



# Caroline Dinenage

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



*Hampshire & Isle of Wight MPs in Westminster*

This October we made more important steps towards solving our area's transport problems. I had a very productive meeting with First Buses, discussing improvements to local bus provision and how they will be re-investing some of the profits from the Bus Rapid Transit Scheme back into our area. Hampshire County Council, meanwhile, has given the green light on plans for a Stubbington by-pass which means that they are now in the position to bid for the funding needed to build it! In Westminster, I attended an important debate on rail services to the Portsmouth area – virtually all of our region's MPs came together to lobby the Government for the faster trains our area so desperately needs.

Boosting educational attainment is vital to give children the skills they need to succeed later in life and my visits to local schools are always some of my favourite engagements. This month I met fabulous Year 6 pupils at St John's Primary and discussed higher education funding at St Vincent College. I also attended the official opening of the Gateway Preschool at Leesland. Many parents were concerned when the school faced closure last year so it is wonderful that Hampshire County Council has invested in a new site at Leesland Junior School in order to maintain this valuable local facility.

At Harrison Primary school in Fareham, I learned about the School Centre for Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). Through this scheme, trainee teachers work for a year towards a Primary PGCE qualification in a local school setting. They are recruiting for next year so if you have a degree qualification and are considering teaching then please click [here](#).

Health issues were also at the top of my agenda. I was inspired by the 'Slimmers' at Alverstoke Slimming World who in just 24 weeks lost a scale shattering 232 stone and a half a pound combined! Getting fit and making informed food choices is helping them become healthier, happier and more confident.

At QA hospital I met with healthcare bosses alongside other local MPs. We discussed a number of local and national health issues including vascular services and Junior Doctor's contracts.

This month I backed a British Heart Foundation and Department of Health scheme to increase the number of defibrillators in England. People in our area need access to lifesaving care in times of emergency, so I wrote to local organisations urging them to apply for the fully-funded defibrillators. I have been delighted by their enthusiastic response.



*With the Pioneer Teaching Alliance at Harrison Primary School*



*At Alverstoke Slimming World - Photo credit to Paul Jacobs*

I visited both Gosport and Fareham Women's Refuges, run by the Southern Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS). Women and children fleeing abuse are provided with vital short term accommodation and both women and men suffering from emotional, physical or sexual abuse are able to access confidential support services. I also met with a representative from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company which has the contract to support local people in the criminal justice system as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms. Among their programmes is the About Turn Project which provides open access drop-in sessions for over-18s in our area with drug and alcohol problems.

The Gosport constituency's strong ethos of community care and support is globalised by the international outreach of charities like Farm4Life and the Practical Tools Initiative. Thanks to the generosity of Our Enterprise, the new owners of Haslar Hospital, these groups are currently sending disused furniture and equipment from Haslar to hospitals and schools across Ghana and Sierra Leone. It is heartening to know that our well-loved and much-missed hospital is continuing to improve people's lives across the world.



With Lloyd & James from Farm4Life & the Practical Tools Initiative at Haslar



With Anna Dent, Gosport's National Childbirth Trust Star

Our local military organisations also do fantastic charitable work. I was honoured to help Captain Trevor Gulley from HMS Sultan hand over cheques totalling £26,000 to local charities. This huge sum was raised from proceeds of their fabulous Summer Show. Later in the month I met Sultan personnel in London selling poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion – a real testament to their generosity and compassion. At Castaway House over in Portsmouth, I met with groups including the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Seafarers UK and the Naval Families Federation, which offer welfare and financial support to service men and women, veterans and their families. Some of these groups have benefited from the Chancellor's decision to channel the LIBOR fines to military charities.

In other good news, I was really pleased to congratulate local volunteer Anna Dent for her excellent work in our local branch of the National Childbirth Trust when she was nominated for an award in Parliament. I also welcomed my friends from Choices Advocacy to Parliament ahead of their tour of Westminster. Choices Advocacy is a wonderful Hampshire-based charity working with people who have learning difficulties.

Finally, Miss Flea, a Jack Russell from the RSPCA Stubbington Ark and I entered the Westminster Dog of the Year Competition. We completed an agility course and were interviewed by a tough judging panel. Sadly we did not win but Miss Flea put on a brilliant show and was certainly a winner in my eyes!

Looking forward to next month I will be hosting a Disability Confident event for local businesses, encouraging them to employ staff with physical disabilities or learning difficulties. For more information and to register, please email me at [caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk) or call my Westminster office on 0207 219 7078.

Best wishes

*Caroline*



Miss Flea and I at "Westminster Dog of the Year"

## 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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