

# 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: 2019 to 2020** .....

**Name: John O'Neill** .....

**Position held: Liberal Democrat Lead Member for Health Scrutiny** .....

## A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform

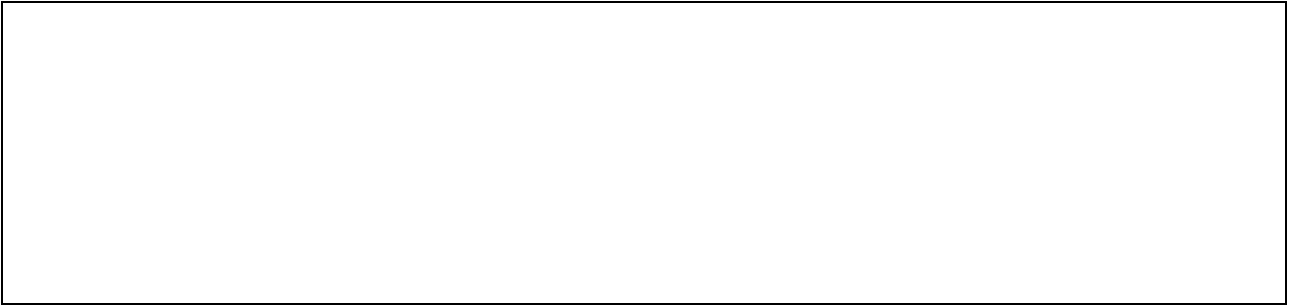
Liberal Democrat spokesperson and lead on health and public health matters, liaising with opposition lead members and officers on health matters. Liaising and informing Lib Dem members on health issues. Attending HOSC agenda and planning meetings attending HOSC meetings and Joint HOSC meetings.

## Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period

During this reporting period with the amalgamation of the CCGs in recent years, we have now overseen the amalgamation of community health services in the BNSSGCCG catchment area to Sirona and also the amalgamation of Health watch services to one provider for the BNSSGCCG area, these changes should see cost effective measures resulting in same services available throughout the CCG area resulting in better consistent care and value for money.

We have also debated and overseen a return of community midwifery and audiology services to the new location in Thornbury.

The focus for this reporting period has been transformed by the Coronavirus covid-19 pandemic where issues that we had planned to address in the March meeting have been postponed till normality returns.



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

I have attempted to add value to services for all local communities by speaking with the communities regarding the issues that are important to them and bringing these forward as topics of consideration, some of those topics have been, ambulance service and response times particularly in the rural area, with the anticipated mass increase that was envisaged in the development programme that will set up new communities how will GP services be provided for those areas and existing communities, bringing forward cross border mental health issues for young people and insisting that the NHS scrutinise excessive dental charges for NHS patients during the covid-19 pandemic.

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

By ensuring that the voice of the communities and service users is heard and taken into account, assisting and scrutinising service delivery and trying to ensure that access is available for all service users, working with others to ensure that there is a robust challenge in delivery of services in all areas of health and public health.

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

**By providing strong leadership to involve the communities and service users that the services are what is required, working in collaboration with others to ensure**

**that services are efficient and represent value for money, foresight, at the time of writing this we are in the midst of a pandemic and we will need to be agile to deal with the challenges ahead and scrutinise how services can be restored to normality and the inevitable mental health challenge that is anticipated.**