COVID-19 and dementia care

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IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ON PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND CARERS
Social support services for dementia
50 qualitative baseline interviews
(42 carers & 8 people with dementia)

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

April 2020

24th June – 10th July
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)*
"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
Fear  Risk  Difficult decisions  PPE  Increased burden
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

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:

[Logos of various organisations]