

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: Toby Savage.....

Position held: Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

As Chairman of the Health Scrutiny committee, I have a key role in helping the committee to perform a range of responsibilities, including:

- Strengthening the voice of local people: ensuring needs and experiences are considered during commissioning and delivery of health services
- A strategic role: taking an overview of how well integration of health, public health and social care is working
- Considering proposals for substantial variations in the provision of health services in the local authority's area.
- Scrutinising local health organisations to ensure they are providing effective, efficient services and encouraging improvement.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

During 2015/16, we have achieved:

Renewed focus on delivering the 3Rs and gathering momentum towards the new build projects at Thornbury and Frenchay Hospitals

Renewed focus on mental health and ensuring parity of esteem with physical health

Strengthened relationships between the NHS, members and the public

An improved Minor Injuries pilot across the district

Challenging health partners to improve on areas of weakness identified through inspections, including patient flow through local A&E

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

As well as the formal scrutiny performed during committee meetings, it is my behind-the-scenes informal discussions with health partners that ensure continued progress towards improving local health services and outcomes.

Upon being elected as the councillor for Longwell Green, I was immediately appointed to the role of Committee Chairman and I inherited a situation in which relationships between the NHS, councillors and communities needed urgent rebuilding. A lot of hard work has been put in by all organisations over the last year to rebuild relationships and so whilst I’m encouraged with a nationally-commissioned and independent assessment’s favourable analysis about my own performance as the new Chair; it’s very much been a team effort. A lot has been done, but there’s still a lot more to do.

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

As stated above, as well as the formal scrutiny performed during committee meetings, it is my behind-the-scenes informal discussions with health partners that ensure continued progress towards improving local health services and outcomes.

My special responsibilities coupled with my previous experience as a council officer for 6 years has enabled me to hit the ground running in achieving our identified goals, despite only being a councillor for 1 year.

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

Exercising my special responsibilities supports the aims and goals of the Council Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy and the associated strategies around health and well-being that flow from these.