

# 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: 2016-17** .....

**Name: Councillor Ian Scott** .....

**Position held: Labour Lead Member for Public Health and Health Scrutiny** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

I am the Council's Labour Group lead for Public Health and Health Scrutiny and I liaise with members of my own group, other political party leads, council officers and local health providers to ensure there is public scrutiny of local health provision.

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## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

The Health Scrutiny Work programme details the issues that were scrutinized throughout the year but the key milestone for me was the scrutiny of UHB's actions following the independent investigation into the management response to allegations about staff behaviours related to the death of a baby at Bristol Children's Hospital by Verita.

We heard from the parent on how he felt UHB and let down his family and whilst UHB apologised to the parents, when I asked UHB will they provide financial support to the family for their legal challenge they said "No" even though UHB had paid for legal advice to protect their own staff.

For me it illustrated how the odds are stacked against the family or anyone challenging the NHS. Public money can be spent on legal advice to protect the organisation but not the family who had been let down.

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

I have been able to challenge Health providers in the public interest and hold them to account in public.

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

I attend agenda setting meetings where we are able to prioritise what issues need to be scrutinized in the public interest.

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

Holding external health services to account through public scrutiny is a core responsibility of the Council.