

# News release



19 September 2008

## **WHAT'S ON THE MENU?**

Most patients at Daisy Hill Hospital say that the hospital's food provides the kind of meals they like, according to a report launched recently by the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC). 90% of the survey respondents said that they always got the food that they ordered and 29% felt that the catering service was excellent.

The survey was undertaken by the 'health watchdog' to ascertain whether the food being served in the local hospitals was meeting the standards set by the DHSSPS.

Eileen Wright, Chairman of the SHSSC, commented at the launch, "It is widely recognised that ensuring the provision of adequate food and fluids can be as essential to patient care as medication and treatment. The results of our survey shows that the hospital catering services throughout the Southern Area are doing a good job of supporting clinical care. Patients at Daisy Hill Hospital seem to be particularly satisfied with the quality of the meals that they receive."

The report highlights a number of areas for improvement for the Southern HSC Trust's catering service including the need to review the

menu to provide foods that do not deteriorate with being kept warm and by expanding vegetarian choices.

Mrs Wright concludes, "Daisy Hill appears to be providing a good catering service, which meets the needs of its in-patients. There are obvious challenges for all hospitals in delivering warm, tasty food to the patient who ordered it. It is important to record that one of the most striking responses we received was that all the patients surveyed at Daisy Hill commended the staff who served the meals, for their friendly and helpful attitude."

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 :**

**Mrs Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer. Tel: 028 3834 9900**

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