

# News release



25 April 2005

## **COUNCIL RAISES PUBLIC AWARENESS**

The Southern Health and Social Services Council, the local health watchdog, is one of four Health Councils in Northern Ireland set up by the Government to represent the views and opinions of the public. They are independent from those who manage and provide health and social care.

Currently, the Southern Health and Social Services Council is undertaking a campaign to raise its profile with members of the public and local communities in the Southern area. In order to do this the Council is undertaking a number of Roadshows in hospitals, shopping centres, and libraries over the next few weeks.

Roadshows in the Newry area will take place on the following dates:

<b>Newry Library</b>	Thursday 28 April from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm
<b>Daisy Hill Hospital</b>	Tuesday 3 May from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm
<b>Buttercrane Shopping Centre</b>	Thursday 5 May from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Members of the public are welcome to visit the Council's stand in any of the venues and speak to staff and members, who will be happy to provide information on the Council's role, to listen to any views or comments on services and assist with enquiries.

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)**