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# COVID-19 and dementia care

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# IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ON PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND CARERS

Community

Care homes

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# Social support services for dementia

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**Community**

**50 qualitative baseline interviews**
**(42 carers & 8 people with dementia)**

April 2020

**20 follow-up interviews**
**(16 carers & 4 people with dementia)**

24th June – 10th July



Giebel et al. (2020) Aging & Mental Health, doi: 10.1080/13607863.2020.1822292

# Faster deterioration

*“I think that the longer this goes on the more he won’t be able to go back to the things that he was doing. He would go into the village himself and go to get a few bits of shopping sometimes or he would walk up to church.”*

***Female carer (Daughter)***

*“Five weeks ago my Dad was a totally different person than he is now and he won't come back from this.”*

***Female carer (Daughter)***

# Uncertainty

*“I’m just hoping all these services eventually do come back and they come back sooner rather than later because my Dad hasn’t been out, he hasn’t been to the shops he hasn’t been obviously walking and him and my Mum loved to go for coffees we used to go to the garden centre if it was nice and he really likes that because he really loves being round people. “*

***Female carer (Daughter)***

# Adapting to the new normal

*“[PLWD] can’t engage in video conferencing or anything like that, he doesn’t partly because of the vision issues of PCA he doesn’t really see the screen or anything like that and he doesn’t now give you eye contact when he’s talking to you.”*

***Female Carer (Spouse)***

# Decision making for receiving paid home care

Giebel et al. (2020) BMC Geriatrics,
doi: 10.1186/s12877-020-01719-0

Fear | Risk | Difficult decisions | PPE | Increased burden

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# Inability to cope without paid carers

*“I couldn't cope on my own and I'm just grateful to them [paid carers], that they still come… I don't know what I would do if they didn’t”*

***Female carer (daughter)***

# UK-wide Survey

**T1**
660 older adults, carers, people with dementia
17th April – 15th May

**T2**
481 older adults, carers, people with dementia
26th May – 29th June

**T3**
411 older adults, carers, people with dementia
7th July – 10th August

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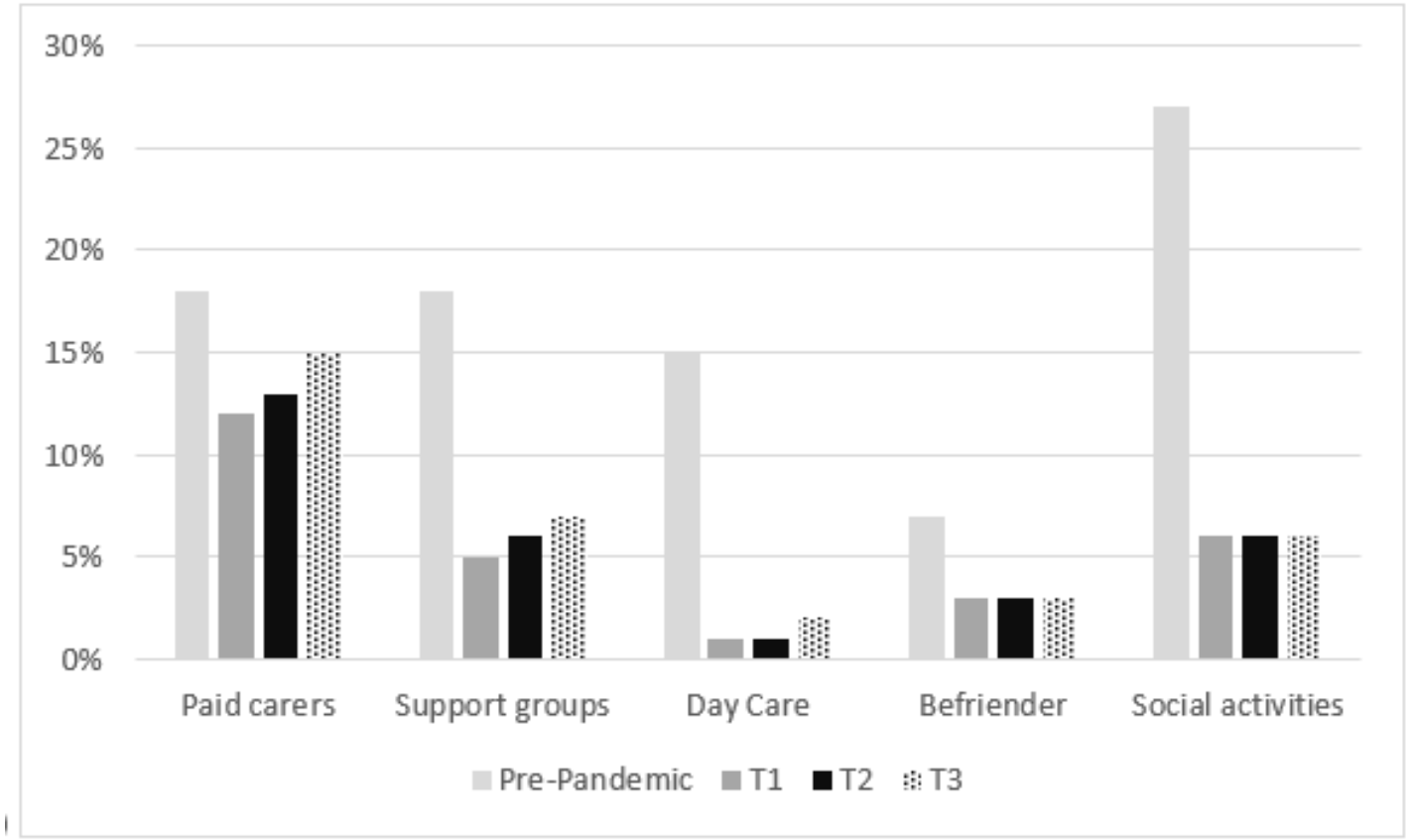
Giebel et al. (2020) IJGP, doi: 10.1002/gps.5434

Giebel et al. (2021) BMJ Open, doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-045889

# Service usage by type and time point



## Anxiety

People with dementia, older adults

## Mental well-being

Unpaid carers, older adults

# Some implications so far….

- Remote support not the same
- Face-to-face support should be enabled where possible
- Better support needed to make decisions about whether to receive face-to-face care services

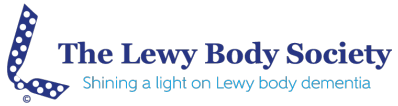
Australia, Italy, Poland, India

# THANK YOU!

To all participants

To carers and person with dementia joining our research team

To the many organisations who are part of our team:



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