



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Stephen Kinnock MP  
Minister of State for Care

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Our ref: PO-1540288  
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The Rt Hon Sir Julian Smith KCB CBE MP  
By email to: [julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk)

19 December 2024

Dear Sir Julian,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 October about dementia training for social care workers. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I appreciate your concerns.

I attended the Alzheimer's Society's event in November, where I was pleased to be able to personally thank the charity and its supporters for their work.

It was an honour to be present for the launch of the Alzheimer's Society's new report *Because we're human too*, which provides a valuable perspective on the training of the workforce. We welcome knowledge-sharing and collaboration across the sector, and we will continue to consider the Society's findings in our work.

As the report highlights, well-trained social care staff improve the day-to-day quality of life for people with dementia. Everyone with dementia should have excellent care following their diagnosis, which can only be provided by those with knowledge of the specific and unique needs of the people they care for.

Many people with dementia already receive excellent support from social care staff who are skilled in providing the right care in the right way. That does not mean that we cannot do more to support them to do this.

The Government recognises the scale of reforms needed to make the adult social care sector attractive, support sustainable workforce growth and improve the retention of the domestic workforce. We want care work to be regarded as a profession, and for the people who work in the sector to be respected as professionals.

At the above-mentioned event, I was kindly given the opportunity to talk more about the Government's work to help improve care for those with dementia, including the ways in which we will support training in the workforce.

For the first time, we have a national career framework for adult social care, the Care Workforce Pathway, which outlines the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours that people need in order to work in the sector.

The Pathway suggests a number of learning programmes for social care workers, several of which are dementia-specific training courses and qualifications. These are all available for funding through the Department's new Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme, which we launched in September.

The Department has also launched the new Level 2 Adult Social Care Certificate, which links to the outcomes in the Care Workforce Pathway for those who are new to care. This qualification contains the baseline knowledge required for high-quality care and will make sure those who are starting out their careers are properly informed about dementia.

In addition, the Department has also launched the new Quality Assured Care Learning Service, which will help the sector to identify high-quality learning and development opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kinnock', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**STEPHEN KINNOCK**