

News release



28 November 2005

CHANGES TO 'HIGH STREET' DENTIST SERVICE

A visit to the dentist may not be everyone's favourite pastime but most people agree that dental services are an important part of our routine healthcare. Given this, the forthcoming consultation on the primary care dental service (High Street dentists) is an important opportunity for the public to have their say about the future of dental services, according to the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC).

The SHSSC, which was set up by the Government in 1991 to represent the views and opinions of the public to those who plan, provide and manage health and social care services, is organising a workshop to enable the public and community groups to hear about, and share their views on, the proposed changes. This will be held on 8 December, 2005, at 10.00 am in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown.

Stella Cunningham, Chief Officer with the SHSSC says, "The workshop will see the Council launch our recent research into the views of service users on dental services in the Southern Area. It will also offer an opportunity to hear about the proposed changes and to influence the Council's response to the consultation. We would like to invite any individual or group who has an interest in dental services to attend the workshop."

Anyone wanting further information about the SHSSC or the dental services workshop should contact Stella Cunningham on 028 3834 9900.

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