

# News release



10 March 2005

## **SUPPORT FOR NEWRY SOCIAL EDUCATION CENTRE FUNDING BID**

A proposal to replace the existing Social Education Centre located in Windsor Hill with a purpose built facility received a further boost recently when the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC) delivered a letter of support to representatives of Newry & Mourne Health and Social Services Trust, who manage the facility.

The Trust has recently submitted an outline business case to the Department of Health & Social Services & Public Safety regarding the Centre. If successful, funding will be made available to replace with old building with a modern, purpose built facility more suitable for the clients' needs. The SHSSC is concerned that the business case should be considered without delay believing that the need to provide a better physical environment for the Centre users is urgent.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC, says, "The Council has a role to monitor health and social care services. We have been concerned about the state of the SEC for some time. The care offered to the clients of the Centre is excellent but staff and the service users are hampered by the unsuitability of the old building. The SHSSC is very keen to support the Trust in its bid to secure funding for a new centre."

The replacement of the facility has been a longstanding priority for the Trust. Trust Chief Executive, Mr Eric Bowyer says, “He welcomes the support from the Council and the Trust will continue to work with the DHSSPS to attain the necessary funding to construct the new centre which is much needed.”

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](http://www.shsscouncil.net)**