

**Profiles of Healthwatch North Somerset Nominated Directors**

**Healthwatch North Somerset AGM 9th October 2018**

**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.

**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.
While not a qualified accountant, Dick has been used 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.