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Care at Home



Dementia Care

Your questions answered

5 Things you must know if you are providing dementia care to a loved one

Dementia describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. A person with dementia may also experience mood or behavioural changes. These changes can be small initially but can affect daily life. Therefore, dementia care is a specialist form of care that takes time to understand. If you are providing dementia care to someone, here are five things that you need to know.

How to help someone with dementia?

The most important thing you can do to help someone with dementia is always have their needs and best interests at the focus of every decision you make. Whether it be considering a care home or alternative care services, make sure you are supporting them with their best interests and choices at heart. The following sections also provide answers to questions on how to help someone with dementia.

Dementia Awareness

WHAT IS DEMENTIA?
It's an umbrella term to describe a variety of brain disorders that get worse over time and trigger a loss in brain function.

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
The most common brain disorder of dementia is Alzheimer's Disease. Of those diagnosed, it affects between 50-75%.

DEMENITIA IN THE UK
850,000 people in UK have dementia & it's thought this figure will increase to 1.6 million by 2040.

DEMENITIA CARE
60% of people who receive home care services also live with dementia.

Let Us Help
Visit alinahomecare.com/dementia

Sources: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/facts-and-media> <https://www.dementiastatistics.org/statistics/care-services/>

Your home, Your care, Your choice.

When should someone with dementia go into a care home?

It is recommended that if an individual with dementia is not able to live safely and independently by themselves or the disease has progressed, then it could be time to look at care homes and alternative care arrangements. However, it is natural to have feelings of angst, worry and sadness during this time, as you look at other places to help your loved one. Providing their interests are always your primary focus, you will be making the right choice. Individuals could potentially be at risk if they do not receive the necessary specialist care.

If you are already looking for care services, always make sure your loved one receives an assessment from the care company so they can put together an appropriate care plan specifically tailored to them. There are many different types of care an individual can receive, however sometimes moving into a 24-hour care home with access to professional services is necessary, even if the individual thinks otherwise.

Who decides whether someone with dementia needs to receive professional care is another key aspect of the decision making process. Mostly, the individual who has dementia and may need extra assistance should be in charge of deciding for themselves. To make this decision, individuals will need to be provided with information and advice in a way that they understand, so that they can decide the most appropriate care for them.

However, in the instance when dementia is at the stage when making an appropriate decision about their care for themselves is impossible, the Alzheimer's Society refers to the person who decides as "the person's attorney under a health and welfare lasting power of attorney, or their personal welfare deputy if they have one."

This is to ensure that the individual with dementia is not being taken advantage of and has been legally assessed. For more information about this, visit the Alzheimer's Society website.

How to care for someone with dementia?

Firstly, if you are providing care for someone, you are also entitled to support. Even if you are a family member, friend, neighbour or guardian, you are still granted support. For more information and what financial means you might be entitled to, visit the [NHS Digital](#) website.

As a carer for someone with dementia, you will primarily be helping with their daily tasks:

- Supporting someone with their shopping, cleaning, laundry or looking after a pet and other routine tasks are all great skills for a person to maintain.
- Assisting with eating and drinking; every individual should be encouraged to eat healthy and nutritious foods to ensure vital vitamins and nutrients are being consumed. Dementia can mean that someone may not want set meals but rather foods to snack on. Additionally, making sure an individual is drinking enough is important as people with dementia cannot sometimes identify whether they are thirsty which can result in dehydration and other health complications.
- Aiding an individual to use the toilet and manage any incontinence issues; making sure the individual has regular bowel movements and isn't developing a urinary tract infection.
- Helping develop a hygiene routine with dignity for the person you are caring for. This can be an embarrassing moment for the individual, but by looking at some of the tips in the link below will help.
- Sleep patterns can alter when someone has dementia, due to changes in their body clock. Simple easy tips include making sure they have enough physical stimulation during daylight hours, reducing caffeine and alcohol and limiting sleep during the day, to name a few.
- As dementia symptoms deteriorate, individuals can become more introverted, however, it is important to try to maintain social and interactive elements of relationships, to keep their mind actively stimulated and engaged.
- For more information on the above, visit the [NHS Digital website](#).

How to help someone with dementia remember?

Some methods of how to prompt an individual with dementia's memory include:

- Putting up photographs around the home of family members, friends and neighbours at special momentous occasions could potentially spark a reminder of an event.
- Organise a photo album in chronological order of events and include other relevant background information like the names of those pictured, the date, where and what the occasion was.
- Wear clothing or scents that the individual could attribute to you. Avoid patterns on clothing or around the home or furniture – as dementia can often make the mind misinterpret what the shapes are and could cause some distress.
- Make memory boxes with things that represent memories to help trigger past events and feelings of happiness – these can be around the home in different rooms.
- Connect with the person by doing activities and tasks you both enjoy, like watching a film, listening to music, being active and going for a walk, eating your favourite foods, reading and much more.

Whilst helping an individual with dementia, remember that it is important you correctly communicate with them and engage with them. Here are a few tips on communication:

- Speak in short and concise sentences.
- Try not to correct someone when they are talking or when they make a mistake. This can lead to tension and distress for the individual. Be gentle and patient.
- Be willing to be flexible with conversations, as they could change at any one moment.
- When having a conversation, make sure you can be seen by the person and that you are engaging with eye contact.

Try not to startle anyone when you begin conversing.

- If an individual is having difficulty remembering who you are, introduce yourself with your name and role.

For more information about the mentioned tips, visit the [Dementia UK](#) website.

How to support a parent with dementia

When a parent is diagnosed with dementia, it can be very worrying and concerning. It is only natural to feel like this. There are many people you can speak to, as it is important to take care of yourself as well and check your mental wellbeing during this disconcerting time. [NHS Digital](#) has several different helplines you can contact to talk to someone.

The most important thing to remember whilst caring for a parent with dementia is that they are your loved one. Challenges may arise and be frustrating, however, try to separate the disease from your loved one and remember who they were before they were diagnosed.

Always be patient, calm and respectful.

About Alina

At Alina Homecare we passionately believe care is best when you're at home.

We can help you, your mum, your dad, your neighbour to live independently in the comfort of your own home and continue to be part of the local community.

We're committed to listening to you about your needs and preferences because for us, it's all about you. We work hard to understand what makes life enjoyable to you and suggest ways to make life easier.

Whether you need Care at Home after a fall, support with daily tasks, companionship, or a full time Live-in care our friendly Care Teams are there to help.

We're extremely proud of our high standards and passionate about making what we call the 'Alina Difference' to people's lives.

It's no wonder 99.7% of clients say they're satisfied with our care and support!*

*Client satisfaction survey 2023



**Top 20 UK Home Care
Group Award
2021 - 2025**



Your home, Your care, Your choice.