

# 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 2019 - May 2020**.....

**Name: Cllr Ben Stokes** .....

**Position held: Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health** .....

## **A general outline of the special responsibilities you perform**

As a Cabinet Member I attend all the related Cabinet meetings and Informal Cabinet meetings providing strategic leadership and executive powers for the running of the Council. I remain answerable for my portfolio responsibilities and for Cabinet decisions with the regular engagement this brings with the public, Cabinet members and Council staff.

I am the Lead Member for Adults which requires me to be up to date with all the developments relating to this area of the Council activity and answerable for the actions of the department.

I am the Lead Member for Public Health which requires me to be familiar with all strategic development and implementation issues that arise in this area. This includes being a member of the Council's Clinical Assurance Group.

I manage the Council's relationship with the NHS and strategic health partners. As such I am involved with various external meetings with partner organisations and lobby groups such as ADASS and the Local Government Association.

I am responsible for Chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) which includes the agenda, planning meetings and themed workshop meetings. As Chairman I work with the board members and attend the Senior Officer Group that helps to shape the agenda for the board.

I lead the HWB representation in the BNSSG 3 HWB Group which includes North Somerset HWB and Bristol HWBs.

I am Chairman of the South West HWB Network which represents the 15 HWBs in the region.

I am Chairman of the South West Adults Lead Member Network group which is made up of 18 Local Authorities and is jointly sponsored by South West Councils and the Local

Govt Association. I present an annual report of our activity to the South West Councils Board.

I am Chairman of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board and am involved with moving the agenda forward with its board members in the same way as detailed for the HWB above.

I sit on the Council's Senior Officer Employment Panel.

I am an active member of the Council's Food Cell and Member-led Covid Response Group. I am an active member of the Local Plan Policy Advisory Group (PAG).

I am responsible for the Council's HomeChoice housing service and also have oversight of the Council's affordable housing delivery. There are regular meetings required to remain up to date on this agenda including meetings with the leaders of Bromford Housing Group.

I am the Council's representative on the Cotswolds Conservation Board and attend at least 6 related meetings a year.

## **Key Milestones/Achievements during the reporting Period**

The main achievement has been the ability to take all these areas forward through the Covid emergency

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

I have been able to link people together and I am especially proud for my role in making them comfortable and engaged with the programme through my chairmanship of many online meetings.

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

The areas which I am responsible for need to have a figure-head to take responsibility and I have provided that guidance and leadership.

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

The Council has been able to better support the public in the delivery of the services by having me in post.