

News release



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MOURNES GP OUT OF HOURS SITUATION NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED

Concerns about GP Out of Hours services in the Mourne area should be resolved as soon as possible, says the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC), the body tasked with representing public opinion to health and social care commissioners and providers. The SHSSC hosted a public meeting in Kilkeel earlier in the year on the subject, which was attended by over 300 local people.

Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC, commented, "We are glad that the Southern Health & Social Services Board has agreed to engage with the local community to look at how the service can be improved. It will no doubt be a difficult task but we feel that the process needs to begin sooner rather than later. The current lack of confidence in the service is not good for either service users or those who work in it."

The SHSSC will continue to monitor public concerns about the service and can be contacted on Tel: 028 3834 9900

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:

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The Council's website address is: www.shsscouncil.net