

8 July 2002

Mr P Mc Cabe
Director of Planning and Performance Monitoring
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust
St Luke's Hospital
Loughgall Road
ARMAGH

Dear Mr Mc Cabe

**CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILDREN'S HOME
IN ARMAGH**

The Southern Health and Social services Council welcomes this opportunity to comment on the proposals for the development of a new children's home in Armagh. Our Council fully supports the plans as outlined and believes the new development will represent a significant improvement in services for vulnerable young people from the area.

We are aware of the developments in childcare policy in recent years and the renewed awareness, reflected in the Children Matter Taskforce Report, that residential care is a positive choice for some children whose needs cannot be met in a family situation. These children have a right to experience the security of placement and the domestic environment that a small-scale children's home can provide.

We note that the option appraisal has resulted in the choice of Option 4; New Build on Trust Estate. While it is regrettable that the siting of a children's home can in some instances be the subject of public protest, we believe that the site chosen will minimise the risk of a negative reaction such as that experienced by Newry and Mourne Trust when planning a similar facility in recent years. The view of our members was that the location nevertheless facilitated the integration of the young residents into the local community.

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Mr P McCabe

In relation to the Equality Impact Assessment the view of our Council is that the proposals do not adversely affect any of the nine categories referred to in the document.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Armagh and Dungannon Trust on having reached this stage in the development of the plans for the new facility and wish the Trust every success for the completion of this very worthwhile project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Delia van der Lenden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Delia van der Lenden
Chief Officer