

# 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 Sue Hope**.....

**Position held: Liberal Democrat lead Member for Public Health and Health Scrutiny** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

Lib Dem Health Spokesperson and political Lead on health matters.  
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.

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.  
The role has also included 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  
Attended briefings when invited.  
Attending the Health & Wellbeing Board as an observer when this has been possible.  
Attending regional health scrutiny network meetings, sharing good practise and leaning from others

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

Work on the Review of Children's services at the Children's Hospital – a joint meeting with

colleagues from Bristol City Council concluded the review, which included a very positive visit to the hospital to learn and see changes which had been implemented. All were impressed by the changes made and new approach being taken by staff and managers.

Asked for report on End of life services; this was reviewed and improvements were made

Frequent questioning on how local health services are to be delivered- at Thornbury and Yate.

The forthcoming changes in health service structures and services appear to be coming later and later to the Scrutiny Committee. One Joint Meeting was held giving the overall strategy for the Sustainable and Transformation Plan (STP), but gave little detail.

Highlighting Men's Health, and asking local councillors – male- to come forward for regular health checks.

## **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 Clinical Commissioning Group (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 constructive feedback.

It has been very difficult to get NHS England, who are responsible for the GP services, to the committee to answer questions on GP provision and the delivery of the services at a regional level.

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

Taken on the role of Mental Health Champion; Time to Change - raising awareness and helping to end mental health discrimination.

## **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. This is especially important with the closer working of the Council and CCG in commissioning services.

Attended briefings and being able to cascade information across the group and to others.

Attend networking events to help understand the issues, share and learn about good practice in other areas and confirm and share where there are areas of difficulty.

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.

Continue to press for early briefing on proposed changes and ask for attendance of NHS England at the Health Scrutiny Committee.

### **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 and importance joint working with other agencies to develop and provide services for all.

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