



**DementiaUK**

Helping families face dementia

# Put dementia on the agenda:

## General Election manifesto summary



## People affected by dementia are being left behind

Dementia is a huge and growing health crisis. During the first year of the new Government, **the number of people living with dementia in the UK is expected to exceed one million.**

Dementia has no cure, and living with the condition can be exhausting, overwhelming and lonely – for the person with the diagnosis, the people caring for them, and their wider family and friends.

For too long, tens of thousands of people have been left alone to cope with the devastating effects of dementia.

Health and social care services are disjointed, difficult to access and inadequate for people with dementia. The impact of this will only make the situation worse.

Without the right support, people often find their physical and mental wellbeing, relationships and finances stretched to breaking point.

### Transforming dementia care cannot wait

When people can access the right tailored and specialist support at the right time, it can be life-changing.

We need all political parties to commit to taking bold action so that the growing number of families affected by dementia can get the support they need.

## Dementia care can be fixed

This manifesto has been informed by our specialist dementia nurses and endorsed by people affected by dementia who urgently need support.

People who have been left to face a dementia diagnosis alone.

People whose dementia has rapidly progressed in hospital due to a lack of specialist knowledge about the condition.

People who have faced barrier after barrier to getting the care funding they are entitled to.

They are the experts on why we must deliver real change in the support available for people with dementia.

### The time to act is now

All political parties must put dementia at the top of the agenda for the one in two of us in the UK who will be affected by dementia in our lifetime.

This change starts with our manifesto to transform dementia care.



## What we need from the next UK Government

Dementia UK believes that the next Government must:

### 1 Fix the NHS continuing healthcare funding (CHC) process.

People affected by dementia in England face significant obstacles in accessing vital care funding. Many are missing out because of a flawed assessment process.

**The next Government must urgently review the process by:**

- recognising the unique needs of people with dementia during the assessment
- offering support to families throughout the process
- raising awareness of NHS continuing healthcare funding

### 3 Improve diagnosis rates and age-appropriate support for people with young onset dementia.

Approximately 70,800 people in the UK develop dementia under the age of 65. On average, it takes twice as long to get a diagnosis compared to older people, and many people lack age-appropriate support.

**The next Government must mandate every local health system to develop a young onset dementia pathway that:**

- provides a timely and accurate route to diagnosis
- improves the immediacy of age-appropriate support
- increases access to a coordinated care plan

### 2 Deliver expert and personalised support for people after a dementia diagnosis.

People affected by dementia often struggle to access the right support from their GPs due to low capacity, poor dementia knowledge, and disjointed health and social care services.

**To improve support in primary care, the next Government must:**

- increase access to a clinical point of contact such as a specialist dementia nurse
- increase access to comprehensive annual health and wellbeing reviews
- deliver joined up care and data-sharing between all professionals

### 4 Increase access to specialist dementia nursing in hospitals.

Many hospitals lack specialist dementia knowledge. This can cause distress and deterioration for people with dementia; unnecessarily long hospital stays; and preventable readmissions.

**To improve care outcomes, reduce the length of hospital stays and reduce costs for health and care systems, the next Government must:**

- provide guidance and ring-fenced funding to ensure that there is a specialist dementia nurse service within every acute NHS Trust

# We must act now to urgently transform dementia care

For more information and to get involved please visit [dementiauk.org/dementia-agenda](https://dementiauk.org/dementia-agenda) or scan the QR code.



Please contact Dementia UK for more information at [campaigns@dementiauk.org](mailto:campaigns@dementiauk.org)

We are Dementia UK – the specialist dementia nursing charity that is there for the whole family. Our nurses, known as Admiral Nurses, provide free, specialist advice, support and understanding to anyone affected by dementia, whenever it is needed. We are here to make sure no one faces dementia alone.



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Dementia UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1039404) and Scotland (SC 047429).  
Company number: 02944156.

Published May 2024

