



Caroline Dinenage

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



Meeting Nana Tseasewaa III, the Queen of Gwira Akyinim (Elmina) at Crofton School

Happy Easter! I hope you all had a great bank holiday weekend.

Bridgemaury Senior School and St Vincent College recently received Ofsted reports signalling great improvement and achievement. This is wonderful news for our area and demonstrates the enormous effort of staff and head teachers to ensure our pupils and students have the best possible start in life.

Furthermore, in a Government White Paper published this month, Haselworth Primary School received special mention. 76% of pupils now receive expected standards in reading, writing and maths, up from 47% in 2012. The determination and hard work of Haselworth teachers deserve special congratulations.

Continuing on the education theme, I was invited to Crofton School in Stubbington to meet Nana Tseasewaa III, the Queen of Gwira Akyinim (Elmina) for their Ghana Day. Crofton has built up a great relationship with a Ghanaian school through fundraising initiatives and cultural exchange as part of their Project Ghana.

I was delighted to celebrate National Apprenticeships Week by attending the World Skills UK Reception to celebrate our World Champion Apprentices, one of whom was from Gosport and is part of the fantastic Web Design Team.

Since May 2010, 11,490 apprentices have started here in Gosport. This fantastic figure is really important because apprenticeships make sense - they give young people the chance to get the practical and technical skills they need to find great jobs.

Our local economy greatly relies on young people having expertise in STEM subjects so I attended events in Parliament this month to discuss how Government & business can tackle homophobia and support women in these sectors.

At the Gosport Safety Partnership Day I met a number of the teams who work so hard to keep our neighbourhoods safe. GAFIRS, HM Coastguard, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, Hampshire Police Cadets and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service were among those putting on an emergency services display for local families.

I also met Eddy, the Paws Watch mascot. Gosport Neighbourhood Watch have set up Paws Watch to encourage dog walkers to keep a look-out and report incidents of crime, antisocial behaviour and suspicious activity that they may witness whilst walking their dogs. You can find out more information [here](#).

On 8 March I celebrated International Women's Day to reflect on how far we have come in terms of gender equality, but also acknowledge the work that still needs to be done both nationally & internationally. As Minister for Women & Equalities I flew to New York for three days to represent the UK Government at the United Nations Convention on the Status of Women. In our area a great number of people joined the 'Go Women' walk over Millennium Bridge to celebrate this important day.



At the Gosport Safety Partnership Day on Gosport High Street



Representing the UK at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

On Sat 5 March, I 'cleaned for the Queen' along with many wonderful volunteers at Walpole Park. Solent Environmental Action does super work keeping our local area tidy all year round. You can keep up-to-date with their events [here](#).

I really enjoyed officially opening the refurbished tennis courts at Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis & Squash Club, although I had trouble getting my sons to leave this great facility!

I attended the Fairtrade Trade Fair at the Discovery Centre & I was delighted to see that Fairtrade's positive message to give the world's farmers a fair deal is being supported by so many local schools and workplaces.

The Chancellor announced £190,000 funding to support the Southern Domestic Abuse Service. Having written to the Chancellor in support of their application for funding and seen first-hand the valuable work this team does, I was delighted that they were successful in their bid.

I welcomed the publication of the Mental Health Taskforce Report. This is an independently led, five-year plan for mental health which recommends a transformation of NHS mental health services. I am pleased that the Government supports the report and is providing an extra £1 billion a year to implement it. I have written to local healthcare professionals to learn how they will be spending the money allocated to transform services in our area.



Cleaning for the Queen with volunteers at Walpole Park

I joined local MPs to welcome some of the excellent clinicians in QA's rheumatology department to a reception in the Commons, celebrating ten years of Public and Patient Engagement. Patients were also present so I had the opportunity to hear all about the hard work of the healthcare professionals in supporting people from our local area with rheumatism, arthritis and other joints problems.

I also had the pleasure of inviting Gosport's Youth Citizen of the Year, Lacey Love Kent up to Parliament for a tour of Westminster to celebrate her great achievement.

I paid an extremely useful visit to South Central Ambulance Service to meet with the team and discuss important issues concerning ambulance provision in our area.

I also visited Hampshire County Council to meet with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. I am deeply concerned about the implications of a new Family



Opening the newly refurbished tennis courts at Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis and Squash Club

Support Service, which would see the closure of five out of six children's centres in Gosport. These hubs provide invaluable services for families coping with the challenges of raising young children. Having vehemently campaigned against the closure of Surestart centres back in 2011, I wrote to Hampshire County Council bosses and urgently requested a meeting to emphasise my strong opposition to the plans.

I was pleased to learn that the Heritage Lottery Fund is making at least £1 million available until 2019 to fund community projects commemorating the First World War. If your group have a project idea to mark the Centenary of the First World War, an online application pack is available [here](#).

Looking forward to next month, the National Living Wage will soon become law, meaning all workers aged 25 will be legally entitled to at least £7.20 per hour. If you own a small business, you can click [here](#) for more info.

Best wishes

Caroline



Welcoming staff and patients from QA Rheumatology to Parliament with Penny Mordant MP & Suella Fernandes MP

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 and Big Ben 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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