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Dave Murray  
Nov 15, 07

# Tory concerned by high number of unemployed

by Graham Tuthill

gtuthill@heknrgroup.co.uk

THE man who wants to become the area's next Conservative MP says a quarter of working-age people in Dover are unemployed.

Calling on the Government to tackle the problem, Charlie Elphicke says it could result in a sharp fall in immigration.

Mr Elphicke, who is the Conservatives' prospective parliamentary candidate for Dover, is a research fellow of the Centre for Policy Studies.

He said there are nearly eight million unemployed people of working age and five million of them could work, but don't.

He said: "Yet the Government has ducked this challenge and gone for masses of migrant

workers instead.

"Tackling worklessness could mean that immigration will fall sharply as there won't be the same call for people from abroad to do the work that needs to be done.

"Official figures tell us that Dover's working-age workless has soared from 10,000 five years ago to 13,000 today (they call it 'economic inactivity'). That's a massive rise.

## Spin

"Meanwhile the number of people in work has remained steady at 39,000.

"The Government prefer to look at the claimant count as this is a very low number and so good for their spin.

"Yet when we talk about workless people, we should



■ Charlie Elphicke will be the Tory candidate for the area at the next general election

tell it straight and talk about people who are not in work.

"The 13,000 people in Dover who do not work means there is one workless person for every three in work.

"Probably about 4,000 locally are really ill or suffer disabilities that are too serious. But around 9,000 should be able to work, yet do not."