



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Care*

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Your Ref: ML.PS.C0044.ID.17.12.18

PO-1160392

08 JAN 2019

Caroline Lucas MP

By email to: caroline.lucas.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 December to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about the Alzheimer's Society's Fix Dementia Care campaign.

As your constituents are aware, the campaign seeks to highlight areas in the health and care system where there is still room for improvement in the care of people with dementia.

Improving care and support for people with dementia is a priority for this Government. In March, the Government announced that it will provide an extra £40million to invest in a new hub for the UK Dementia Research Institute through the Medical Research Council as part of its Ageing Society Grand Challenge. This will fund a new building in partnership with University College London, which will host 350 leading scientists, researching vital new treatments that will improve the lives of millions of people.

We have made significant progress to make our care homes and hospitals safer places for people with dementia to ensure that they get the care they need. The Department invested £50million over 2013/14 in creating dementia-friendly environments in care homes and hospitals. By 2020, we want to see all hospitals and care homes meeting agreed criteria to becoming dementia-friendly health and care settings.

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 sets the expectation that social care providers deliver appropriate training on dementia to all relevant staff to improve the care of people with the condition. Since April 2015, newly appointed healthcare assistants and social care support workers, including those who will provide care and support to people with dementia in care homes, have been undergoing training as part of the

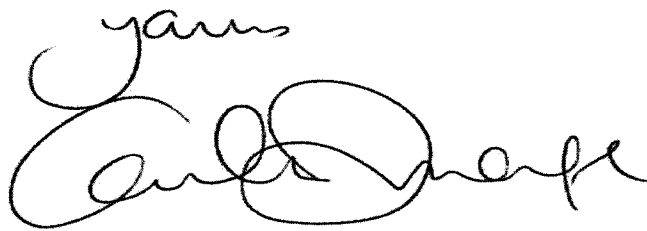
national implementation of the Care Certificate. The Care Certificate equips new staff with the knowledge and skills they need to provide safe, compassionate care across a range of areas, including the care of people with dementia.

The Dementia Core Skills and Knowledge Framework, which was commissioned by the Department and developed in collaboration by Health Education England, Skills for Care and Skills for Health, provides a comprehensive resource that sets out the essential skills and knowledge needed for all staff working with people with dementia in health and social care settings.

Skills for Care has also developed a suite of standards and qualifications to help workers develop the skills and knowledge they need to support people who use services, including specialist pathways in dementia.

Your constituents refer to the forthcoming Green Paper on Adult Social Care, which will set out plans for how the Government proposes to improve care and support for older people and tackle the challenge of an ageing population. Your constituents can be reassured that once it is published there will be a period of formal consultation where everyone who uses social care services, including people with dementia, can contribute their views.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinénage', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CAROLINE DINENAGE