Future bright for gun victim

A YOUNG MOTHER critically injured in a triple shotgun tragedy in West Wales is set for a move to a rehabilitation clinic 20 months after the horrific night left her fighting for her life.

Paralysed from the waist down, Janice James will undergo physiotherapy in the bid to help her walk again and return to Aberaeron.

Janice, 24, was shot in the head at close range by her ex-boyfriend Les Bowen, 30, after he burst into her parents' home in March 1992.

The former gamekeeper then shot the families — Jenkins, 56, and Aerona, 54 — before turning the gun on himself in the three minutes of horror.

Since the tragedy, as the family in the close-knit seaside town have put the horror behind them, Janice's brother Jonathan and Bowen's sister Katrina have married and have their own three-month-old baby Ffion. The couple were going out with each other at the time of the killings.

It was a row over custody of the couple's three-year-old son David that led to the double killing and suicide, the inquest heard.

Wheelchair-bound Janice has suffered slight brain damage and lost an eye. She has not been able to walk since the horrific incident but has recently had an operation on her hip.

Neurosurgeons conducted emergency surgery in Morriston hospital, Swansea, after the tragedy.

The young mother still has treatment, there but spends most of her time being cared for in Clydach Cottage Hospital. She is due for transfer soon to the Coleshill rehabilitation clinic in Llanelli.

Her family are now optimistic of further improvement and they say she has done remarkably well considering her condition when she was admitted to hospital.

Twenty-eight-year-old Jonathan and his wife Katrina, 22, are now running his father's undertaking firm.

They visit Janice at least once a week, along with her other brother Kenneth.

Jonathan said, "She stumbles over her words a little, but she recognises and understands everyone who comes to visit.

"We never talk to her about the incident — the doctors have explained to her and she knows what happened. We have just got to think forward and not dwell on the past."

His wife Katrina added, "The plan is to introduce her gradually into Coleshill."