

Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading dementia charity, working across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We campaign for change, fund research to find treatments and a cure, and support people living with dementia through a variety of local and national services.

To find services near you: [Find support near you | Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/find-support-near-you)

About dementia

Dementia is currently the biggest killer in the UK. One in three people born in the UK will develop dementia in their lifetime, and its impact on individuals, their families, and the health and care system is devastating.

Four key points to know about dementia:

1. Dementia is not a natural part of ageing. It is a progressive, long-term health condition that affects the brain. Memory problems are one of a number of symptoms that people with dementia may experience. Others include difficulties with planning, thinking things through, struggling to keep up with a conversation, and sometimes changes in mood or behaviour.
2. Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain. Dementia is an umbrella term for diseases that affect the brain, and no two types of dementia are the same. Over 120 different types of dementia diseases have currently been identified. Alzheimer's disease accounts for almost 50% of diagnosis. Everyone experiences dementia in their own way. A person's attitude to their diagnosis and their physical health can have a huge impact, as well as the treatment they receive, the support from friends and family, and their surroundings.
3. Dementia is not just about losing your memory. Dementia can also affect the way people think, speak, perceive things, feel and behave. Symptoms of dementia gradually get worse over time. How quickly this happens varies from person to person, with some people staying independent for years.
4. People can live well with dementia. Until we are able to find a cure, support and treatments are available to help with symptoms and managing daily life, including cognitive stimulation and keeping active. As dementia is progressive, it is important that people receive an early diagnosis to ensure they receive the right support from local health and social care agencies.

Our Dementia Friends training programme and interactive information sessions are a great way to learn more about dementia: [Dementia Friends | Alzheimer's Society \(dementiafriends.org.uk\)](https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)

Supporting residents living with dementia

A timely diagnosis of dementia and good post diagnostic support services are vital to ensure people can live well with dementia, and to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.

To prioritise dementia, this is what we want to see:

- Each local authority area should be covered by a dedicated dementia strategy and action plan which amplifies the voices of people living with dementia.
 - Dementia diagnosis rates in each local authority area to return to pre-pandemic levels with a view of ensuring that, at a minimum, those rates remain above the national target of 66.7 percent.
 - Local authorities working with their local integrated care system to provide a dementia support worker for every primary care network to help people living with dementia access the services they need.
 - That local authorities are resolving to take action to improve services and post-diagnostic support so that they meet the current, and future needs, of their local population.
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How we can help you

The Local Systems Influencing Team at Alzheimer's Society can help you in a variety of ways:

- We have worked with councils and integrated care systems across the country to input into the development of dementia strategies and action plans. We provide resources, expert advice, and local intelligence to ensure that service provision meets the needs of people living with dementia.
- We can provide resources to support councillors conduct scrutiny reviews or submit motions on dementia.
- We can provide you with policy reports, briefings and information on dementia and are happy to provide recommendations tailored to your local authority area.
- We can put you in touch with people living with dementia in your area and help facilitate the involvement of these experts by experience in co-production and co-design through our Dementia Voice network.

To get local dementia statistics for your local authority area go to our local dementia statistics webpage: [Local dementia statistics | Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](https://alzheimers.org.uk/local-dementia-statistics)

Councillor Network

To find out more about how you can support your residents living with dementia, join our Councillor Network.

The Councillor Network provides access to bespoke webinars and newsletters which will keep you up to date with the latest policy developments, actions you can take, and support we can offer.

[Join Alzheimer's Society's Councillor Network | Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](https://alzheimers.org.uk/councillor-network)