

# News release



**9 June 2006**

## **ARE YOU A FAMILY CARER?**

**Would you like to find out what services you are entitled to and how to access them, then this is for you!**

There are around 20,000 people in the Newry and Mourne area who care for a relative, partner or friend, or for a child with a disability. They care, usually unpaid, for people who cannot manage without help because of disability, illness or frailty. Anyone can be a carer - carers are found in all communities and all age groups.

The Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC) is facilitating a Community Information Morning for Newry and Mourne Carers on Thursday 29 June 2006 from 9.30am – 2.00pm in Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry. The programme looks at the structure of the health service, how to access services, how to complain and the role of the Council.

Kathleen Murphy of Newry and Mourne Carers stressed the importance of information to carers and dependants saying “This is a very positive

step to improving the lives of carers and the people they care for. It is vital that carers know where, when and how to access services in order to make better and more informed choices. Carers have an essential role in our society devoting themselves to providing much needed care and support. This programme offers carers the opportunity to increase their awareness of what services are available to them and which are most appropriate for them.”

If you are a Family Carer and would be interested in attending please contact Kathleen Murphy at Newry and Mourne Carers, 6 Savage Terrace, Corry Square, Newry or telephone (028) 028 302 67015.

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)**