

# News release



27 April 2006

## **NEWRY & CROSSMAGLEN SECs**

Plans for the improvement of Social Education Centres in Newry and Crossmaglen were welcomed recently at a joint meeting of the Southern Health & Social Services Council (SHSSC) and the Southern Health & Social Services Board (SHSSB).

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman of the SHSSC said after the meeting, "We were most encouraged to hear that work on two new centres to replace the existing Newry SEC is moving ahead. The SHSSC was aware that a substantial investment was to be made in the service and is delighted to hear that the development is progressing well."

Mrs Cairns added, "Over recent years the SHSSC has taken a close interest in Newry SEC. This is a very important service for some of our most disabled citizens. We understand that the new facilities should be available by 2008 and will offer a vastly improved physical environment. We are pleased that the DHSSPS, Newry & Mourne HSS Trust and the SHSSB have prioritised this much needed investment."

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)**