

# Personal Story

Peter Lally, 61, a former Metropolitan police officer, is Chairman of SSAFA's Wolverhampton Branch.

'Case working is the best job and you get a terrific amount out of it'

I started working for SSAFA part time as a Volunteer Development Manager with the in-Service community about six years ago as I had experience in organising groups of volunteers.

At the same time I was a volunteer case worker for SSAFA's Shropshire Branch in Telford where I assisted members of the ex-Service community. When I stopped working for SSAFA I continued in my role as a case worker until I was asked to be Chairman of the Wolverhampton Branch a couple of years ago.

In the ex-Service community our case workers come from very varied backgrounds. Very often they do have a Service connection and it's that which

motivates them, but not always.

I still think case working is the best job and you get a terrific amount out of it. To be able to go to someone's house and find that they have a real serious need that you can help with is very rewarding. Perhaps you have helped them to get a stairlift or a walk-in shower and you go back afterwards and find that it has transformed their life or stopped them being housebound - that's what it's all about.

Now I'm the Chairman I deal with raising funds and awareness of what we do. We were the Mayor's chosen charity last year and received £15,000 which was wonderful. We are also one of the chosen charities of Waitrose in Wolverhampton this month. We run our own raffles and raise money through the events such as the Wolverhampton Marathon. Next week I'm going to give a talk to the Rotary Club.

Fundraising is very satisfying and I have noticed that there is a tremendous amount of goodwill coming from the public towards Service charities at the moment.



T: 0845 1300 975 E: [info@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:info@ssafa.org.uk) [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

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