

DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE
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Mr. Turner

Mr. Jackson
1.12.99
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FAMILY TRAUMA CENTRE FUNDING WELCOMED

The announcement of two years further funding for Northern Ireland's only Family Trauma Centre, has been welcomed by the Chief Executive of South and East Belfast Trust, Mr. Bob Ferguson.

Speaking at meeting of the Trust Board, Mr. Ferguson said,

"This is very welcome news and guarantees the work of the Family Trauma Centre for the next two years. The establishment of a Family Trauma Centre was one of the recommendations of Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's report, '*We will Remember Them*', which identified the needs of victims of violence, and I am delighted that its work will now continue into the next century".

"When it was opened in February of this year, the Family Trauma Centre marked a new departure in services for people who have been severely traumatized by the Troubles. Regrettably, the need for those services will continue for some time. The announcement of funding for the next two years is very welcome news indeed", Mr. Ferguson said.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Funding:

- The Department of Health and Social Services has confirmed that funding for the Centre will be made available for the next two years.

The Family Trauma Centre

- The Family Trauma Centre is a regional service managed by South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust.
- The Centre works with individuals and families, many the victims of multiple trauma, who are in need of professional psychiatric treatment and support.
- South and East Belfast Trust's involvement with the Centre is a recognition of the skills and expertise developed by Trust staff over many years working with young people and their families. It also recognises the need to make available treatment based services, for people suffering from multiple trauma, which is of necessity different from the support and help which is available from community and voluntary support groups.
- The Centre's neutral location in south Belfast affords a high level of anonymity for people and families using the services.
- The Family Trauma Centre was opened in February 1999, by then Secretary of State Dr Mo Mowlam
- The current Secretary of State Peter Mandelson MP chose a visit to the Family Trauma Centre as his first official engagement in Northern Ireland in October this year.

For further details
<Contact Information>