

## Panel Meeting on 3rd April 2006

### **6. Parents Action Group**

The Panel met Mrs Z. Bisson to discuss the Parents Action Group's views on the new GP Co-Operative out-of-hours service.

#### **a) General Information**

The Panel was advised that the Parents Action Group was an offshoot of the Early Years Association. It was further advised that the Group comprised eight people who worked for the interests of a larger number of parents.

#### **b) Consultation**

The Panel was informed that the Group had not been approached by the Department of Health and Social Services for its views on the new out-of-hours service.

The Panel was advised that the Group could consult with those parents it represented in effort to ascertain their views on the service.

#### **c) Matters raised**

The Panel considered the following matters during its meeting with Mrs Bisson:

- The possibility that the service would impact on access to hospital services by sick children.
- The potential responsibility of the telephonist to receive phone-calls and subsequently decide upon the appropriate course of action for the patient.
- The levels of the fees charged by the co-operative.
- The potential loss of discretionary charges for GP home visits.
- The possibility that on-call GPs would not know the patients they would visit.
- The possibility that private and sensitive information would be at the disposal of a greater number of people than previously.