

# News release



1 November 2007

## **HEALTH COUNCIL MEETS MLAS**

The launch of the Southern Health & Social Services Council's (SHSSC's) annual review took place recently in the Long Gallery at Stormont in the presence of MLAs representing the Southern area. The event provided an opportunity for the SHSSC to make MLAs aware of the current concerns of the 'health watchdog' and to urge for a close working relationship between the SHSSC and elected representatives.

Speaking after the launch, Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC, said, "We are delighted to have had the opportunity to meet with the MLAs. There is much change in the health and social care system at the moment. As a Health Council, we are anxious to keep public concerns on the political agenda. We also stressed the importance of maintaining a local presence for the Patient Client Council, the body expected to replace the Health Councils under the Review of Public Administration."

The SHSSC's annual review reflects upon the achievements since its establishment in 1991 and looks forward to challenges of a period of change over the next year. A copy of the review can be obtained by contacting the office on Tel: 028 3834 9900 or it can be downloaded from the Council's website: [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 :**

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**The Council's website address is: [www.shsscouncil.net](http://www.shsscouncil.net)**