



Caroline Dinenage

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



It's hard to believe that July is over! The month absolutely flew by, with events in both Westminster and the Gosport Constituency keeping me busy as ever.

In parliament we received the excellent news that schools will receive a funding boost of £1.3bn over 2 years, with the Government delivering the biggest improvement to the school funding system for well over a decade. This will help to build on the improved standards delivered since 2010. Our local schools have made fantastic progress in recent years, and additional funding will help to ensure they have the resources necessary to give all our young people the best possible start in life.

Sticking with education, I was really proud to present the Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel, with artwork produced by Brockhurst Primary School, as part of the Campaign for Global Education's 'Send My Friend to School' initiative. Pupils produced images that explained the importance of education for all, and we were both very impressed by their hard work.

We learned that employment across the UK is at its highest rate since comparable records began, with 74.9% of people now in employment. In Gosport, the number of people claiming the key out of work benefits has fallen by 757 since 2010, representing a staggering 53% drop. The economy is now 15.2% bigger than it was 7 years ago.

I welcomed the Government's decision to hold a full inquiry into the contaminated blood scandal of the 1970s and 1980s, which saw patients given blood transfusions infected with diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis. For the last 7 years I have been campaigning in Parliament on behalf of a number of my constituents personally affected by this tragedy, and I am glad that a public inquiry will now help to provide the answers they need.

I enjoyed a productive meeting with the Rt Hon John Hayes, the Transport Minister, to make the case for improvements to legislation governing the use of Personal Water Craft, such as jet skis and RIBs. Following the death of Ryan McKinlay, a local resident tragically killed in a collision in the Solent in 2015, this has been an issue very high on my agenda. The Minister was receptive to my concerns and I look forward to working with him as I continue to press for the changes necessary to keep all water users safe.

I also met up with bosses at Boeing to learn about new business developments, and had the pleasure of speaking with some fabulous apprentices from BAE at Portsmouth Naval Base, who visited parliament to promote apprenticeships.



Admiring Brockhurst Primary School's artwork with the Secretary of State



With local BAE apprentices



Celebrating 100 years of women in non-medical roles in the Army

Some gorgeous furry friends from Guide Dogs for the Blind visited parliament – along with their very nice humans! - to discuss the potentially dangerous issue of pavement parking. I also got the lowdown on measuring and maximising your home broadband speed from the clever people at Which?, who visited parliament to discuss their [newly launched app](#).

I had a fascinating meeting with the Obesity Health Alliance, to discuss childhood obesity. In the Gosport constituency 29% of year 6 children are either overweight or obese—worryingly, this high figure is below the UK average.

I also learned about Future Leaders Connect, an exciting new initiative which aims to develop a long-term, global network of emerging policy leaders, aged 18 to 35. It supports them to develop their leadership skills and policy-making expertise. This year's application deadline has now passed, but if you missed it do consider applying in the future. We have a wealth of talent across Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington & Hill Head, and I know local young people have what it takes to make a real difference.



With Michael and his guide dog Cinders, visiting parliament with Guide Dogs for the Blind

Back in the constituency, I really enjoyed Baycroft School Market Day, which was packed with stalls, activities and delicious food. Bridgemary Carnival was as colourful and joyous as ever, and I was hugely impressed by the fantastic costumes on show.

HMS Sultan hosted the Commonwealth and European Archery Championships, and I took full advantage of the opportunity to meet the teams and have a go with a bow and arrow. It was great fun but I can safely say that I'm certainly not going to be good enough to compete any time soon!

I was also lucky enough to attend the Royal Military Police and Military Police Brigade regimental dinner, at Southwick Park, to celebrate 100 years of women occupying non-medical roles in the British Army.



Enjoying Bridgemary Carnival with Gosport Mayor, Linda Batty

As many of you will know, we received the disappointing news that planning permission for the IFA2 interconnector at Daedalus will not be revoked. I have been lobbying on this issue since Fareham Borough Council first approved the application, and remain concerned about the potential implications of the building for aircraft operations and businesses at the Solent Enterprise Zone. You can read more about this, [here](#).

More happily, the Department for Transport approved the £3.5 million advance necessary for Hampshire County Council to secure their contribution to the Stubbington Bypass route. Having organised a meeting between the Transport Minister, Council leaders and the Solent LEP in April, I am delighted that this dialogue has resulted in such significant progress.

There are many fantastic events taking place locally over summer. Marvels and Meltdowns' family fun day is back, as is the fabulous Summer Passport Scheme, and we have Heritage Open Days to look forward to in September. Do check out my [Facebook page](#) to stay up to date.

I finish on some sad news. Peter Langdon very sadly lost his brave battle with cancer this month. Peter served as both a Gosport Borough and Hampshire County Councillor, and was a hard-working and well-liked member of our local Conservative family. He was a true and loyal friend, and he will be hugely missed.

Best wishes



Having a go at the Archery Championships, at HMS Sultan

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

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA