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Dr P Loughran

Given the pressures on the ambulance services in Newry & Mourne the fact that the new arrangements will remove the need, in some instances, for the deployment of a second ambulance is an additional benefit. The public also stand to benefit from the fact that ambulance paramedics in general will have additional skills in dealing with cardiac emergencies.

We trust that the necessary investment required for training and equipment will be available so that this improvement to cardiac services can be implemented within the timescale indicated.

It is the view of Southern Health and Social Services Council that the proposal in the document 'Strengthening the Cardiac Medical Services' has no adverse impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for any of the categories listed in the Equality Impact Assessment questionnaire.

Yours sincerely

Delia van der Lenden (Mrs)
Chief Officer

Chief Officer: Mrs Delia van der Lenden

7 March 2002

Dr P Loughran
Director of Acute Hospital Services
Daisy Hill Hospital
5 Hospital Road
NEWRY
BT35 8DR

Dear Dr Loughran

CONSULTATION PAPER 'STRENGTHENING THE CARDIAC MEDICAL SERVICES'

This consultation paper was discussed at our Council's meeting on 19th February. Our members fully support the proposal that in future the Cardiac Ambulance will be dispatched with trained paramedics/emergency medical technicians, with the ambulance team remaining in contact with, and being supported by hospital based medical and nursing staff.

We accept that this proposal will improve services to patients suffering from the symptoms of a heart attack, whilst making more efficient use of medical and nursing staff in the coronary care unit. It is also in the interests of the patients, and the service as a whole, that Daisy Hill Hospital meets the standards of clinical practice required by the Post Graduate Council for Medical Education.