

News release



20 April 2007

BUGWATCH AT CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL

The Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC) has maintained its interest in healthcare associated infection (HCAIs) by recently carrying out a Bugwatch visit to Craigavon Area Hospital. The Bugwatch survey, which involves observing ward hygiene at the hospital and completing a checklist, produced excellent results, according to the SHSSC.

Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer with the SHSSC, says, "Our team surveyed four wards, which had been selected by us that morning. We were impressed by the cleaning standards in the hospital and the general ward environment. The SHSSC last undertook a Bugwatch survey at the hospital almost two years ago. Since then, it is clear that the hospital has made an investment in the ward environment and has put considerable effort into maintaining good standards of cleanliness."

Welcoming the survey, Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust said: "I am very pleased to learn the positive findings of the Bugwatch survey which reflect the commitment of staff in Craigavon Area Hospital to providing a safe and clean

environment for patients. John Templeton, the Trust's former Chief Executive and his team were constantly raising infection control standards. This will remain a priority for the new Southern Trust."

The SHSSC was established in 1991 to represent the views and opinions of the public matters relating to health and social care. Over recent years, with increased public concern about HCAs, the SHSSC has visited local hospitals to observe ward hygiene. The SHSSC uses a checklist to observe hand washing, general cleanliness, the ward environment, waste disposal, storage of linen, care of equipment, disposal of sharps and information provided to patient and visitors about HCAs.

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