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**Newry & Mourne**  
Local Health & Social Care Group

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005

Regional Strategy Team  
C4  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3SQ

Dear Colleague

**RE: RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON A HEALTHIER  
FUTURE: A TWENTY YEAR VISION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2005 – 2025**

Newry and Mourne Local Health and Social Care Group welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation document and would endorse the response made to the DHSS&PS by the Southern Health and Social Services Board.

In particular the Local Health and Social Care Group wishes to support Option 5C, the introduction of legislation to ban smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces. We believe this is necessary as smoking is recognised as a significant risk factor for coronary heart disease, stroke and other diseases of the circulatory system which were responsible for 942 deaths in the Southern Health Board area in 2003. In addition we believe other measures such as a partial ban on smoking are inadequate as no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke has ever been established.

We would also like to emphasise the need for adequate funding to implement the policy directions outlined in the Strategy, in particular to ensure an enhanced focus on the management of chronic illnesses.



I trust you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the left from the start of the first letter.

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Teresa Ross  
Chair  
Newry and Mourne LHSCG