



Caroline Dinenage

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



Happy New Year to all readers, I hope 2018 has got off to a good start for you all. After a lovely Christmas break at home in Gosport with family and friends, January definitely started with a surprise for me! On 9 January I was promoted by the Prime Minister to the role of Minister of State at the newly merged Department of Health and Social Care. While both excited and apprehensive about the challenges ahead, as ever, being a dedicated and effective constituency MP and a strong voice for the Gosport area remains my priority.

There have been a number of other new announcements from Parliament this month such as the start of the [ban on microbeads](#) which is a big step forwards to protect marine life, as a coastal area we know all too well that plastic in the sea and on our beaches is a growing problem.

The [consultation](#) on whether organ donation should be an 'opt-out' rather than 'opt-in' decision is now open until 6 March 2018. Last year 500 people died waiting for a transplant because a suitable organ was not available and many potential donors are missed because their families don't know their wishes.

Measures to [eliminate homelessness](#) were announced resulting in a Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce forming to drive forward policies to meet this goal.

The Prime Minister has launched a strategy for a cleaner, greener Britain by [eliminating all avoidable plastic waste](#) within the next twenty five years. Key announcements include extending the 5p charge for plastic bags to all retailers, to encourage recycling, examining further changes to charges, and to encourage innovation in alternative materials.

With this in mind I'm joining a number of Conservative MP's to #GiveUpPlasticForLent. The aim is to reduce our own consumption of single use plastics and become better informed about both the practical challenges and environmental issues of replacing plastics with alternatives. If you want to join me in this challenge you can sign up or follow my progress and get tips [here](#).

In Westminster, I met with the [Oliver King Foundation](#). 12-year-old Oliver died from a sudden cardiac arrest whilst at school. If a defibrillator had been available on that day, it could have saved his life. His dad, Mark, has turned this unthinkable tragedy into a campaign for every school to have a defibrillator by 2020, which I've written to local schools about.

I helped launch the 2018 [Great British Spring Clean](#). It will take place from the 2nd – 4th of March and be the nation's biggest ever anti-litter campaign. People across the UK can get involved with community initiatives to tackle litter and help reduce the estimated £1bn taxpayers money spent picking up other people's rubbish.

Back in Gosport, I was pleased to launch a new recycling initiative for coffee cups – the first of its kind in the UK, with Environment Minister, Thérèse Coffey. This is a partnership between Gosport Borough Council and local paper cup manufacturer Huhtamaki, the scheme will pilot a collection and recycling service for used drinks cups with bins at various points including the Gosport Ferry and High Street.



Meeting with the Oliver King Foundation



At the Great British Spring Clean Launch



Launching 'Gosport Cup Recycling' with the Minister Thérèse Coffey

Another greener, cleaner addition to the Constituency are two rapid Electric Vehicle chargers at Budgens Service Station in Lee-on-the-Solent. Creating a better charging network for electric cars will play a vital role in improving air quality. Two local businesses Budgens and InstaVolt are working together to drive this forward.



With Tim from InstaVolt

This month the Government also confirmed that it had delivered on the commitment to extend superfast broadband to 95% of UK premises by the end of 2017, meaning families and businesses across the country are better connected. 99.6% of properties in the Gosport Constituency can benefit from superfast broadband. You can find out more [here](#).

As you will know I am very passionate about promoting business in our area. I recently bought together the companies based at the Apex Centre on Newgate Lane, the Solent LEP, Solent Growth Hub and Gosport Borough Council to plot a way forward after a planning application for a new Lidl store on their site means they need to find alternative premises.



Visiting the volunteers and children at Oarsome Chance

Also in the constituency I visited [Oarsome Chance](#) to learn more about this charity's fantastic work. They support children as young as eight, who are struggling with mainstream school, to gain practical skills such as woodwork, as well as getting them out on the water.

Staying on the maritime theme, I met with the [Sailor's Society](#) in Parliament to discuss their work. The Society was founded to help support the welfare of merchant sailors and their families. Based in Southampton, the charity operates globally in over 100 countries.

Locally I also met with the Environment Agency to discuss some important flood prevention works planned across Gosport and Hill Head. The work will take place over the next few years and cost £5.5M.

I had my regular meeting with Hampshire County Council bosses to discuss the performance of Gosport schools and Children's Services. I also met with Education Ministers Lord Agnew and Nick Gibb, to discuss the National Funding Formula, what this means for local schools and to make the case for some urgent capital investment needed in some of our school buildings.



Meeting Education Minister, Nick Gibb, with Alan Mak MP

27th January marked Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the site of the largest mass murder in history. I was proud to sign the Holocaust Book of Remembrance on behalf of my Constituency. We must never forget that the Holocaust didn't start in the gas chambers but with hate filled words and continue to stand against the hatred and intolerance that still blights our world today.

Looking forward to next month, Gosport Conservatives will be holding a Street Surgery in Gosport High Street this Saturday, 3 Feb at 10am, please pop along for a chat.

Finally - 6th February marks 100 years since the Representation of the People Act 1918 was passed, giving the first voting rights to women. There will be celebrations throughout the year to mark this milestone in British history, including a [#March4Women](#) event on Sunday 4 March. Find out more [here](#).

Best wishes

Caroline

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!

[Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121](tel:02392522121)

[Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078](tel:02072197078)

[Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk)

[Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk)

[Address: 167 Stoke Road, Gosport, PO12 1SE](https://www.google.com/maps/place/167+Stoke+Road,+Gosport,+PO12+1SE)