



# Caroline Dinenage

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



*With Gosport Conservatives at their  
Street Stall*

We've had an interesting start to Spring with the snowy weather, but it didn't slow me down, I spent a freezing Saturday morning chatting to shoppers in Gosport High Street, with our local Conservative team. Gosport Conservatives next Street Surgery is this Saturday, 31 March from 10am, please pop along for a chat.

This month has seen some fantastic health related announcements from Parliament with 5 new [Medical Schools](#) opening, a [pay rise](#) of over 6.5% and up to 29% for over one million NHS Staff, a [£300m fund](#) to develop the innovations and new technologies that will help the UK meet the challenges of an ageing society, an additional 3000 [midwives](#) by 2022, an extra funding boost of £4 billion and a 10-year funding deal for the NHS too! Also announced was over £17.3 million of investment in Southampton and Portsmouth Hospitals to deliver improvements to theatres and maternity care and an additional £3 million for CAHMS services.

Other announcements this month include a new [bursary](#) for ex-service personnel to retrain as teachers and the [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme](#) of £3000 for small and medium sized businesses and £500 for individuals, to connect to fibre broadband.

It was great to hear that 8,311 children in Hampshire are benefiting from the 30 hours free childcare scheme, I was responsible for the implementation of the scheme in my previous role as Early Years Minister.

There have been a number of worrying and untrue stories suggesting that Parliament voted to cut free school meals this month. Constituents need to be reassured that no children will lose out, in fact I voted for 50,000 more children to receive free school meals. You can read more about this [here](#).

As you will know, I have taken on the challenge to #GiveUpPlasticforLent and you can see my recent vlog [here](#). I was delighted that the Government has also announced that a plastic bottle deposit scheme will be introduced.

[Gosport Cup Recycling](#) has now launched with bins located in the High Street and at Gosport Leisure Centre. It was good to meet up with Keith Crossley, the Managing Director of Huhtamaki to hear how this is going so far! I also met with the [Marine Conservation Society](#) in Parliament to learn more about action to cut plastic waste and clean up our marine environment.

We can all do our bit to help the planet and I took part in WWF's [Earth Hour](#) which encourages everyone to turn off their lights for just one hour to raise awareness of climate change.

Back in at home, I visited Portsmouth International Port. I was fascinated to hear plans for the future which will have an economic benefit to the whole Portsmouth Harbour area. I was surprised to learn that they are already the second biggest commercial port in the UK!

I also went to the 1851 Trust at Land Rover BAR to learn more about the America's Cup 2021 and hear about their impressive work with schools and youth groups in our area, inspiring the next generation into STEM careers!



*Pledging my support for Earth Hour  
and tackling plastic pollution*



*Visiting the 1851 Trust at Land Rover BAR.*



I was delighted to welcome Anne Milton, Minister of State for Skills, to Lee-on-the-Solent to meet the impressive staff and engineering/construction students at both the CEMAST and CTEC (Digger School) College at the Daedalus Enterprise Zone, we then went to Gomer Junior School to hear more about how STEM and digital are integrated into their curriculum.



Speaking to apprentices with Skills Minister, Anne Milton

It is so important that young people understand the options available to them, so I set up a meeting between secondary school heads from Gosport & Stubbington, the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and the Careers and Enterprise Company, to discuss how we could work together, with local businesses, to inspire pupils about the diverse range of career options available.

Sticking with education, I launched St Vincent College's Fun Run in aid of Comic Relief at Newtown Primary which had around 20 local schools taking part! I also met with NSPCC to learn more about their '[Are You There?](#)' Campaign focusing on children's mental health.

Continuing on health, I met with the CEO of Queen Alexandra Hospital to discuss the challenges they face and what I can do as a local MP to assist them.

Another celebration this month was GADSAD's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday! [GADSAD](#) provides social and sporting activities to disabled people in the local area, volunteers include the wonderful Mick Hollis who has been involved for the whole 40 years, truly remarkable!

I also caught up with Citizens Advice Gosport this month, it was great to meet the new additions to the team and we had a good discussion about the local issues which most occupy them, and how we can better collaborate to assist constituents.

Supporting constituents with issues that affect them is always a huge part of my role as a Member of Parliament and one that I take very seriously. This month I held another Drop-in Surgery in Gosport Discovery Centre, speaking to a number of constituents about local and national issues. I joined local Councillors, Tony Jessop and Maggie Morgan, at Tesco in Alver Village during their regular Meet and Greet session.

As regular readers will know, I set up a taskforce to plot the best way forward for the future of Fort Blockhouse, HMP Haslar and HMS Sultan. A further meeting was held this month and representatives from the MOD, MOJ, DIO and One Public Estate were among those in attendance. I remain encouraged by the willingness to engage with local stakeholders and I will continue to push for reconsideration of plans to move the training facilities at HMS Sultan.

The Sea Cadets, who have been based at Royal Clarence Yard are currently hard at work on their new home at Hornet Sailing Club, I popped along to see how they are getting on.

English Tourism Week took place this month and I became a local tourist visiting our award-winning Royal Navy Submarine Museum to hear more about their exciting future plans. We are so lucky that this is just one of the fantastic tourist attractions on our doorstep.

Looking forward to next month, the [Safer Gosport Community Day](#) takes place on Saturday 21 April between 11am and 2pm. The event is returning for a 7th year and will be next to the Town Hall.



Visiting the Sea Cadets in their new home

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!

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