

Department of

**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Vice Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast  
Vice Chancellor, University of Ulster  
Steering Group Members  
Chief Executive (Designate) HSCA  
Regional Director of Public Health  
Chief Executives HSC Trusts and Boards for cascade  
to:

- Medical Directors
- Directors of Nursing
- Directors of Pharmacy
- Directors of Social Services
- Directors of Dental Services
- Directors of AHP Services
- Education Consortia

Chief Executives – NIMDTA, NIPEC, NICPPET,  
NISCC

Social Services Councils

Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SR  
Tel: 028 90 520709  
Fax: 028 90 520574  
Email:  
[michael.mcbride@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:michael.mcbride@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 13 June 2007

Dear Colleague

**RE: PROMOTION OF SAFE, HIGH QUALITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN  
UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULA**

*Safety First: A Framework for Sustainable Improvement in the HPSS* (DHSSPS, March 2006), highlighted the importance of promoting safe, high quality health and social care in undergraduate education. It contained a specific action to work with local universities to promote a culture of safety and learning.


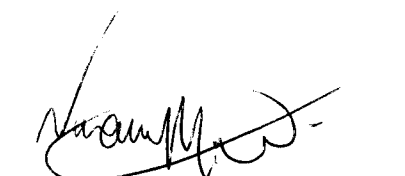
The attached document, *Promotion of Safe, High Quality Health and Social Care in Undergraduate Curricula*, is a generic document applicable to health care and social work studies. It aims to promote an explicit focus on safety in health and social care. In this regard, the document recognises the respective responsibilities of individual students, universities, teams, HSC organisations and regulatory bodies.

Students need to be able to develop the knowledge skills and competencies for safe practice. Therefore, HSC teams and organisations need to accept students as members of multidisciplinary teams in order to communicate high standards of care and share good practice. This will require the facilitation of active participation of placement students in their teams and a willingness to impart knowledge and skills.

Our vision is that educators will take account of the contents of the document and adapt it for use in specific health and social care undergraduate curricula.

We would like to thank colleagues from both universities and HSC organisations who have shown enthusiasm, participation and support for the development of this document.

Yours sincerely

  
**DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer  
**MR MARTIN BRADLEY**  
Chief Nursing Officer  
**MR PAUL MARTIN**  
Chief Social Services  
Officer  
**DR NORMAN MORROW**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
**MR DONNCHA O'CAROLAN**  
(Acting) Chief Dental Officer