



Profiles of Healthwatch North Somerset Nominated Directors

October 2016

Lance Allen

Lance is a retired ICT consultant who has worked both in the UK and internationally in management, technical and marketing roles. At retirement he was the global knowledge management director of a major ICT organisation. Since retirement, he has also worked in voluntary roles both as a business mentor and as a director of a community charity. However he started his working career training as an engineer and then working in medical research at University College Hospital in London.

Lance has lived in Portishead for over 2 years after moving from North Devon and is also an active member of Portishead Rotary Club which has a number of community projects within the Gordano valley area. He is also a keen sailor and golfer.

Lance is directly aware of both health and social care issues, as he personally has a long term cardiac condition, which led to early retirement.

Georgie Bigg

Georgie Bigg retired from a successful career in banking where, following local, regional and national roles she specialised in identifying and investing in high growth small businesses and leadership coaching. Her volunteering started at this time, supporting an educational charity as a Business Adviser to help young people develop their business skills before leaving education.

Following 'retirement', Georgie has furthered her interest in health and social care working for Voluntary Action North Somerset to represent and develop the voluntary and community sector. She has a wide knowledge of North Somerset communities and those organisations and individuals who provide support, particularly to the most vulnerable. Georgie is keen to help the public engage and shape the future of their health and social care provision, particularly those who don't traditionally engage with decision making

Her interests include the environment which she believes can have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. She is currently Chair of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Avonside, Director of the West of England Rural Network and a Parish Councillor.

Tim Evans

Tim has been involved as a volunteer of Healthwatch North Somerset since the start having previously been a volunteer for North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group. He is currently a Healthwatch representative on Weston Area Health Trust Board and a member of the Patient Participation Group at Riverbank Medical Centre in Weston-super-Mare. His early career was within a family business where he was encouraged to learn about management and finance. He went on to work for Badgerline and North Somerset Council where he was a school bus driver supporting adults and children with special needs. Sadly this work ended as a result of an accident at work which has left him registered disabled with limited mobility; however he is passionate about helping others and wants to use his energy and ability to promote the work of Healthwatch. During his working life he was very active as a trade union member and shop steward leading to studying and having knowledge of employment matters and staff welfare.

Celia Henshall

Celia has worked in the field of Health and Social Care for over 18 years and has gained a wealth of experience in recruiting and managing staff, voluntary sector and business compliance, budgets and finance, project planning and management, training, monitoring and evaluation, funding and fund raising.

Celia is the Chief Executive of Vision North Somerset, a local charity supporting visually impaired people. This role has enabled her to gain a good understanding of the voluntary sector and the unique issues and challenges that it faces. She has considerable experience of working in partnership with the local authority and health providers and is a keen equalities champion. Celia is Chair of North Somerset Council's Physical and Sensory Impairment Group and Equality Implementation Group.

Celia was involved in the planning of Healthwatch North Somerset and as a member of the initial Healthwatch Strategy Group helped to set up the organisation, agreeing terms of reference and planning policies. She has a clear idea of what Healthwatch is all about including the aspirations and expectations of national and local government.

Celia lives and works in North Somerset and has first-hand experience of health care provision including GP services, local hospital, optometry service and dental services.

Celia believes that representing local people and ensuring their voice is heard will play an important part in ensuring that Health and Social Care provision in North Somerset meets the needs of the local population and is accountable.

Joanna Pritchett

Joanna started her career in NHS as a registered nurse in London, moved to Hampshire where she worked in Intensive Care, acute medicine and acute elderly care as a Ward Sister and Clinical Nurse Manager. She then moved to Winchester for her first general management post studying for an MSc at the same time. As a result of NHS management changes she was promoted to a senior manager post in an integrated NHS Trust

responsible for both acute and community services. She had operational, financial and strategic responsibilities working with NHS purchasers/commissioners and providers including other agencies and the voluntary sector. In 1998 she gave up her career to have a family. Since then she has been a school governor for schools in both Bristol and Portishead; a Director/Trustee for a Bristol based charity and remains a Trustee for a church in Portishead. A few years ago she visited Burundi in east Africa and following this has been instrumental in setting up a project and consequently fund raising; to provide improved sanitation, health and hygiene for a rural community in Burundi. As well as being a wife and mother she has responsibility for another elderly member of her family for whom she provides first hand support and companionship. This keeps her in touch with the NHS. Her interest and passion for the NHS remains strong; she brings a variety of skills and has a desire to see this public service maintain quality for individual people during very difficult times of financial cuts, constraints and transition.

Dick Whittington

Dick has worked in the Voluntary Sector for ten years, mainly working with rural communities to address issues such as poor access to essential services. In a former role he worked with Community Transport groups in North Somerset, who continue to do an indispensable job helping vulnerable people get to their GPs or Hospital. This is an issue where Dick believes the statutory services - both locally and nationally - should take more responsibility, and his aim is for Healthwatch to get some positive action on this issue.

Much of Dick's work is with community groups and he has developed a particular interest in Social Enterprise. Dick has been involved with setting up Healthwatch North Somerset.

Dick "volunteered" to take on the Treasurer role for Healthwatch - he's not an accountant but he was used to managing large budgets in his previous career with the Post Office, where he was responsible for running branches across the South West, so he understands the importance of sound procedures and good financial planning. Dick has substantial experience of fund raising and has done a lot of work on Community Engagement, both through Community Led Plans and working with local people on project development.