

# News release



5 December 2005

## **Update on Developments in the Ambulance Service**

Kenny McMahon, Divisional Officer, and Mark Cochrane, Paramedic Station Officer, NI Ambulance Service are the key speakers at the December meeting of the Southern Health and Social Services Council. The speakers will be in attendance at 11.30 am to make a joint presentation and update the Council on the developments in the Ambulance Service in the Southern area.

This is one of a series of Health Council public meetings being held in all the major towns in the Southern Board area as part of a move to increase public interest in the organisation's work.

The 24 person Council meets on a monthly basis and until now most of its regular meetings have been held at the organisation's Lurgan base. As part of its plan to develop closer links with the communities it serves alternate meetings of the Council will now be held in local venues. The **December** meeting will be held in **the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on Thursday 15 December 2005 at 10.00 am**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and there will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting to raise issues of local interest.

Speaking of the plans for the meeting Chairman, Mrs Lynne Cairns emphasised the importance of making the work of the Council more visible to the public.

"The meeting will give local people an opportunity to hear of the work our Council carries out on their behalf. We are particularly keen to develop our links with community and voluntary groups and to look at how we can work together for the benefit of all users of health and social care services. Bringing our meetings out to local venues is part of our plan to strengthen our links with the communities our Council serves."

Details of the agenda for the meeting can be obtained by phoning the Health and Social Services Council at 028 3834 9900 or email to [ndownard@shssc.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:ndownard@shssc.n-i.nhs.uk) Information is also available on the Council's website at [www.shsscouncil.net](http://www.shsscouncil.net)

Ends

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- The Southern Health and Social Services Council is one of 4 Health and Social Services Councils set up in 1991 to represent the views of patients and users of the health and social services. The Council has a total of 24 members, 40% of whom are nominated by District Councils in the Southern Area. The remainder are appointed by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – 30% voluntary/community

representatives and 30% are nominees with an interest in health and social care.

- Health and Social Services Councils have a right to be consulted by Health and Social Services Boards about and plans for development of services, or where significant changes are being considered. Councils play an important part in representing the views of consumers of services to the decision makers, and provide advice and support to patients and service users in relation to complaints procedures.

If you require any further information please contact the office,

Tel: 028 3834 9900