

# Tackling the Dementia Challenge

## **How can we support and treat people with dementia in an acceptable way that's affordable?**

Our top academic experts have taken up the Prime Minister's personal 'Challenge' to tackle future dementia care. Our ground-breaking, unique 4-year study will predict needs, supports and costs to help plan good, affordable dementia care up to 2040.

## **Why our research matters**

Dementia has enormous impacts on the health and quality of life of people with the illness, on their families and on other people who care for them. Many people with dementia have multiple needs, and they receive a lot of support from family and other unpaid carers, as well as treatment and care from health and social care services. Many eventually move into care homes.

The costs of supporting people with dementia can therefore be very high. As the UK population continues to age, the number of people with dementia will grow considerably over the coming decades. Continuing with today's treatment, care and support arrangements is widely seen as unsustainable and unaffordable. A major challenge is how to provide high-quality treatment and support to these individuals at a cost seen as affordable.



# Understand the issues

## ● **What's it like to have dementia?**

We are talking to 300 people and their carers who live with dementia, charting their lives over a whole year.

## ● **Who can be expected to develop dementia in the next 25 years?**

We will explore characteristics of the individuals involved, their families and their likely needs.

## ● **Can it be prevented or delayed?**

We are reviewing evidence on medications, cognitive stimulation and other therapies, exercise, nutrition, telecare, community initiatives, respite and training for carers. We want to know what slows deterioration and the impact on well-being and costs.

## ● **What works best if someone has dementia?**

We are looking at existing research to build a picture of the most effective and efficient care, support and treatments for individuals and their carers to improve quality of life and wellbeing. We will explore potentially better approaches, using new forms of care and treatment.

## ● **What are the costs?**

We are calculating the costs of everything so that people who provide resources – government, insurers, individuals, families and friends – can understand the potential trade-offs, funding implications and affordability.

## ● **What's the big picture up to 2040 in England?**

Gathering all this data will help us predict how many people will have dementia, what unpaid support they might reasonably expect and the estimated costs of care services over the next 25 years.

# Test-drive solutions

## Options for the Government

We will simulate what to expect if, nationally, people receive the right care at the right time. Our model will include economic implications. We will explore particularly whether good planning could mean improved health and wellbeing at lower cost.

## Helping planners

We will develop a web-based model so planners can project future costs under different assumptions about population needs, services and treatments. It should help commissioners, providers, charities, individuals and families to use all the knowledge we have gathered to plan for their particular circumstances and to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers.



## What will the project deliver?

**Policy options** Our report will outline findings and possible next steps for government and other responsible agencies.

**Guide for the public** We will publish a guide for the public, connecting our findings to the everyday life and challenges of people with dementia, families and carers.

**Support for experts** We will hold a major event at the end of the project to present findings to central and local government, voluntary organisations, people with dementia, carers and academics. Earlier, we will present interim findings and discuss options for modelling with key stakeholders.

# Who we are

Our team of researchers is led by the London School of Economics and Political Science, in partnership with Newcastle University, the Universities of Southampton and Sussex and the International Longevity Centre UK.

We draw on methods and expertise from epidemiology, psychology, sociology, medicine, economics, social policy and statistics. We will be working and talking with people who use services as well as with carers, service providers and commissioners, front-line practitioners, third sector bodies and other stakeholders. We will share our findings using web-based tools, as well as through academic and lay-readership outputs.

The project builds on and combines the experience and expertise of research team members in micro- and macro-simulation modelling (specifically relating to ageing and dementia), social gerontology (particularly social participation), health and social care economics (particularly relating to older people and dementia), clinical evaluations, qualitative methods (including with older people), and knowledge exchange (in long-term care and other areas).

The project will deliver findings of relevance to policy and practice discussions, and will generate important insights to the academic community.

## **Find out at [www.modem-dementia.org.uk](http://www.modem-dementia.org.uk)**

Our project, 'MODEM: Comprehensive approach to modelling outcome and cost impacts of interventions for dementia', is led by Professor Martin Knapp, Director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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# MODEM

modelling outcome and cost impacts  
of interventions for dementia