

NEWS RELEASE / POUR PUBLICATION IMMEDIATE

South East Local Health Integration Network Releases Integrated Health Services Plan for South Eastern Ontario

BELLEVILLE, November 27, 2006 2:00 pm EST – The South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) released its inaugural Integrated Health Services Plan today. This plan will guide developments and advancements of health care services for the half million people living in the area encircled from Brighton north to Maynooth, eastward to Smiths Falls and Merrickville, south to Cardinal and westward through Brockville, Kingston, Wolfe and Amherst Islands and Prince Edward County.

“We have listened to people who use health care services in southeastern Ontario. We have heard about their needs and expectations. We have received wise advice from people who provide today’s services. We have studied the health status of this population. This information guided the development of this plan. It is truly a plan developed by the people of Southeastern Ontario for the people of Southeastern Ontario.” says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the South East LHIN.

“This 3 year plan supports the good health care services that are currently available in the South East and identifies several priorities for development that will help health care move from a series of health services to an integrated health system. Our goal is to make sure that developments are focused on making health care a more accessible, easier to navigate journey that helps people stay healthy, and helps them recover when illness or injury happen.” said Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer for the South East LHIN.

The seven key priorities are:

1. Improving access to:
 - Primary health care
 - Specialized medical care
 - Mental health services
4. Developing better communication between the South East LHIN and local Aboriginal communities
5. Improving access to health care services in French
6. Moving ahead with the development and use of electronic health information systems
7. Developing a regional health human resources plan

Now the next stage of improving local health care services in the South East begins. The South East LHIN will work with over 120 health service provider organizations, including all local hospitals, community care access centres (home care), mental health, addiction services, long term care facilities, community health centres and community support services such as meals-on-wheels and volunteer transportation services. We will focus on bringing services from these organizations together in ways that helps them work together with a focus on improving the health of individuals and the overall health status of the South East population. Several projects have already begun, including reducing waiting times for people needing hip and knee surgery, cataract surgery and cancer treatment. Discussions have started that will help information from medical records move with people across health care services. This will make receiving health care services faster, safer and more user-friendly.

To obtain a copy of the Integrated Health Services Plan, visit us online at http://www.southeasthin.on.ca/en/integrated/integrated_mn.html
Or phone us at 1.866.831.5446 or 613.967.0196.

For more information:
Paul Huras, CEO, South East LHIN, telephone 613-967-0196 ext: 245.

For more information about the South East LHIN please visit our website: www.southeasthin.on.ca