

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: 2017-2018

Name: Sue Hope

Position held: Liberal Democrat Health Spokesperson

A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

I have acted as the Liberal Democrat Health spokesperson, which has involved attending briefings and meetings with health professionals, feeding back and trying to improve the health systems for our residents including improving communications.

I have co-ordinated with members and acted as principal spokesperson for the group; I have worked and liaised with the lead members of others groups of the committee, as well as working with health and council officers.

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 and their partners for South Gloucestershire residents.

I have also taken on the role of Mental Health Champion for the group.

Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

This has been a challenging time with the major restructuring of the local health services, which

could mean more centralised services; there is to be closer working between health commissioners/providers and the local authority; it has been part of the role to ensure that local people are kept informed and can be engaged in these changes.

Encouraging the CCG to use effective methods of communication with the wider public.

Held to account the local health services during the drawing up of the STP.

Pressing for greater resources to ensure local delivered services.

Being able to help signpost others for help and support in the complex health world.

Pushing for closer working between neighbouring authorities on health and social care,

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

Achieving clarity on delivery of local services.

Improved communications between health and the community.
Championing local residents in the need for local services

Continue to press for adequate services to meet the local demand with positive results.

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

Recognise the work of Public Health in promoting a healthier community, and in trying to reduce the call on primary and secondary health services.

Raised local concerns early in the process so they can be addressed during the planning stage for new services.

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

Encourage better communication with the public; help explain the changes that are taking place in health delivery. Ensure services are delivered locally.
Explain the importance of public health in all council services and the impact this can have on reducing demand for primary and secondary health services.
Ensure scrutiny takes place of health services which is part of the Councillor’s role to help drive for improved services for residents,

