

# Health Secretary announces 10-year Plan for dementia

- Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid announces plans to work across government to boost the £375 million already committed for research into neurodegenerative diseases
- Actions will reduce the up to 40% of dementia considered to be potentially preventable and explore how new technology, science and medicine can help reduce the numbers and severity of dementia.
- Record NHS funding to reduce the Covid backlog will help ensure more timely dementia diagnosis.

A new 10-Year Plan to tackle dementia will be published later this year, Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid confirmed today (Tuesday 17 May 2022).

Speaking at Alzheimer's Society Conference 2022 the Health and Social Care Secretary confirmed the 10-Year Plan will focus on how new medicines and emerging science and technology can be harnessed to improve outcomes for dementia patients across the country.

Record NHS funding will help reduce the Covid backlog of dementia diagnoses, with 30,000 people facing delays during the pandemic. This will ensure timely support for the more than 900,000 believed to be living with dementia in the UK.

The plan will also focus on supporting people with their specific health and care needs while living with dementia.

The prediction is one million people will be living with dementia by 2025 and 1.6 million by 2040.

Work was started by the UK government to tackle the global dementia challenge at the first G8 dementia summit in 2013, and the Challenge on Dementia 2020 was another milestone which saw one million care workers and one million NHS workers receiving dementia awareness training.

The government has already committed £375 million into research on neurodegenerative diseases over the next five years and the Health and Social Care Secretary has committed to working across government to boost this further.

The government is already working with those who best understand dementia, including Alzheimer's Society, ahead of setting out plans for tackling dementia.

Up to 40% of dementia is considered potentially preventable and what is good for the heart is also good for the brain, which is why the strategy will also include actions to tackle high blood pressure, physical inactivity, alcohol, obesity and to promote healthy eating.

The government has already announced other measures which will help those with dementia, including:

- The government's social care charging reforms with more generous means testing and a lifetime cap on care costs.
- The integration white paper to better link health and social care systems.
- The Health and Care Act which will put the person at the centre of care with local systems designed to deliver seamless care and support people in retaining their independence, health and wellbeing.
- Levelling up healthcare and reducing disparities across the country so everyone has the chance to live longer and healthier lives wherever they come from and regardless of their background.
- The full speech is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

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events since March 2020 and you can sign up [here](#) to receive our regular events newsletter.

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## [Rod licence income benefits fisheries in Wessex](#)

The Environment Agency's Fisheries Improvement Programme (known as FIP) has seen nearly £27,000 of rod licence income invested in projects in Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire over the last 12 months.

The projects were delivered in collaboration with many different partners, including local angling clubs, rivers trusts and landowners.

Kitty O'Shea, for the Environment Agency, said:

Anglers often ask us about how we spend the money raised from the sale of fishing licences. The Fisheries Improvement Programme is a prime example of the wide range of activities this income pays for in order to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries.

All of the projects we fund must demonstrate benefits for anglers. The Fisheries Improvement Programme allows us to identify and invest in work supporting a local, sustainable future for angling.

The programme is also a great demonstration of our partnership efforts, with many of the projects completed with the support of landowners, local businesses and fisheries clubs – it's a real team effort! The more people who go fishing, the more we can invest.

Local FIP projects across Wessex in 2021/22 included:

### **The Weir Warden Project**

This is the 5th year of a joint project between the Frome, Piddle & West Dorset Fisheries Association and Westcountry Rivers Trust, funded by FIP. The partnership has set up the Frome, Piddle & West Dorset Barrier Group, which focusses on addressing barriers to fish migration on the rivers Frome, Piddle (its tributaries) and the West Dorset Streams. Two Weir Wardens, administered by the Westcountry Rivers Trust, focus on managing third party structures with owners to ensure they are blockage free and do not pose a threat to fish during optimum migration periods.

## **Lavington Lakes, Great Cheverell, near Devizes, Wiltshire**

Improved access facilities have been made possible through the Fisheries Improvement Programme at this fishery, home of Lavington Angling Club. Better drainage and footpaths for anglers during winter months allows better access to swims. Overgrown vegetation has been cleared from the lakes, returning them to prime condition.

## **Damerham Wild Trout Project on the River Allen, Hampshire**

Funds from the Environment Agency's Fisheries Improvements Programme have enabled the Wild Trout Trust to enhance the biodiversity of a one mile stretch of the river Allen. They have installed brush mattresses and pinned in logs in different positions to create good habitats for insect life and small mammals and as well as cover for fish fry and holding pools for trout.

## **River Yeo, Near Yeovilton, Somerset**

Following issues with fish numbers, the Westcountry Rivers Trust, in partnership with the Ilchester & District Angling Association (IDAA) and the Environment Agency, investigated the habitats and barriers to migration in the River Yeo. A programme of work was identified to improve fish populations as well as improve the river's ecosystem overall. Work was carried out to allow light on to spawning gravels and provide additional habitats within the river.

## **Lower Wood Ponds, near Peasedown St. John, near Bath**

Bath Spartans have installed new lily beds, 6 semi-permanent floating islands and created new marginal weed beds to improve the habitat and provide refuge areas for fish. They have also improved access to 8 fishing pegs.

## **Teffont fly fishing club on the River Nadder between Chicks Grove and Dinton, Wiltshire**

Funded by FIP, Teffont Fly Fishing Club, in partnership with the Wild Trout Trust, have improved spawning habitat and flow diversity by installing habitat features such as large woody debris, flow deflectors and berms. This will create faster flowing riffle areas for spawning and juvenile habitat and also create areas of refuge for larger fish.

## **Fishponds Lido, Bristol**

Due to the steep banks and steps at Fishponds Lido, access was difficult for those that are less able bodied. FIP funding has enabled the Alcove Angling Association to construct a new sloped access point from the car park area to the existing path around the lake, stabilise the path and install a hand rail to improve access for all.

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## Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid speech at Alzheimer's Society 2022 conference.

Thank you Gina – not just for your warm introduction, but for everything you do, raising awareness and supporting other people living with dementia. Thank you very much.

And I'm also grateful to the Alzheimer's Society for bringing us all together this afternoon.

I can't begin to reflect on what the future holds without acknowledging the challenges of the past two years. Whether it's the people living with dementia, or those around them who love and care for them, I know dementia is difficult at the best of times. The pandemic made it doubly difficult.

Dementia made some of the steps we needed to take to combat the pandemic a lot harder: like extra handwashing, or socially distancing. Or families and carers, who had very little respite.

But I know it's the emotional side that's proved toughest over time. It runs deeper than the smiles and hugs we all missed.

Many of you have tirelessly smashed the taboos around dementia – like the idea dementia is a hidden disease. Lots of you – people like Gina – are proof that people with dementia shouldn't be hidden away from society.

But sadly, the pandemic saw us all spend more time behind closed doors, physically separated from society and the people that we love.

So I want to say a huge thank you to all of you, for your tremendous courage and resilience in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

When I accepted this role nearly a year ago, I made it my priority to safely remove so many of the restrictions around Covid. Burdens that kept us apart through these difficult times. We're now leading the world in learning to live with Covid, and I'm proud of how far we've come.

Yet even with these brighter days ahead, I know it will take some time for us to recover from this collective trauma. And, of course, the challenges of conditions like dementia haven't gone away.

Over 900,000 people in the UK are believed to be living with dementia. In 2020, it was the leading cause of death (in England and Wales) after Covid-19.

Yet even when we're faced with such stark statistics, it's important to

remember how we got here.

Economic growth, medical breakthroughs and vastly improved health and care services have seen life expectancy increase by more than a decade in our lifetimes. It's one of the great triumphs of the 20th Century. We're all living longer.

If we're to get the 21st Century right, we need those extra years to be spent in good health.

And sadly that's not the case for too many people. By 2025, 1 million people in the UK are expected to have dementia, and is expected to rise to 1.6 million by 2040.

There has been some great progress in recent years.

David Cameron used the rotating chairmanship of the G8 to convene the world's first G8 dementia summit – which took the dementia challenge onto the global stage. And that passion for global action against dementia has continued in his current role as President of Alzheimer's Research UK.

And I do want to pay tribute to David, because I remember very well when I was in his Cabinet: he dedicated an entire cabinet session to dementia and invited Alzheimer's UK to speak to us. They enrolled us all as 'dementia friends', and even all these years later now I'm Health and Social Care Secretary, I still reflect on what I learned back then.

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 was another landmark piece of work, which saw a million care workers and a million NHS workers receive dementia awareness training. Over the 5 years of the strategy, the government invested some £420 million on dementia research.

But the pandemic has stemmed the tide of progress. Despite the best efforts of the NHS, it became harder for some people to get a timely diagnosis, because the pandemic made it more difficult to access memory assessment services. I know the Alzheimer's Society has estimated over 30,000 people didn't receive a diagnosis because of the pandemic.

Equally, we know from your brilliant research that tens of thousands of people are still missing out on a dementia diagnosis each year because they confuse key symptoms with getting old. As you say: "It's not called getting old, it's called getting ill".

So, while these broader demographic trends, combined with the rising prevalence of dementia, were always going to take us to a crossroads – a moment where we'd have to rethink how we do health and care in this country – the pandemic has brought us to these crossroads a lot more quickly. In fact, we're there right now.

I think one of the reasons why we haven't made as much progress on dementia as we would like is because it's going to take some pretty seismic shifts, both in terms of the architecture of health and care and our own approach.

That's hard to do. Reform takes time. And you need to take people with you. But it's a journey we've already begun – and it's a challenge this government is unafraid to take on.

Our plans for Adult Social Care will help improve experiences for people with dementia and their families: with a far more generous means-testing, a cap on life-time costs to increase support and development for our phenomenal workforce.

The new Health and Care Act – which received Royal Assent just a couple of weeks ago – puts Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships at the heart of our system. Joint working and joint budgets will be directed towards caring for people and keeping them well in the first place.

You may also know that we asked Claire Fuller – a GP and Chief Executive of Surrey Heartlands – to conduct a stocktake of how primary care works within the new system. Now this is important, because we know that primary care is where the bulk of prevention can happen – and GPs play a crucial role in referring people with early signs of dementia. So I'm looking forward to hearing Dr Fuller's views.

We know that joined up care is better for people with dementia and their families. Implementing the proposals in our Integration White Paper will be another important part of what we need to do. The White Paper looks at everything from better data-sharing to multidisciplinary working across health and care, with the ambition of improving the experiences of those who use our vital services.

All of this taken together means our future work on dementia is going to take place in a very different health and care context – one which is much more preventive, professional, and joined up.

Not only that, but the combination of the demographic shifts we all know are coming, the setbacks of Covid-19, and the incredible opportunities afforded to us by pioneering research and new technology, mean we now need to do something dramatically different. We have no other choice but to step up and rise to this moment.

So that's been the spirit behind our new dementia strategy, which we began developing last summer. I'm grateful to everyone who's played a part and continues to play a part in bringing it to life, including the Alzheimer's Society. That work is still ongoing, but today I want to tell you a bit more about what it will look like.

In short, I want it to be more ambitious than anything we've done before. To begin with: I want our Dementia Strategy to be a 10-year plan, not just 5. Because we can only get to grips with long-term challenges by thinking long-term.

I'd like us to be as bold as we've been with our 10-year plan for cancer. It will be driven by the same four themes behind our reforms in health and care – what I call the 'four P's': prevention, personalisation, performance and

people.

Let's look at prevention for a moment.

It's estimated that as much as 40 percent of dementia is potentially preventable. 40 percent.

We now know that what's good for the heart is also good for the brain. Action on high blood pressure, physical inactivity, alcohol, obesity and healthy eating all have a part to play.

So we're going to be very ambitious on prevention, because I don't accept that dementia is an inevitable part of ageing. It isn't.

We're going to be equally ambitious on research.

We've already committed £375 million into research on neurodegenerative diseases over the next five years – and I'll work across government to boost this further.

It means measuring ourselves against the leading countries globally and being unafraid to find new ways of working. It means being bold about finding new medicines and new treatments. It means being ambitious on new technology, like genomic sequencing and digital biomarkers. And it means continuing to smash taboos – just as you do so brilliantly, every single day.

So I'm really excited about this – and I'm excited to work with all of you get it right. Because it's no exaggeration to say that our future depends on it.

We're at the crossroads. All of us here today, we understand the challenges that lie ahead. When it comes to dementia, we know there have never been any quick fixes. We know there aren't any easy wins.

But we also know that when a visionary plan comes together, with powerful partners and proper funding – and we couple it with care and compassion – that combination can be unbeatable.

That's going to be the mission – and I'm grateful to have partners like you to share it with. Thank you.

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## **Diplomats for Equality IDAHOBIT 2022** **Joint Statement – May 17, 2022**

We – The Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and the diplomatic missions of Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland,

France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, as well as the Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna – all welcome May 17 as the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), as a celebration of diversity and inclusion around the world.

We fully endorse the IDAHOBIT 2022 theme “Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights”. As such, we pledge our support for the rights of people to freely express their sexual orientation and gender identities and to make their own choices concerning their bodies, without harassment, violence, discrimination or reprisal. Consequently, we support efforts aimed at decriminalising same sex relations and persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic crisis have exacerbated the vulnerable situation of LGBTIQ+ persons, particularly issues related to mental health, and have exposed existing gaps of equality, including bias and social stigma, discrimination, economic impact and the risk of violence.

LGBTIQ+ persons are disproportionately impacted by violence and discrimination during armed conflicts. We strongly condemn the war of aggression, in violation of international law and OSCE commitments. We are gravely concerned by the particular and severe impact on persons in vulnerable situations, including LGBTIQ+ persons, as documented by reports of the OSCE and the United Nations.

In many countries, LGBTIQ+ persons continue to suffer from violence, discrimination and bullying, often with deadly consequences. In 71 jurisdictions, consensual same sex relations are still criminalised. We remain alarmed at these severely inhumane measures. It is our belief that nobody should face violence and discrimination because of who they are or whom they love. We all benefit from living in more tolerant and inclusive societies.

Similarly, we remain fully committed to promoting and protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, who must be accorded the same dignity, respect, and rights as all other persons. We recognize the value of diversity and empowering those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. We will continue to work through our Embassies and through International Organisations, including, where relevant, the UN, Council of Europe, European Institutions, the OSCE, the Organization of American States (OAS), Mercosur (Reunion de Altas Autoridades sobre Derechos Humanos) and the Commonwealth, to promote tolerance and non-discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons and to address discriminatory laws, including those that criminalise homosexuality.

We also wish to pay homage to the courageous advocacy efforts carried out by human rights defenders, activists, journalists, media workers and civil society organisations to raise awareness about the issues affecting LGBTIQ+

persons and human rights violations they may face.

Finally, we will continue to shed light on these and other injustices and will continue advocating for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. We hope that you will join our efforts, on the occasion of IDAHOBIT 2022 and throughout the year, to make Vienna's diplomatic community a more inclusive community for all. We must stand united in celebrating diversity and the resilience of the LGBTIQ+ community and in defending human rights, inclusiveness and justice.