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DEMENTIA CARE

Thank you for contacting me about dementia care.

I have summarised the Government's approach to this vital issue below. For those wanting more detail, a briefing paper follows the end of this response.

I can assure you that dementia is a priority for the Government. In 2015, the *Challenge on Dementia 2020* was launched and I know that the Government remains committed to delivering this. This sets out the vision for dementia care, support, awareness, and research to be transformed by 2020. I fully support the ambition to ensure England offers the world's best dementia care.

Progress in the care, support and treatment of people with dementia has been made, with more people receiving a diagnosis of dementia than ever before. Over 660,000 NHS staff have received dementia training with further training opportunities rolled out to all NHS staff by the end of 2018. Over 100,000 social care workers have received some form of dementia awareness training. Since 2015, new care staff have been trained to receive the Care Certificate, which equips them with the knowledge and skills to provide safe and compassionate care, including for those with dementia.

I believe it is important to increase public awareness of dementia and I am encouraged that there are over 1.7 million Dementia Friends and 175 Dementia Friendly Communities in England.

Research is crucial to understanding and tackling dementia and the Government has doubled research spending on dementia. This will be maintained to total over £300 million by 2020, with the UK's first ever Dementia Research Institute receiving £150 million.

The Government is integrating and improving health and social care to protect people at every stage of their lives, increasing NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years. Furthermore, the Government is committed to publishing a Green Paper this year, which will outline a new social care policy, which is financially sustainable, accessible, and properly integrated with the NHS. To this end, I am encouraged by the establishment of the Department of Health and Social Care this year, which will oversee the intelligent integration of health and social care, which I believe will be vitally important with Alzheimer's, on which so much important research is undertaken in the NHS.

Please continue to the pages that follow for more detail, including links to sources.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP

Dementia Care¹: Briefing Paper

Dementia including Alzheimer's disease affects 850,000 people in the UK and impacts widely on carers, families and wider society.

THE CHALLENGE ON DEMENTIA 2020

In [February 2015](#), former [Prime Minister David Cameron](#) launched his new Challenge on Dementia 2020 to make sure that dementia care, support, awareness and research are transformed by 2020.²

It set out a number of commitments to ensure that dementia care and support, awareness, risk reduction and research are transformed by 2020.

These include:

- every person diagnosed with dementia having meaningful care following their diagnosis, which supports them and those around them;
- Improved public awareness and understanding of the factors, which increase the risk of developing dementia and how people can reduce their risk by living more healthily
- Alzheimer's Society delivering an additional 3 million Dementia Friends in England and
- Funding for dementia research on track to be doubled by 2025.

The Challenge Implementation Plan, published in [March 2016](#), set out the actions partners across health and care will take to ensure commitments in the 2020 Challenge are delivered. The Implementation Plan also sets out how the Government will:

- Put the views and lived experience of people with dementia and carers at the heart of our delivery strategy by establishing a new Dementia 2020 Citizens' Engagement Programme.
- Transform the approach to risk reduction, using the NHS Health Check programme to educate more people earlier about the risks of developing dementia.
- Take steps to reduce local variation in diagnosis rates and ensure people receive meaningful care which supports them and those around them.
- Continue the focus on staff training so every person with dementia gets the safest, best care in hospital, when they receive care at home and in every care setting.

IMPROVING DEMENTIA CARE

Alongside the Implementation Plan, the Department of Health has published, together with key dementia stakeholders, a "Joint Declaration on Post-Diagnostic Dementia Care and Support". This sets out the key principles of good quality post-diagnostic care for people with dementia. The Government wants to see joined-up plans for health and care support in every area, with personalised care plans for every person with dementia.

¹ DH Fact Check 27.10.16

² HC Deb [5 May 2016](#)

The Government has invested £50 million to support capital projects in health and care settings, designed to improve the environment of care for people with dementia.³ In March 2015, a building note was issued which sets out design principles and features for a dementia friendly environment.

In August 2016, the Department of Health published the Dementia Atlas. This interactive map of England allows people to make comparisons about the quality of dementia care in their area, on issues such as prevention, diagnosis and support.

The Government's NHS mandate for 2016/17 states that the NHS must take a lead in improving the quality of care and support for people with dementia.

NHS England are working to improve the provision of post-diagnostic support, for example, by introducing a care plan template for people with dementia. It will ensure that care plans are thorough, relevant and useful to patients, carers, and clinicians across all geographies.

In May 2016, the Care Quality Commission published their strategy from 2016 to 2021. As part of this Strategy, CQC will continue to assess how well providers deliver care for specific population groups including people with dementia.

DIAGNOSIS

Improvements have been made in the diagnosis rate, from 42 per cent in 2010-11 to 67.4 per cent at the end of [September 2016](#), an increase of around 25 per cent, but there is more to do, particularly to drive out variation.⁴

HOME CARE⁵

The publication 'Dementia & Homecare: Driving Quality & Innovation' published as part of the [Prime Minister's](#) Challenge on Dementia provides clear, practical ideas and suggestions to further dementia care in the community. Driving improvements in homecare will not only help ensure people stay independent for longer but will also support our ambition for people to receive meaningful care following a diagnosis of dementia.

As part of the Implementation Plan, the Department will work with the Life Story Network to focus on older people and people with dementia who live in social housing to ensure they are supported to live in their homes for longer with a greater focus on independent living.

[NHS England](#) is fully supportive of enabling people with dementia to live at home independently for as long as they want to do so. NHS England's well-pathway for dementia includes streams on both living well and supporting well.

RESEARCH⁶

³ HC Deb [9 September 2015](#)

⁴ HC Deb [12 April 2016](#)

⁵ HC Deb [18 April 2016](#)

⁶ HC Deb [12 April 2016](#)

Understanding the causes of dementia will help us to drive the development of treatments and industry innovation. Through things such as the Dementia Discovery Fund, the Government wants to ensure that we have innovative international approaches to making the most of the opportunities that come in the search for a treatment or a disease-modifying therapy, on which we have set ambitious targets.

The [Medical Research Council](#) funds dementia research across the UK, including in Northern Ireland, and people in all parts of the UK can sign up to “Join dementia research.”

Government commitments include:

- Up to £150 million for the UK-wide Dementia Research Institute
- £300 million to invest in dementia research by 2020;
- An increase in the total funding for dementia research from the [National Institute for Health Research](#), research councils and charity partners; and more opportunities to participate in research.
- By 2018, 12 per cent of people newly diagnosed each year will be registered on “Join dementia research,” with 10 per cent participating.

The Government is funding projects that will have immediate benefits within the next 12 months, as well as things that it hopes will bring about a cure or a disease-modifying therapy. For example, it has commissioned a £20 million research initiative on living well with dementia, funded by the [NIHR](#) and the Economic and Social Research Council, which focuses on issues that really matter to people in terms of the practical, day-to-day challenges.

CARERS

Informal carers, including family, friends and neighbours, play a vital role in supporting many people with dementia. However, this can often be to the detriment of their own health & wellbeing, employment and life outside of caring.

The Government is committed to improving the support we provide to carers, building on the historic new rights provided by the Care Act 2014. The Act includes an extended right to a carers’ assessment, and for the first time, a duty on local authorities to meet carers’ eligible needs for support.

The Department of Health is currently leading the development of a new cross-Government Carers Strategy, which will be published in the coming months. This will be based on an extensive *Call for Evidence* conducted throughout 2016 to gather the views from a wide range of stakeholders, and most importantly from carers themselves.

The Government is spending more than £2 billion a year on carers’ benefits in Great Britain, supporting more than 750,000 carers. The rate of carer’s allowance has increased since 2010.⁷

The Government has also invested an additional £400 million to the NHS between 2011 and 2015 to provide carers with breaks from their caring responsibilities to sustain them in their caring role. The equivalent annual allocation of £130 million for carers’ breaks is now included in the Better Care Fund.

⁷ HC Deb [12 April 2016](#)

TRAINING

Over 660,000 of NHS staff have received dementia awareness training so that patients with dementia can be better cared for. Tier 1 training continues to be rolled out, with a view to reaching all NHS staff by the end of 2018.⁸

More than 100,000 social care staff have been trained in better supporting people with dementia.

Since [April 2015](#), newly appointed healthcare assistants and social care support workers, including those supporting people with dementia and their carers, have undergone dementia training as part of their care certificate.

DEMENTIA NURSING⁹

On 21 September 2016, a refreshed version of the 2013 Dementia Nursing Care Strategy was released.

It sets out a vision of how nurses could maximise their unique contribution to high quality, compassionate care and support for people with dementia and their carers/ families.

This strategy sets out how nurses can provide high quality compassionate care and support for people with dementia, so they can live well with dementia within all care settings, including a person's own home.

AWARENESS¹⁰

Since 2013, over 1.7 million people have signed up to become a Dementia Friend, and there are now more than 150 dementia friendly communities in England alone. The Alzheimer's Society hopes to achieve 4 million Dementia Friends by 2020.

In August 2016, actress Carey Mulligan was appointed as the first UK Global Dementia Friends Ambassador by Alzheimer's Society and Jeremy Hunt. Carey will bring both international attention to the benefits of making dementia friendly communities, and a renewed focus on the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme in England.

16th August 2016 also saw the launch of the new NHS Health Check Dementia Pilots. Public Health England is working with Alzheimer's Research UK and Alzheimer's Society to extend the dementia risk reduction component of the NHS Health Check to all 40-64-year-olds at sites in Birmingham, Bury, Manchester City and Southampton City. This will see over 250 GP practices raising awareness about dementia risk reduction among people in midlife as part of the health check for the first time.

GLOBAL WORK

⁸ Dementia Nursing Care Strategy [21 September 2016](#)

⁹ Dementia Nursing Care Strategy [21 September 2016](#)

¹⁰ Dept. of Health [16 August 2016](#)

The 2020 Challenge also sets out the Government's commitment to continue to be a world leader in tackling dementia. This includes work towards the 2013 G8 Dementia Summit commitment to find a cure or disease modifying therapy by 2025. Since then, there have been international achievements such as the establishment of the World Dementia Council and the Dementia Discovery Fund.

In September 2016, the G7 reinforced a global commitment to dementia through the Kobe Communique.