

News release



27 April 2006

CONSULTATION ON THE PATIENT & CLIENT COUNCIL

Public services in Northern Ireland have recently been reviewed under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) and in light of recommendations from this the structure of Health & Personal Social Services will substantially change. The changes include:

- ❖ The four Health & Social Services Boards will be replaced by a regional Health & Social Services Commissioning Authority with seven local commissioning groups.
- ❖ The eighteen Health & Social Services Trusts will be replaced by five Trusts operating combined community and acute services.
- ❖ One regional Patient Client Council will replace the current four Health & Social Services Councils.

In order to ensure that the Patient & Client Council meets the needs of local communities and the public, the Southern Health & Social Services Council is holding meetings to discuss how the Patient & Client Council should operate.

Meetings will be held on;

4 May 06	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Community Relations Council 8 The Linen Green Centre, Moygashel, Dungannon
10 May 06	12.30pm – 2.30pm	Dobbin Street Community Centre, Dobbin Street, Armagh
11 May 06	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Confederation of Community Groups, Ballybot House, Newry
17 May 06	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Verbal Arts Room, Millennium Court, Portadown

If you would like to attend one of the workshops or for additional information please contact Caroline McGuigan, Community Participation Officer at the Southern Health & Social Services Council on (028) 3834 9900 or email carolimc@shssc.n-i.nhs.uk

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