



Buckland Hospital in Coombe Valley Road, Dover

MP welcomes extra £3.4m funding for east Kent hospitals

A multi-million pound investment, the equivalent of 150 more nurses, has been given for hospitals.

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust has been granted an additional £3.42 million to cope with winter pressures.

Health bosses say Buckland Hospital in Dover has prepared earlier and more extensively than ever this winter, with a focus on extra staff and community support to help discharge patients quickly.

Constituency MP Charlie Elphicke said: "We've been fighting hard for a fairer share of healthcare in Dover and Deal – so this extra funding is great news."

"We all want to know the NHS is there for us and our families whenever we need it."

"So I'm pleased for the extra support at this critical time, when cold weather and flu increases pressures on hard-working hos-

'I'm pleased for the extra support at this critical time, when cold weather and flu increases pressures on hard-working hospital staff'

pital staff." Mr Elphicke added: "We've just had a new cataract surgery centre open at Buckland. There are almost twice as many clinics operating at the hospital than when it first opened."

"Yet I still want it better utilised. Dover and Deal residents deserve first class healthcare on their doorstep and I will keep up the fight for it this year."

A total of 32 outpatient specialities are based at Buckland Hospital in Coombe Valley Road, delivering 9,895 clinics each year.

It compares to 25 departments delivering 5,020 clinics at the end of 2015.

Seven new consultants have been recruited to work at the hospital in recent weeks, including in the new cataract surgery theatre which opened in December.

And at a recent meeting, health chiefs told Mr Elphicke "good progress" was being made on getting GP services co-located at Buckland and Deal Hospital in 2018, creating primary care hubs with extra doctors.

The extra government funding in east Kent is the equivalent of 150 annual nurse salaries.

It is part of a £337 million funding boost across the UK laid out in the Budget in November.

It comes on top of an extra £2.8 billion investment over the next two years.

Learn to be effective on camera

Timid talkers can transform themselves into telegenic talents at a video presenting training session this month.

Charity workers and business-people are invited to learn the art of getting their message across in front of a camera and promoting what they do in a professional and practised way.

Journalist-turned-KM Charity Team chief Simon Dolby will teach those present how to perfect their one-minute message and cover skills such as positive body language and speaking fluently.

Mr Dolby said: "For some rea-



son, the most confident people can be overcome with nerves in front of a camera. Speakers who can talk happily to a room full of people can become self-conscious and awkward.

"This session aims to take all

that away and help you become relaxed and assured when the camera's rolling.

"We'll also be looking at how to get your message across convincingly, confidently and concisely."

The course will take place on Tuesday, January 30 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the KM Charity Team offices at 10 Estuary View, Whitstable.

The price includes a sandwich platter lunch and tea and coffee beforehand.

■ To save £15 on your place, visit kmcharityteam.co.uk/ booking and enter the discount code **KMNEWS18**.



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