

# News release



**20 April 2007**

## **BUGWATCH AT DAISY HILL 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 Daisy Hill Hospital. The Bugwatch survey, which involves observing ward hygiene at the hospital and completing a checklist, produced excellent results, according to the SHSSC.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairperson of the SHSSC, said after the visit, "Our team visited four wards and were most impressed by the standard of ward hygiene and the general environment provided by the hospital. The wards we visited were a credit to the hospital management, nursing and domestic staff. One patient told us that the hospital was like a 5\* hotel. We know that Daisy Hill Hospital puts a great emphasis on a clean environment and has worked hard at carrying out regular environmental cleanliness audits. We are delighted to see that all this hard work producing benefits for patients by offering a high quality environment for medical care to take place."

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 Daisy Hill Hospital to providing a safe and clean environment for patients. Eric Bowyer 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](http://www.shsscouncil.net)**