
[Lords debate on the report from the Adult Social Care Committee, A "gloriously ordinary life": spotlight on adult social care - Monday 16 October 2023](#)

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This briefing includes:

1. Suggested interventions
2. Background
3. Alzheimer's Society submission to the Adult Social Care Committee report
4. APPG on Dementia [Workforce Matters](#) Report

1. Suggested interventions

- *My Lords, the Adult Social Care Committee's report rightly highlights the importance of co-production in social care policy and practice. However, **over 50% of respondents to an Alzheimer's Society survey conducted for the Committee's inquiry disagreed that people who draw on care and support have shaped the current design and delivery of social care.** How is the Government ensuring that people who draw on care, including those affected by dementia, are involved in ongoing social care reform?*
- *My Lords, research commissioned by Alzheimer's Society found that **unpaid carers of people with dementia provide care to a value of £14.6bn a year across the UK, which is projected to increase to £35.7bn by 2040**¹. The Adult Social Care Committee's report rightly highlights that unpaid carers need better recognition of the value of their contributions and better support for them to keep caring. Can the Minister advise what progress has been made in delivering the £25 million allocated in the Adult Social Care White Paper to support unpaid carers?*
- *My Lords, the core recommendation from the APPG on Dementia's Workforce Matters report is for the **Government to bring forward a long-term 'People Plan' for the social care workforce, developed alongside people who draw on care.** Can the Minister advise what assessment his department has made of developing such a long-term social care workforce strategy?*

2. Background

There are an estimated **900,000 people living with dementia in the UK - a number that's set to rise to 1.6m by 2040**.² With no current cure for dementia, **quality social care is a lifeline to people with dementia and their families**, with many people drawing on care to manage their symptoms. It has been estimated that **70% of care home residents and over 60% of home care recipients in England are people with dementia**.³

At present, the social care system is not set up properly to deliver care that meets the needs of people living with dementia. Decades of underfunding and neglect by

¹ Wittenberg et al (2019) Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom 2019-2040, Alzheimer's Society: London. <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/dementia-scale-impact-numbers>

² Wittenberg, Raphael et al. Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom, 2019-2040. 2019. Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science. https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/cpec_report_november_2019.pdf.

³ Alzheimer's Society. Dementia UK: Update. 2014. https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/migrate/downloads/dementia_uk_update.pdf.

successive governments has resulted in care that is costly, difficult to access, and too often not personalised to meet people's needs. **Too often unpaid carers lack the support they need.**

We need to see **clear action on a sustainable funding model for quality personalised care, which pools the risk of care costs; improved support for unpaid carers through annual carers assessments and dementia-specific breaks; and a long-term social care workforce strategy** that can deliver a well-trained workforce with the knowledge and understanding of dementia.

3. Alzheimer's Society evidence to the Adult Social Care Committee report

Alzheimer's Society [submitted written evidence](#) to the Adult Social Care Committee, to help inform their [A "gloriously ordinary life": spotlight on adult social care](#) report.

This included a survey, conducted by Alzheimer's Society, of the views of 173 people affected by dementia. Key findings include:

- Over 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the visibility of people with dementia and their carers within social care can be increased;
- 90% of respondents survey disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that the identification and support of unpaid family carers is sufficient;
- Over 80% of respondents said that their wellbeing and resilience had been negatively affected whilst being an unpaid carer;
- Over 50% of respondents disagreed with the statement that the people who draw on care and support have shaped the current design and delivery of care.

4. Workforce Matters Report

In January 2022, the [APPG on Dementia](#) launched its inquiry into how the social care workforce can enable people living with dementia to live the lives they want to. Throughout the inquiry, the Group heard that **people living with dementia want a workforce with knowledge and understanding of their specialist needs, who can provide care that sees the whole person and focuses on what matters to them.**

The [Workforce Matters](#) report's core recommendation is for the Government to develop and publish a People Plan for social care that focuses on meeting the needs of people living with dementia and delivering personalised care.

Further report recommendations include:

- Introducing a minimum mandatory level of training in dementia for all care staff to Tier 2 of the Dementia Training Standards Framework.
- Introducing clear standards for evidence-based training for the care workforce, including giving providers the information they need to identify training programmes with a sufficient evidence base in improving quality of care and outcomes.