

10 June 2002

Mrs Joan O'Hagan
Director of Nursing and Community Health
Newry & Mourne HSS Trust
5 Downshire Place
Downshire Road
NEWRY
BT34 1DZ

Dear Joan

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the draft of your Trust's Nursing Services Strategy.

I have relatively few comments to make since I believe that the strategy provides a vehicle for nursing to make a very positive contribution to promoting the health and well being of the local population. I particularly welcome the emphasis on involving service users in decisions about their own health and the commitment in the strategy to combating health inequalities.

I note the emphasis in the section on Public Health on the issues of breast-feeding and postnatal care. While these are vital public health issues, there are so many competing areas of public health where nursing has the potential to make a difference that I would question the reasons for devoting three of the seven aims to this specific focus.

In the strategy document's philosophy statement I would ask you to consider adding 'sexual orientation' to the sentence on equality.

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Mrs Joan O'Hagan

My apologies for the delay in responding to this document, and my best wishes for the successful implementation of this strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delia', written in a cursive style.

Delia van der Lenden
Chief Officer