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Dementia: Social Care and Care Workforce:

Transforming dementia care is of vital importance. Yet despite repeated promises to fix social care, the Chancellor has delayed reforms until October 2025 and instead asked councils to increase taxes on working people to plug funding gaps. At its best, social care can enable people who draw upon it to live flourishing, prosperous and independent lives. It empowers older and disabled people to live the life they choose, in the place they call home, with the people they love, doing the things that matter to them most. But this is far from the reality in Britain today.

I believe that in the long-term we must reform social care so that it delivers on this potential, improving the quality and standards of social care for everyone who uses it. Guided by the views of users and families, we must introduce change throughout the system, as this is the only way to get reform right. This is why I support a ten-year plan for reforming social care, building towards a National Care Service, which is locally delivered but underpinned by high national standards where people are helped to stay in their homes for as long as possible.

This must start with improving standards in the current system, particularly by ending the workforce crisis in social care. We must recruit and crucially, retain, more carers to give people support in the community, delivering better pay, terms and conditions for care workers. I support plans to assist unpaid carers by giving them paid family carer's leave. These steps will help us to enshrine the principle of 'home first' in social care and ensure that the needs of people with dementia move to the top of the agenda.

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