

## **Profiles of Healthwatch North Somerset Nominated Directors**

### **Healthwatch North Somerset AGM 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

#### **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 to help ensure the voluntary and community sector are represented and acknowledged for the social value they provide. 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

#### **Celia Henshall**

Celia is currently employed as Chief Executive for Vision North Somerset, a local charity providing services for people with sensory loss. Vision North Somerset is contracted to North Somerset Council to provide statutory services. The life experience for 1,800 service users is enhanced by the voluntary sector activities of the charity.

Celia has been in post for 18 years and has gained a wealth of experience of working in the field of health and social care including recruiting and managing staff, voluntary sector and business compliance, budgets and finance, project planning and management and training.

An important aspect of Celia's role is to ensure that the needs of people with sensory loss are understood by service providers including Health and Social Care provision. This is achieved in part by representation on various boards and groups including North Somerset Council Physical and Sensory Impairment Group, North Somerset Council Equalities Implementation group and North Somerset Council Personalisation Group.

Celia has also been part of the Weston Area Health Trust Patient Participation Group and intends to continue her representation both for people with sensory loss and on behalf of Healthwatch North Somerset.

## **Dick Whittington**

Dick's main career, spanning nearly 35 years, was with The Post Office, latterly with responsibility for Post Offices across the South West. Dick believes that this gives him a very clear appreciation of the impact of large public services on the lives of people, especially in isolated communities.

For the last nine years Dick has worked in the Voluntary Sector, mainly working with rural communities to address issues such as poor access to essential services. Working with Community Action (the Community Council for the former Avon area) Dick did a lot of work with Community Transport groups, who continue to do an indispensable job helping vulnerable people, get to the Doctors or Hospital. This is an issue which Dick believes the statutory services - both locally and nationally - do recognise, but for which they are reluctant to take responsibility, and his personal ambitions is for Healthwatch to get some positive action on this issue. Much of Dicks work is with community groups and he has developed a particular interest in Social Enterprise. Dick has been involved with setting up HWNS as a Community Interest Company - run for the Community by the Community.

While not a qualified accountant, Dick has been use to managing large budgets, and understands the importance of sound procedures and good financial planning. Dick has a lot of 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.

## **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 lives in Portishead 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 long term cardiac condition, which led to an early retirement. He has a special needs grandson with a rare genetic condition, and has also been a carer for a partner with a terminal cancer diagnosis .

## **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 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.

## **Gerry Wadham**

Gerry has recently moved from Taunton to Nailsea, and is looking forward to working with staff and trustees of North Somerset Healthwatch on improving local health and social care services by listening to the experiences of local people and using her vast experience from working in the voluntary sector across London and the South of England.

Gerry has worked in the voluntary sector for 40 years, for the past 12 months Gerry has been employed by Swan as their Chief Executive Officer. Swan provides independent statutory and generic advocacy across a number of local authority areas in the South West. Swans mission is to provide a clear voice for vulnerable adults through the provision of effective and inclusive independent advocacy based on the principles of equality and fairness; and tailored to meet the expressed and implied needs and wishes of each individual. During that period Gerry has increased the income of the organization by securing new service funding and worked with staff, volunteers and trustees to develop a new 5 year strategy that builds on the strengths of the organisation but considers the need to diversify income and measure the outcomes and social value of quality advocacy interventions.

Gerry has extensive experience and knowledge of managing, delivering and tendering for Mental Health Services. This was gained from working for a National Mental health Charity for 18 years, first as Associate Director of Operations (South) and latterly as the Associate Director of Business Development.

For the last 8 years Gerry has also been a trustee of Taunton Women's Aid. Taunton Women's Aid was originally formed to provide services to women and children who had experienced domestic violence, latterly the charity has developed into a grant making organization and works with a number of organizations to provide bespoke services including educational programs, information and advice and support services across Taunton Deane.