

News release



27 February 2007

NEW TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC UNIT AT CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL

The recently announcement by Health Minister, Paul Goggins, of an investment of £15 million in a new Trauma and Orthopaedic Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital has been welcomed by the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC), the patient 'watchdog' body.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairperson of the SHSSC, said, "We are delighted that from April 2008, there will be a state of the art facility at Craigavon Hospital capable of treating about 1,000 fractures. This will mean that patients will not have to travel to Belfast, which is very welcome. We also note, however, that the target for the Unit is to treat fractures within 48 hours. The SHSSC strongly believes that it is not satisfactory for anyone with a fracture to wait 48 hours for treatment and trust that the vast majority of patients will be treated well before this deadline. Currently, the waiting times for fracture services are unacceptable and we very much look forward to the new Unit offering a local, accessible and timely service to patients in the Southern Area."

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