

Cure the Care System



Dementia Action Week
Supported by  Santander



We can't cure dementia yet. But the government can cure the care system.

- This Dementia Action Week (17–23 May) Alzheimer's Society needs your help to urge the government to cure the care system.
- Right now, the broken social care system means that in the UK, **nearly 1 million people with dementia and their families** are struggling to get the support and care that they need and deserve.
- Decades of underfunding and neglect have led to a care system that's difficult to access, costly, inadequate and deeply unfair. The coronavirus pandemic has exposed these problems like never before.
- You can get involved and support the campaign by signing the petition to reform social care. **Search: Cure the Care System**

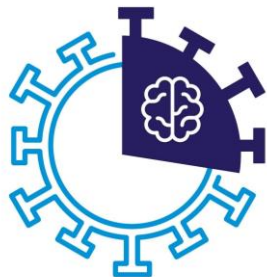
Dad's dementia is killing me



Dementia Action Week
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Coronavirus: why something needs to change. Now.

- Despite the incredible efforts of care home staff, social care was ignored during the first part of the crisis with devastating consequences. People with dementia have been worst hit by the pandemic, accounting for a quarter of all coronavirus deaths in the UK.
- For people who survived the crisis, the effects of social isolation were severe. 46 % of people with dementia in our survey reported that lockdown had a negative impact on their mental health - and symptoms deteriorated.
- The crisis hit family carers and professional carers hard. In the first lockdown 92million extra hours were spent caring for loved ones.
- **Alzheimer's Society's Worst Hit Report** paints a full picture of the impact coronavirus has had on the army of unpaid carers.



27.5%

Of people who died with
COVID-19 from March to
June had dementia



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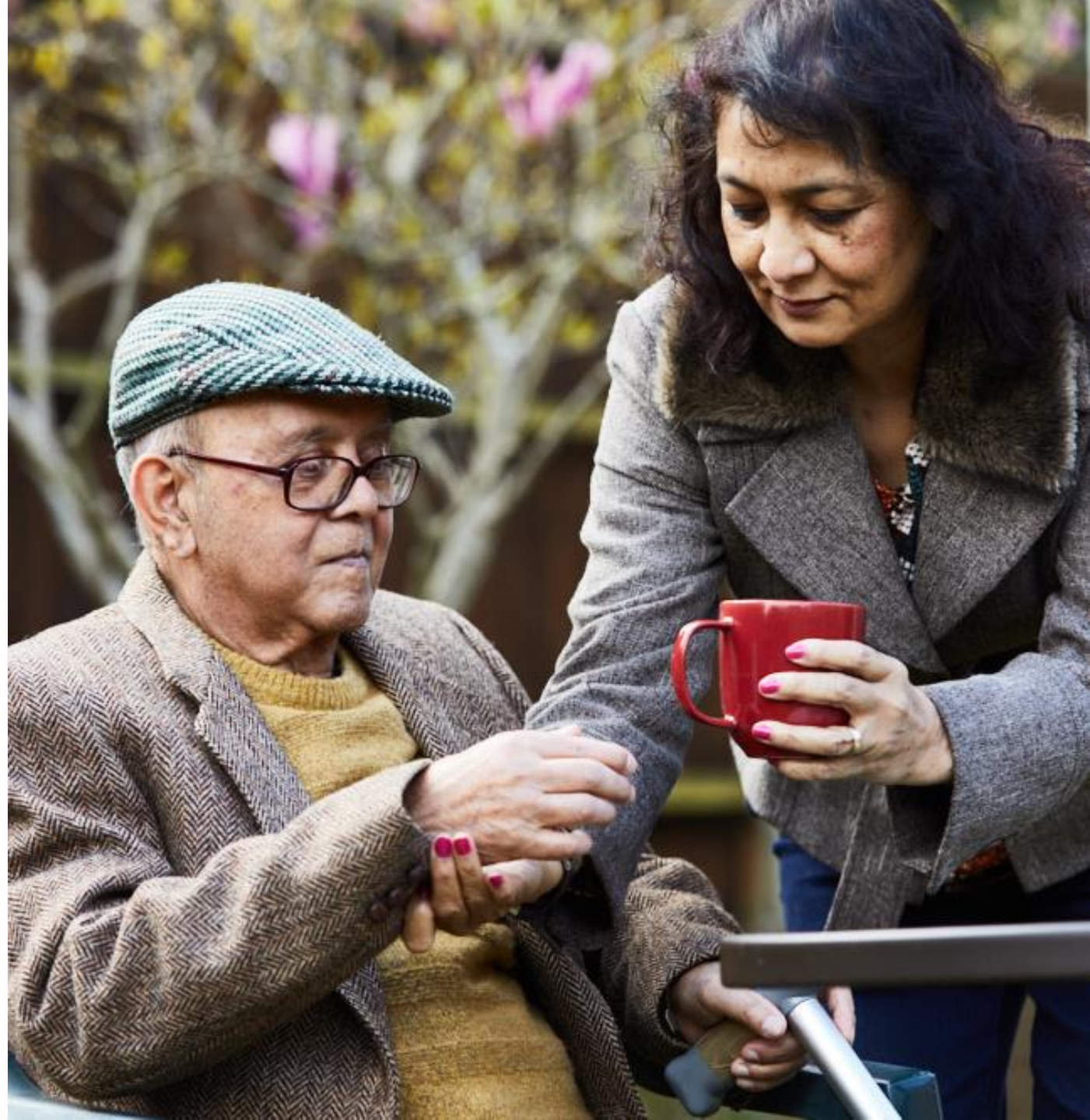
What is social care?

- In the UK, people can draw on our social care system for practical support they may need because of illness or disability. It helps many of us to stay independent, complete daily activities, and stay connected to our community.
- Many people affected by dementia access the social care system to help them manage the symptoms of dementia as it progresses. In the UK, over 60% of people who receive homecare, and 70% in care homes are people living with dementia.
- Social Care works differently in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, each national Government is responsible for the overall funding of the social care system, setting delivery standards and giving local government the tools and resources for effective implementation of services to meet people's needs.



The dementia care crisis.

- Many families experience stress and anguish fighting for the care they need. Even when care is accessed, there is no guarantee that it will be of good quality.
- With no cure for dementia, it's social care, not the NHS, that people affected by dementia rely on to support them as their condition progresses.
- People with dementia represent the majority of social care users, so it is vital that the care system is made fit for purpose.
- One in three of us born in the UK today will go on to develop dementia in our lifetime - there will be one million people living with dementia by 2025.



A dementia diagnosis claims more than one life

- Feelings of confusion, desperation and isolation don't just affect people with dementia, they're symptoms the people closest to them experience too.
- Until the care system is reformed, a dementia diagnosis will continue to claim more than one life, as the families facing dementia feel its destructive effects.
- It doesn't have to be this way. With the right care and support people affected by dementia can live a good quality of life, doing what matters most to them for as long as possible.



95%

of carers of people living with dementia reported a negative impact on their mental or physical health.

**My
wife has
dementia
I'm
forgetting
who I am**



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Cure the care system

Dementia Action Week Film



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The right care can make a huge difference.

- We know that the right care and support services can make a huge difference for people with dementia and their families. Supporting people to best manage their lives with dementia how they want to and enabling families to spend more time in their most important roles – that of husbands, wives, sons and daughters.
- Alzheimer's Society, the UK's leading dementia charity, is calling on the governments of England, Wales and Northern Ireland to cure the care system now. **To provide quality social care, that's free and easy to access, no matter where you live – like the NHS.**
- Because while dementia isn't curable yet, the care system is.



What is Alzheimer's Society calling on the government to do?

- We ask the governments of England, Wales and Northern Ireland to commit to:
 - Publication of a clear, budgeted, plan with milestones, with reform underway this year
 - Ensuring their reforms consider not just funding, but also improving the quality of care that people receive.
- In his first speech as Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said, 'we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all.' Alzheimer's Society is simply asking the Government to keep its promise.
- Making the legacy of this pandemic the long-awaited Government plan to rebuild a social care system we want to grow old in – now and for future generations.



Ready to make a difference? Sign the petition to reform social care.

- This Dementia Action Week, Alzheimer's Society is asking you to help cure the care system by urging government to reform social care now.
- **To sign the petition, search: Cure the Care System**
- 34.5 million of us know someone living with dementia in the UK. Together we can bring about change.

#CuretheCareSystem



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Sign our petition to **#CureTheCareSystem**

37,003

37,003 have signed, help us reach 100,000!



TAKE ACTION NOW

Nearly a million UK families are struggling to care for their loved ones with the dignity and support they deserve. Decades of underfunding have led to a social care system that's difficult to access, costly, inadequate and unfair.

While dementia isn't curable yet, the care system is.

Read letter to the Prime Minister

Read letter to the First Minister of Wales

Read letter to the Joint First Ministers of Northern Ireland

Behind every signature there is a story.

Share yours, so we can deliver it to government along side the petition.

**I started losing
Mum
Now my family
are losing
me**



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If you or someone you know is worried about or affected by dementia, Alzheimer's Society is here for you.

**Visit alzheimers.org.uk/get-support
or call our Dementia Connect support line on **0333 150 3456****

**It's open seven days a week and can help you with advice
and emotional support.**

About Alzheimer's Society.

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading dementia charity. We campaign for change, fund research, and support people living with dementia today.

Every year, Alzheimer's Society leads Dementia Action Week. A national event that sees the public coming together to improve the lives of people affected by dementia.

Follow us on



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