



Caroline Dinenage

**MP for Gosport,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Stubbington and
Hill Head**



February started with my Cyber Safety Event as part of [Safer Internet Day](#), giving advice and information to parents about keeping their children safe online. Ollie from [Parent Zone](#) and Hampshire Constabulary's PCSO Ian Wright both helped address a range of issues from online bullying to self-harm.

It was great to meet the students from Peel Common Junior School, on a visit to Parliament, who quizzed me on everything from Brexit to life as an MP. I also met with the Executive Head of [Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust](#), Ian Potter, and head teachers from Bay House and Brune Park schools to discuss their plans. I was delighted that the Government has also launched one of the [largest mental health trials](#) in schools to support pupil's wellbeing and from 2020 mental wellbeing and physical education shall be included in the school curriculum.

I joined a delegation of Hampshire MPs who met with Rishi Sunak, Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to share our concerns about the funding for our County Council. We have some of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country and we discussed the impact this has had on vital services such as bus routes and free rubbish tips that are under threat.

Hampshire MPs and I also met with the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to discuss their spending plans. Hampshire will get 210 vital new police officers, more investigators and a more visible PCSO presence. Welcome news which will help tackle recent crime spikes, including bike thefts.

Brexit uncertainty continued in Parliament this month, with the 29th January vote indicating support for the Withdrawal Agreement subject to further changes to the backstop, negotiations continued in this direction and I discussed this and more on [BBC Sunday Politics South](#).

Although Brexit always dominates the headlines, this month in my role as a Health Minister I launched a social care [recruitment campaign](#), a [consultation](#) on learning disability and autism training for all health and care staff, as well as announcing the [expansion of personal health budgets](#).

Shockingly, one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime - around 1300 a year in Gosport and Fareham - so I showed my support for World Cancer Day and attended an Ovarian Cancer event to help raise awareness about this devastating disease.

Looking after our health is so important, so I popped into Gosport Leisure Centre's first Annual Health and Wellbeing Event. Fantastic local organisations such as the [Men's Shed](#) and [Walking for Health](#) were on hand with information and advice about staying healthy and happy.

Good news this month as the [Voyeurism Bill](#) is law, meaning Upskirting is now illegal! The [Organ Donation Bill](#) has also passed the final hurdle in Parliament.

For the latest news visit www.caroline4gosport.co.uk



My Cyber Safety Event.



On BBC Sunday Politics South.



At the first Annual Health And Wellbeing Event.

More good news, we are currently in the lowest borrowing year since 2001-£18.5 billion less than last year, helping direct more money to our vital public services such as the NHS. Employment rates also [hit another record high](#), with unemployment the lowest rate since 1975, 4%. In the Gosport Constituency, the number of people receiving Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit has decreased by 52% since 2010.

The best news this month concerns HMS Sultan, after two and a half years of continuous battling, lobbying Ministers and bringing them down to Gosport, I'm thrilled that HMS Sultan will now not be sold in 2024. Minister Tobias Ellwood today announced a reprieve for the site, which provides outstanding training for the Navy and lots of local jobs. This significant delay by the Ministry of Defence is the first vital step towards securing a permanent future for Sultan.



At the Plaque Ceremony of Dr Harry Angelman.

My Gosport Task Force met again this month for an update on other vital Gosport sites such as Fort Blockhouse and HMP Haslar.

I continue to work hard to do my bit to support local job creation and protect our economy. This month I visited the newly opened [Brockhurst Gate Retail Park](#), which will generate around 300 jobs and £12 million for our local economy. I was delighted to hear that [Britten Norman](#), the last independent aircraft manufacturer in the UK, are creating an extra 50 jobs at Solent Enterprise Zone, Daedalus. I also met with our largest local employer, [Vector Aerospace](#), to discuss their future plans for local expansion, investment and training opportunities.

Once again I chaired the Portsmouth and Gosport Strategic Land Group to discuss our wider area, ensuring that we work together across the Portsmouth Harbour area. We have some successful [One Public Estate](#) bids in place to help deliver the redevelopment of some important local sites.

I also hosted a meeting with environmental organisations such as [Natural England](#) and local Councils to discuss concerns about the maintenance of the

Bedenham Grasslands at Defence Munitions Gosport. I will be visiting the grasslands myself in the coming months to see what more can be done to protect this important ecological site.

I had the pleasure to cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Premier store on Wych Lane and meet the friendly staff and customers. I was also honoured to attend the [Plaque Ceremony](#) at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital of local [Dr Harry Angelman](#) who had a global impact with his research and treatment of Angelman's Syndrome.

Coming up, I will be giving up single-use plastic for Lent, for the second time, from Wednesday 6th March. I have been pleased with Government action this month with the launch of both a [consultation](#) on a new, world-leading plastics tax and the largest Government anti-littering campaign, "[Keep it, Bin it](#)". However while we see the local impact of plastics blighting our beautiful coastline, plastics have a global impact on the most disadvantaged communities which is why I will be teaming up with [Tearfund](#) and supporting the [Plastic Pollution Action Plan](#). If anyone would like to join me please let me know, you can follow my progress and share tips [here](#).

Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust is also holding a series of [public meetings](#), for more information, please contact the 023 922 86284 or email member.foundationtrust@porthosp.nhs.uk.

Best wishes,

Caroline



My Plastic Pledge for Tearfund.

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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