

Annual Report – Special Responsibilities

(Under the South Gloucestershire Scheme of Members' Allowances, certain councillors who perform significant responsibilities over and above those of other councillors are entitled to receive additional allowances to recognise those extra responsibilities. The Scheme requires councillors in receipt of such allowances to report on their actions. This report is published on the Council's website).

Report for period: 2015/16

Name: Sue Hope

Position held: Lib Dem lead on Health Scrutiny

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Lib Dem Health Spokesperson and political Lead on matters to do with Health, this includes scrutiny on Public Health, but the decision making has been moved to another committee.

I have co-ordinated with members of the political group and acted as principal spokesperson for the group; I have worked and liaised with the lead members of others groups of the committee and am the lead contact with relevant chief officers for issues falling under the Committee area.

With the other leads, I have been responsible for ensuring the scrutiny of health services provided in South Gloucestershire; this includes scrutinising all services commissioned and provided by the NHS for South Gloucestershire residents and includes the following: Attending briefing meetings, feeding back to the group, and leading the Health Scrutiny Committee).

Attending the Joint Health Scrutiny meeting held with Bristol City Council

Attending the Health & Wellbeing Board as an observer when this has been possible.

Attending other health network meetings

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Visits to Southmead hospital during the year have shown the improvements which have been made in the restructuring of pathology service and the histopathology service

The scrutiny carried out on A&E waits has long been an issue – a visit to the unit has shown great improvements to how patients are dealt with in the Southmead A&E unit.

Supported parents/carers and public in the call for an inquiry into Children's Cardiac Services in the area, after a joint review with Bristol City Council. A full review rather than public inquiry has been agreed. This has been an ongoing issue, which culminated in the review being published in June, with a follow up meeting in August, held with Bristol Scrutiny Commission.

Successfully achieved the provision of a bus service from Yate to the new Southmead Hospital after what was being proposed was unacceptable.

Pressed trusts and local authority on use of Better Care Fund.

Attend briefings/stakeholder and network events to ensure fully briefed on NHS service developments, such as changes in Mental Health services; raising dementia awareness; and involvement of the third sector (voluntary sector).

Worked with outside agency on improvements to working on improving health scrutiny,

Raised the issues of NHS England not notifying or consulting with anyone regarding the change to commissioning their breast screening service.

Attended briefings and called for improvements to transport for people to access health hubs.

What “added value” to the local community have you been able to achieve through your special responsibilities?

To ensure that the views of the public and service users are taken into account in shaping the development and delivery of health services; importantly to ensure that the public are made aware of proposed services e.g. changes to minor injury service.

Work with others towards improving partnership working in providing high quality services for the area, including a healthier population and reducing the gap in health inequalities.

Work in partnership with others, (health trusts, local authorities) to find more effective ways of working, that improve efficiency, make the most of resources and ensure value for money.

Ensure the public voice is heard at Health Select Committee.

Challenge the CCG on the plans for the development of local services, which at one time seemed to be the key to delivering services close to people; Although pressed many times on this issue – there appears to be little feedback.

Pressed on impending change to the delivery of health services and attended health briefings.

How have your special responsibilities enabled the Council to be more effective?

Received training and support for carrying out the duties more effectively, which have helped with the understanding of the issues the Council and health services are facing.

Attend networking events to help understand the issues.

Success in providing briefing sessions for all councillors on the changes to Health/Care services.

Ensured that service users are involved in the development of future services and any planned service change.

Ensured that by working in partnership with health partners, services for the community can be delivered more efficiently and effectively.

Challenge the providers to ensure better services are considered and delivered.

However because of lack of LA funding, it has been impossible to carry out detailed scrutiny work into health services, such as Hospital Discharge however some work has started on end of life care, which seems to be having a positive impact for residents of South Gloucestershire.

However the review into how health scrutiny is organised appears to have been beneficial.

In what ways has the exercise of your special responsibilities supported the core objectives of the Council?

By providing strong community leadership, I have tried to ensure that services are accessible and equitable for all and challenged when all are not considered and ensure those needs are addressed, whilst being aware of the increase in joint working with other agencies.

Helped to raise the issues with the wider public, for greater public engagement and involvement.

Protect the vulnerable and provide extra help and support to those who need it most.

Ensure information and advice is available and accessible for those making any health choice.

Ensure health care is delivered close to where people live by delivering local health and community services.

Helped to provide the development of high quality services for the community, whilst valuing those that shape and deliver the service