

News release



16 April 2008

Craigavon Area Hospital Car Parking

An accident waiting to happen was the verdict on the current car parking arrangements at Craigavon Area Hospital voiced during the April meeting of the health 'watchdog' the Southern Health & Social Services Council. The meeting discussed how the lack of available parking spaces has led to parking on the approach road to the hospital as well as elderly and unwell people having to walk considerable distances from their car to the hospital entrance.

Mr Colm Donaghy, Chief Executive of the Southern Health & Social Services Trust and Mrs Anne Balmer, Chairman of the Southern Health & Social Services Trust, were in attendance at the SHSSC meeting to provide an update on the Trust's work. In response to the SHSSC's concerns they explained that the Trust is putting in place a number of measures to free up parking spaces at the front of the hospital and to provide additional places at the rear of the hospital and adjacent to the new psychiatric unit.

Speaking after the meeting, Mrs Eileen Wright, Chairman of the SHSSC, said, "We are delighted to hear that the Trust is taking this matter seriously. The lack of parking is both inconvenient and dangerous. At a

time when services seem to be increasingly concentrated on the Craigavon site, it is essential that there is safe and accessible parking at all hours."

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