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The Centre for Policy on Ageing welcomes the Government's National Dementia Strategy launched on 3 February 2009¹

'Dementia is not an illness we can ignore. It has a devastating impact on the people who develop it and the families who care for them' says the Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson in The National Dementia Strategy, launched on 3 February 2009. The Strategy is a five year plan to ensure that significant improvements are made to dementia services across three key areas: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention, and a higher quality of care.

Gillian Crosby, the Centre for Policy on Ageing's Director said 'The stigma attached to people with dementia and the misconceptions surrounding this terrible disease have resulted in great hardship for many older people and their families. We are very pleased that with the launch of the National Dementia Strategy efforts are being made to educate both the public and professionals so that people with dementia can receive earlier treatment and better quality care.'

'The research evidence from a burgeoning professional literature suggests that a more optimistic and dynamic approach to dementia care has considerable potential to improve the lives of people with dementia.'

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1. 'Living Well with Dementia: A National Dementia Strategy', published on 3 February 2009. The report can be downloaded from the Department of Health website <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/socialcare/deliveringadultsocialcare/olderpeople/nationaldementiastrategy/index.htm> and it is also available via the CPA Policies on Ageing website http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/policies_on_ageing