

News release



27 April 2006

BANBRIDGE SEC

The poor physical state of the buildings housing the Banbridge Social Education Centre was amongst topics covered at a joint meeting between the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC) and the Southern Health & Social Services Board (SHSSB) recently.

The SHSSC has long taken an interest in the Banbridge SEC and has argued strongly for a replacement building to be prioritised. Speaking after the meeting, Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairperson of the SHSSC, commented, "We have been very concerned that the outline business case for the replacement building has been with the DHSSPS awaiting approval for several months. The current building is totally inadequate for the needs of the service users and urgently needs to be replaced."

She added, "The SHSSB assured us that they and Craigavon & Banbridge HSS Trust regard capital investment in this service to be a priority. We understand from the SHSSB that, as building work will take some time even when the funding has been agreed, they are looking at interim measures. The SHSSC was delighted to hear this and will continue to watch developments with interest."

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