from multiple sources to enhance its sustainability and resilience.

A mixed funding model can help stabilise the resourcing of Reach. South Yorkshire adopted this funding model, with contributions from South Yorkshire Police, the four local authorities, private corporations and charitable funds. This helped to ensure partnership engagement and support. In addition, joint funding from the police and local authorities can provide a mechanism through which performance of the Reach model can be held to account locally. Services funded through single funding streams are more vulnerable, particularly in times of austerity.

43. Recommendation Six: Young people need support services up to the age of 18.

Young people who run away from home but are over the age of 16 cannot receive help through SAFE@LAST. Although young people of this age have more housing options than under 16s, they are still in need of support and guidance. In South Yorkshire there was a dearth of services for young people aged between 16 and 18, meaning that key workers struggled to determine effective exit strategies for young people over the age of 16.

21 Prison Reform Trust (2012). *Bromley Briefing Prison Factfile, June 2012.* Prison Reform Trust. London.
22 The Children's Society (2005). *Still Running 2.* The Children's Society. London. The Children's Society (2011). *Still Running 3.* The Children's Society. London.

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