

## **Why must Government Make Dementia a Priority?**

- Almost 1 million people are currently living with dementia in the UK, and we expect this to rise to 1.4 million by 2040, due to our ageing population.
- **Dementia costs the UK economy £42bn per year**, rising to more than £90bn by 2040.
- 1 in 3 people born today will develop dementia in their lifetime.
- **Dementia is the leading cause of death in the UK**, according to figures from the ONS.

## **Diagnosis**

What's the situation?:

- More than **1 in 3 people living with dementia in England are undiagnosed**, below even the frankly unambitious target of 66.7%.
- There is significant regional variation in diagnosis rates. **In England, diagnosis rates vary across upper-tier local authority areas by more than 40%.**
- Awareness of dementia is not reflective of the scale of prevalence, with polling suggesting that only 60% of UK adults realise that dementia is a cause of death.

We want to see:

- Adoption of a **new, more ambitious dementia diagnosis rate target** by Ministers.
- **Reduction in barriers to diagnosis** through commitment from Government to better training for healthcare professionals, and funding for public awareness campaigns.
- Increasing quality and quantity of **dementia diagnosis data** collection and publication.

## **Social Care**

What's the situation?:

- **70% of residents of older age care homes in England have dementia**, and 60% of those receiving care in their own homes.
- **Someone with dementia spends an average of £100,000 on their care** over their lifetime.
- **Only 45% care staff are currently recorded as having any level of training in dementia.**

We want to see:

- A **long-term social care workforce strategy**, with social care staff required to undertake dementia training mapped to the Dementia Training Standards Framework or equivalent.
- A **sustainable funding model for quality personalised care**, which **pools the risk of care costs** and is centred on achieving **affordable care for everyone living with dementia.**

## **New Treatments for Dementia**

What's the situation?:

- **Recent research breakthroughs mean there are now drugs for the first time that can slow the progression of early-stage Alzheimer's disease.** Three such drugs are currently being assessed by regulators.
- Tens of thousands of people in the UK could potentially benefit from these new drugs if approved, **however the healthcare system is not yet ready to deliver these treatments** due to lack of early diagnosis and specialist diagnostics.

We want to see:

- A **satisfactory plan published by NHS England and the Department for Health and Social Care** to get the system ready to deliver new treatments for dementia.
- **We are not campaigning for the clinical approval of any specific new drug**, rather for preparing the system as a whole for the drugs of the future.