

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: May 2013/2014.....

Name: Sue Hope

Position held: Lib Dem Health Spokes including Public Health

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Lib Dem Health Spokesperson and political Lead on matters to do with Health and now Public Health, which has moved to the Local Authority. This involves co-ordinating with members of the political group in relation to the work of the committee, act as principal spokesperson for the group; work and liaise with the lead members of others groups of the committee and be 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 that are 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 Public Health & Health Scrutiny Committee).
- Attending the Great Western Ambulance Services Joint Health Scrutiny meetings and feeding back to the group and committee.
- Attending the Joint Health Scrutiny meeting held with Bristol City Council and North Somerset and feeding back to the committee
- Attending South West Regional health briefings and other briefings on the ongoing changes in the health services and feeding back to the group and committee.
- Attending the Health & Wellbeing Board as an observer
- Attending other health network meetings

This has been to improve the health services for South Gloucestershire residents and ensure value for money high quality services are delivered. All this at a time of change and challenge both for the NHS and with local authorities working with reducing budgets.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

On going scrutiny with Bristol City and North Somerset Councils to achieve improved service for residents from local acute trusts; this includes being involved with the restructuring of pathology service and the ongoing scrutiny of the histopathology service. Unfortunately one of the acute trusts reneged on an earlier decision and only felt fit to tell the Committee (& the public) during questioning at a Scrutiny committee.

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.

Involved in Bristol Acute Services Review

Review and monitor NHS111, which lead to improvements.

Referred the decision on the lack of provision of local services at Frenchay to the Secretary of State

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

Public Health now doing work on access to health services throughout the area.

Successfully achieved further consultation on new services being developed and worked with residents to hold the health trusts to account.

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

Public Health has moved to Local Authority which has meant having a greater understanding of the responsibilities of the LA and how to prioritise health improvements for the area. This has included using budgets wisely to protect services in challenging times.

I have been involved with the production of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which will be the basis for health improvements and working with partners to achieve this, working towards a healthier South Gloucestershire.

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).

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, so the services are the ones required.
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.
Work with neighbouring local authorities (Bristol City Council and North Somerset) for effective scrutiny of local health services.
Ensure the public voice is heard at Health Select Committee.
Feed back reports and help drive improvements to NHS111
Constantly challenge the Ambulance Trust and CCG on poor handover times at Frenchay Hospital, but with little effect as they don't appear to want to respond.
Attend sessions and have input to the Health & Wellbeing Strategy
Challenge the CCG on the plans for the development of local services to ensure that services are delivered locally (eg. Yate, Thornbury and Cossham).

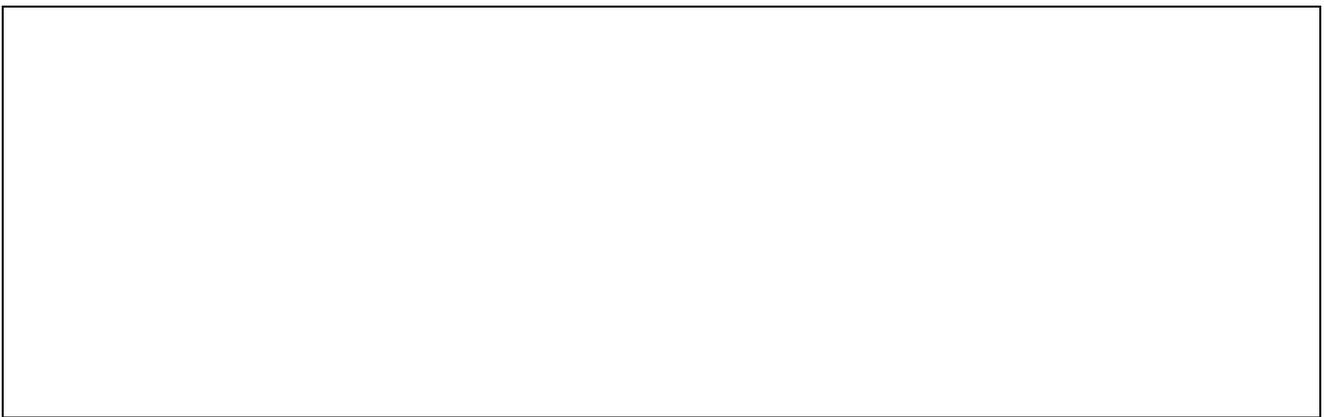
Partake in shaping the Specialist Commissioning Services

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

Received training and support for carrying out the duties more effectively
Understand the issues the Council and reorganised 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.
Inform the group on the new responsibilities of Public Health.

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 further work into Hospital Discharge, which would have been very helpful.



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.

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