

# Meet the team

## Anna Perry, GWAAC CEO

The CEO of GWAAC for over five years, Anna is also a Director of the Association of Air Ambulances and a Governor for South Western Ambulance Service Foundation Trust.

Anna also has business interests in property and retail, and a keen personal passion for animal welfare, the environment and sustainability in general.



## Professor Jonathan Benger OBE

Jonathan, or JB as he is known, was instrumental in the setup of GWAAC, acting as our first medical advisor. Jonathan still completes shifts with us as a Critical Care Doctor, and was a Trustee of the charity from 2015 until 2024.

As CMO for NHS digital he has overseen NHS Pathways, NHS111 online, the NHS.UK website and the NHS app, for which he received an OBE in the 2022 New Years Honours list.



## Dr Phil Cowburn MBE, Critical Care Doctor

Phil qualified as a Doctor nearly 30 years ago, and has been a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the BRI since 2008. Phil is one of GWAAC's founding doctors.

Phil is also South Western Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST)'s Acute Care Medical Director, Medical Advisor at the National Ambulance Resilience Unit, Trauma Consultant at Southmead, and Medical Advisor to specialist police units in Avon & Somerset and Gloucestershire. His special interests are major trauma, major incident response and triage and complex incident response, particularly response to terrorist incidents.



## Captain Rich MacLaughlin, Senior Base Pilot

Rich became GWAAC's senior pilot in 2025, after returning to the charity after a brief hiatus as a touring pilot. Before that, he was one of GWAAC's pilots for six years.

He previously worked as a pilot in the Royal Navy for 16 years flying 'Sea Kings' and 'Squirrels'. At the end of his commission, Rich made the move into HEMS by working for another air ambulance for a couple of years. In 2014, he began working for GWAAC as a HEMS pilot.





### **Captain Dan Mansell, Pilot**

Dan joined GWAAC in November 2025 as one of our permanent base pilots. He comes from a civilian aviation background and has had a varied career. Dan has flown for East Anglian Air Ambulance, oil and gas transportation in the North Sea and the National Police Air Service, to name a few.

### **Dr Andy Lockyer, Medical Director and Critical Care Doctor**

Dr Andy has been GWAAC's Medical Director since July 2023 and is a long-standing Critical Care Doctor for the charity. He qualified as a Critical Care Doctor in 2017 and has been a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Bristol Royal Infirmary since 2018, where he is the Clinical Lead for public health, major trauma, education, and global health. He is trustee and founder of a separate charity, Dharura, to develop emergency care through global partnerships, including pre-hospital care.



### **Vicki Brown, Advanced Practitioner in Critical Care**



Vicki Brown, the South West's first Advanced Practitioner in Critical Care, joined the ambulance service in 2002, and GWAAC in 2012. Vicki specialises in breaking down barriers, achieving many firsts for her profession and winning a national award for her achievements.

Recently, Vicki became the first person from a purely paramedic background on the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care register for Consultant Practitioners in Pre-Hospital Medicine.

### **Tim Ross-Smith, Operations Officer**

In October 2023, Tim Ross-Smith joined GWAAC as the new Operations Officer. Tim is the line manager for the Advanced Practitioners and Specialist Paramedics in Critical Care and is also responsible for the day-to-day running of the airbase alongside GWAAC's Operations Manager.

Tim joined Avon Ambulance in the Patient Control Room in 2004 and has held various roles within the ambulance service. He qualified as a Paramedic in 2013 and progressed to Operations Officer at SWAST in 2016. Tim now brings his incident management skills and line management perspective to GWAAC, making sure that both the clinical team's needs and the charity's needs are listened to.

