

News release



6 January 2005

YOUR VOICE IN HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Did you know that you have representatives in your local community to represent your interests in issues of health and social services?

The Southern Health and Social Services Council (SHSSC) Chairman, Mrs Lynne Cairns explains that members act as local representatives in instances where service users feel that their voice is not being heard. Mrs Cairns goes on to say, "The SHSSC members are backed up by a team of staff who monitor the planning and delivery of health and social care services and who can support members of the public who feel that they have not received a satisfactory service."

In the Newry & Mourne area the SHSSC members are:

Jim McCart, Brendan Curran, Mary Ferris, Peter Kearns, John McArdle, Peter Murray, and Andy Moffett.

The SHSSC was established in 1991 to represent the views of patients and people who use health and social services. The SHSSC has 24 members, 40% of whom are nominated by the District Councils in the Southern Area. The remainder are appointed by the Department of Health & Social Services & Public Safety, including 30% who have an

interest in health & social care issues and 30% are voluntary/community representatives.

The SHSSC staff and members can be contacted on:

Tel: 028 3834 9900

Fax: 028 3834 9858

Textphone: 028 3834 6488

e-mail: reception@shssc.n-i.nhs.uk

or through our website: 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 :

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

The Council's website address is: www.shsscouncil.net