

# News release



10 December 2007

## **CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION CENTRES**

Concerns about capital funding for important health and social care projects in the Southern Area were aired at the November meeting of the 'watchdog' body, the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC).

The SHSSC met with key service Directors from the Southern Trust to discuss primary care, services to older people, acute hospital services as well as mental health and learning disability. The Trust representatives explained to SHSSC members how the newly established Southern Trust hoped to improve service delivery to the population of the Southern Area.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC, commented after the meeting, "The SHSSC was impressed by the Trust's strategic, joined-up approach to meeting the needs of communities in the Southern Area. Members raised a number of issues of local concern with the Trust representatives. In particular, we expressed our anxiety about future capital funding for the Social Education Centres in Banbridge and Newry. These day care facilities offer an excellent service for people with a learning disability. However, the state of the buildings is very poor and

does not offer a suitable physical environment for the client group. We have been very concerned about the lengthy process for replacing these centres. We were reassured that the Trust sees the development of these important services as a priority for their capital programme.”

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)**