

# News release



9 June 2006

## **THE FUTURE OF GP OUT OF HOURS SERVICES IN THE MOURNE AREA**

Proposed changes to the GP Out of Hours Services in the Mourne Area will be the subject of a public meeting to be held in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel in Kilkeel on Tuesday 27 June at 7pm, according to the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC), who are hosting the meeting.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC, says, "Communities in the Mourne area have been concerned about the long journey on poor roads to the GP Out of Hours centre in Newry. The limited nature of the minor injuries service available in Kilkeel has also been a difficulty. The SHSSC is hosting the public meeting to offer the Mourne community a chance to hear about and discuss the Southern Health & Social Services Board's consultation document. The SHSSC will chair the meeting and has invited the Board to present the proposals to the meeting. It is a good opportunity to hear what is being suggested and to have your say. We encourage anyone with a view to come along and participate."

Discussion at the meeting will assist the SHSSC in reflecting the public view when it responds to the Board's consultation on the changes. It will

also offer an opportunity for members of the public and local community groups to hear about the proposed development of the service first hand.

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)**