

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport
Maree Todd MSP

Clare Haughey MSP,
Convener,
Health, Social Care & Sport Committee

By email: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

31 May 2023

Dear Convenor,

Launch of New Dementia Strategy for Scotland

I am writing to you today to inform the Committee of the launch of [our New Dementia Strategy for Scotland](#), in partnership with COSLA.

It sets a 10-year vision for dementia policy, directly informed by the voices of lived experience and wider partners:

“Our vision is of a Scotland where people living with dementia and their care partners have their strengths recognised, their rights upheld, and are supported to live an independent life, free from stigma and with person centred treatment, support and care when and where they need it.”

It identifies a number of areas where we will focus our attention to improve the lives of people living with dementia, their families and care partners, with a focus on the role of our communities. This includes:

- Recognising dementia as a condition of the brain that affects the whole person, while upscaling efforts to address its mental health and wellbeing impacts
- Ensuring services and supports are dementia-inclusive and create environments which enable people with dementia to live their best possible life
- Delivering equity of access to information, treatment, care and support for people living with dementia
- Upholding a person’s human rights throughout their dementia journey

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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- Ensuring people are supported by a skilled, knowledgeable and trauma-informed workforce.

It also follows an 8-month engagement process, including a National Conversation with individuals and organisations from across Scotland, and an independent evidence review focussed on health inequalities, and what is making a difference in practice here and internationally.

We know dementia currently affects an estimated 90,000 people in Scotland, 3,000 of whom are under 65. Globally, estimates suggest 1 in 3 people born today will go on to develop dementia. This Strategy therefore is Everyone's Story, as how we see, understand and act in relation to dementia impacts everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, additional disability or age.

Our engagement extended to a parliamentary debate, which members of the Committee contributed to. It saw a motion supporting the development of this Strategy pass unanimously, with points raised by MSPs during the debate subsequently reflected in the final version.

Building on our strong record of working closely with the voices of lived experience, our National Dementia Lived Experience Panel played a direct governance role in the Strategy's development. This has ensured their voices are central to the formation of this vision, and that this Strategy's aspirations reflect their own.

We are clear that the strategy is only the first part, and that we change experiences through delivery. Our first 2-year delivery plan will be agreed with people with lived experience and wider partners by December 2023.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and colleagues in this Committee and across parliament as we move into delivering on this Strategy's ambitions.

Yours sincerely,



Maree Todd MSP

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