

From the Chief Social Services Officer
Mr Paul Martin



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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cc: See Annex 1 for further distribution details

Date: 22 July 2008

Dear Colleague

STANDARDS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CARERS

Further to the publication of *Promoting Partnerships in Caring* (DHSSPS, 2007), the overview report of regional Inspection of Social Care Support Services for Carers of Older People, I now enclose copies of the final Standards for Adult Social Care Support Services for Carers. The standards can also be accessed on the Department's website through:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/ssi/office_of_social_services_-_standards.htm

The standards were developed through a Reference Group comprising representatives from a wide range of agencies from across Northern Ireland, including carers' organisations and carers; commissioners and providers of social care services; voluntary and community organisations; and academic and policy interests. They take account of:

- the draft standards drawn up to inform the inspection of social care support services for carers of older people;
- the findings and recommendations of the overview inspection report;
- feedback received from the HSS Boards and HSS Trusts inspected; and
- a subsequent review undertaken in collaboration with the Reference Group to reflect the learning derived from the inspection.



The standards are applicable to all Health and Social Care organisations, regulated services and practitioners who commission, plan or provide social care services to support carers in all Adult Programmes of Care. The standards will inform carers and their representative groups as to what they can and should reasonably expect from social care support services and from the organisations and practitioners commissioning and providing them. Finally, the standards will form part of the framework for developing quality services and they will help to improve and regulate practice ensuring that carers remain at the centre of service provision.

I would now ask you to ensure that the standards are disseminated to all front line and senior management staff and that appropriate arrangements are established to inform training and support arrangements with a view to improving practice within your own organisation and enhancing adult social care support services for carers across the region.

Yours sincerely

PAUL MARTIN
Chief Social Services Officer

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