

## SEFF's East Region Gateway Service in Lisburn now active

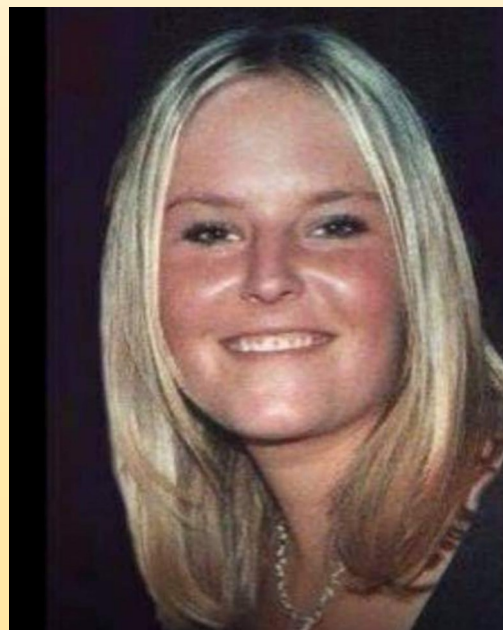
An exciting new chapter will begin soon for SEFF with the opening of a new office in Lisburn - our East Region Gateway Service.

In marking the opening of the office SEFF staff; Kenny Donaldson (Director of Services), Joanne Dorrian (Advocacy Support Worker) and Peter Murtagh (Advocacy Support Manager) were joined by local members Laura Burns, Andrea Brown and Louie Johnston, .

Andrea Brown has been a SEFF member for some years, but has been unable to travel to the main centre of SEFF's activities in Lisnaskea due to daily care requirements. "I haven't been able to travel any distance because I rely on carers four times a day," Andrea said. "They run so many things in Lisnaskea, like classes, courses, socialising and all sorts of things that I would really appreciate. The socialising aspect is therapy in itself. I think it is really important to spend time with like minded people. "Now, with [the new SEFF office] in Lisburn, I will definitely be able to access the services."

The Lisburn premises opened a day before the anniversary of the disappearance of Lisa Dorrian, sister of the new centre's Advocacy Support Worker Joanne Dorrian. Joanne's sister, Lisa Dorrian, was murdered after attending a party at Co. Down caravan park on the 28th of February 2005. Lisa was 25-years-old when she disappeared. Despite extensive searches for her body and numerous appeals for help from the public, Lisa has still not been found and nobody has been brought to justice in connection with her disappearance. Lisa's sisters and father continue their appeal for information about the disappearance. Being at the forefront of her sister's campaign, Joanne knew that the new role of Advocacy Support Worker in the Eastern Region would be a good fit. "We have been receiving advocacy support from SEFF ourselves for the last 3-1/2-years, so I know the difference that that has made to us and our lives, and I thought that if I can do that for any other family then I would be overjoyed to do so".

The new SEFF office, located at Graham Gardens, Lisburn is geographically easily accessible from Greater Belfast, N. Down and Co. Antrim, with good bus and rail services for those reliant on public transport. The new office will be fully operational once the current COVID restrictions are lifted - will offer advocacy services, well-being support and other practical help including welfare advice and counselling. We plan to hold a mii Reception launch in mid-late June 2021.



# Advocacy for Innocent Victims Newsletter



April 2021 Issue 38

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Dear all,

I hope you had a good Easter and hopefully there is some light at the end of the tunnel in us emerging from this terrible pandemic and we can work towards some sort of normality, including our Advocacy Service. We are hoping to be able to return to a normal one to one personal service by the beginning of next month (May), though PPE masks and screens will have to continue to be used for at least the next few months.

The 31<sup>st</sup> March saw Ernie leaving the Advocacy team, he is retiring (he is adamant that he means it this time, apparently this is the third time he has retired). Ernie will be missed by the team of which he was a valuable member, his 'on call' legal expertise was greatly valued, though he has offered to be available in that capacity should we need him, and I am sure we will be seeing him and availing of his expertise in the future.

Ernie was very popular with those of you he provided support for and his commitment went above and beyond of that what was expected of him. We would like to take this opportunity in thanking him for all his hard work and wishing him well his retirement. Joanne Dorrian, who started with us in February covering the East Region and Greater Belfast, working from our new Lisburn Office, will be taking over most of Ernie's case work. Both of them worked hard over the last couple of months despite the restrictions, with safe distancing face to face introductions of Joanne to those victims/survivors whom she will be providing Advocacy Support for.

That leads us on to introducing our latest member of our team; David Hallawell. David will bring his own individual skills and expertise to the team, he has an introductory accompanying piece in this Newsletter. We would just like to welcome him to SEFF and the Advocacy team, and wish him all the best in his new role. David will be working with Nevin in covering the West of Northern Ireland, working from the Lisnaskea and Newtown Stewart Offices.

Work is continuing on the setting up of the new Lisburn office, we have had the decorators in, and are currently receiving all the office equipment and will hopefully be up and running for early next month, which should hopefully coincide with further relaxation of COVID restrictions.

Over the last couple of months we have continued lobbying on behalf of Victims. Some of our SEFF members were giving evidence last week to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in relation to Libyan sponsored terrorism connected to the Provisional IRA and seized Libyan funds not being used in to provide some form of reparation for victims.

Kenny D (SEFF's Director of Services) raised the issue of a Libyan Banker coming forward to reveal a secret agreement that appears to have been done between the UK Government at the time and a Libyan interim government blocking any compensation for our innocent Victims.

Our pressure continues on both the GB and RoI Governments in relation to Justice and truth, where possible linking cases to provide greater leverage on those in positions of power and influence.

We are continuing to record testimonies for our Oral History Project, if you are interested in having your Lived Experience recorded, please do not hesitate to contact any one of our Advocacy team.

Hopefully you are all enjoying better weather, brighter evenings and greater freedom. Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Pete and all the Advocacy Team



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### **SEFF's AfIV Team welcomes David Hallawell**

I am a retired Police Officer with over 29 years' service in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and PSNI. Working mostly in the Fermanagh and Tyrone areas as well as a period on promotion to the Northwest. I retired as a Detective Sergeant in 2016.

As a native of Fermanagh, I spent my early life in Ballinamallard before my father's work as a Constable in the RUC took us to Londonderry.

After my father's murder on duty by the Provisional IRA in 1983 the family returned home to Ballinamallard where we still reside today. I had my secondary education at Enniskillen High School. I am a married man and my wife, and I are blessed with two grown up daughters.

My outside interests include fishing and Clay pigeon shooting.

I feel really privileged to commence this new and exciting challenge with SEFF and bring my experience as a police officer and as a bereaved victim of the troubles to my role as an advocacy support worker.

### **South Down victims insulted and ignored by Member of Parliament**

I wish to highlight an issue of insult and intransigence. A simple sign above an inconspicuous doorway of an uninspiring office, on a narrow Co. Down Street. However, this isn't any old office, this is a parliamentary constituency office of Sinn Fein Member of Parliament Chris Hazzard.

The office located at 2 Circular Road, Castlewellan, has been named after terrorists Peter McNutly and Paul Maggorrian, both of which are recorded on the IRA's roll of honour. McNutly blew himself up on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1972 while attempting to bomb Castlewellan police station, Maggorrian was shot by an army unit as he lay in wait to ambush them at Bunkers Hill, also in Castlewellan on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1974. The circumstances of their deaths are neither debatable or relevant, I draw your attention to the fact both are described in republican circles as having died on "active service".

It has been noticed that the MP has a second sign above a different door which leads me to query if the Member of Parliament has found a loophole in parliamentary funding and distanced himself from the terrorists named on the front of building.

If Mr Hazzard has found a loop hole which facilitates public funding of his constituency advice centre located in the same building which has the name of IRA sniper Paul Magorrian and IRA bomber Peter McNutly, then surely the public have a right to know? A second sign above another door would lead me to believe that the MP has sought to distance himself from the offending sign, is this to avail of British parliamentary money?

Regardless of the set-up, loop hole or trickery at play the continued display of the McNutly / Magorrian sign on the building is offensive to the point of grotesque. Victims of IRA violence have long pleaded with Mr Hazzard to remove the sign, each time they've been met with a wall of silence. I would have thought his vastly reduced majority would have been enough to stir self-reflection, it is perhaps humbling to realise that those who supported him at the last election have given their verdict by going elsewhere or simply staying at home, this is no doubt reflective of the continued glorification and triumphalism displayed on the front gable wall of his office.

The role of an elected representative is to represent their constituents regardless of creed or culture, everyone should be treated equally with respect, this includes ensuring the local advice centre be a neutral, open and welcoming environment. Hazard through his continued intransigence has sought to alienate a wide section of the South Down electorate.

I, along with local man Sammy Heenan have raised this issue time and time again. Sammy, whose father William Heenan was murdered just outside the town in 1985, has asked that Mr Hazzard explain why this sign must remain, why the continued insult to victims? These requests have all been ignored. There has been numerous correspondence sent to Westminster authorities, they seem unwilling to act or challenge the MP. Last month I wrote to the Equality Commission, who have since replied advising that they will "remind the MP of his responsibility to create an environment which doesn't offend", an abdication of responsibility. Is it any wonder victims of IRA terror are angry, is it any wonder a fresh generation of nationalist youth have grown up to glorify and idolise those who butchered our forefathers?

Until the media learn to adequately challenge Sinn Fein and appropriately give those of us who do challenge them a platform, we will never move forward, only back, caught in the continuing whirlwind that is the bitterness of Sinn Fein.

**Alan Lewis**  
**(South Down Advocate)**

