



# *n e w s   r e l e a s e*

**1 December 2005**

## **Eye Tests for Care Home Residents**

The Eastern Health and Social Services Council welcomes the action taken by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board to re-test 1,000 people who may not have had an adequate eye test since 2003.

Richard Dixon, Chief Officer of the Eastern Health and Social Services Council said:

“The Board has kept us fully informed of their action on this matter and we are satisfied that everything necessary is being done swiftly to put this matter right.

We are satisfied also that the patients directly affected will receive a high standard of care by this action and that any outstanding problems – though the risks are small - will be identified and properly dealt with.

We acknowledge that it is the Boards themselves who identified this problem through their own monitoring procedures and this should give confidence that there are systems in place robust enough to identify and deal with very poor practice of the kind that has caused this problem.

We will continue to maintain close contact with the Board as this matter progresses. This will include seeking assurances that any lessons that can be learned from this are used to develop the service and prevent any re-occurrence.”

### **Notes to Editor**

**“The Eastern Health and Social Services Council was set up in 1991 to represent the interests of the public in health and social services in the Eastern Board area.”**

**For further information contact:**

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