**Write to your local CCG - template**

***Copy and paste the text below onto your word document or directly into the email you wish to compose and edit where necessary, deleting our prompts in yellow italics.***

Dear [RECIPIENT NAME],

*Please introduce yourself and your experience of dementia.*

I am a resident within [name of CCG] CCG and am registered at [name of GP surgery]

My [INSERT RELATIONSHIP] is living with dementia following a diagnosis [xxxx] years/months ago.

*Explain why you are writing to your CCG. We’ve provided some ideas below from our Only together report, so please use this as a template if you’d like.*

I’m writing to you in support of Dementia UK’s Only together campaign, which looks to expand the specialist support offered to people affected by dementia. Too often families are left facing dementia alone, or with very limited access to support and information. GPs and other health professionals work hard to support people affected by dementia, and often want to do more, but are under severe time and capacity pressure. This has only been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Without access to the right support, many families will struggle to cope on their own, and in turn increase their reliance on primary or emergency services.

*Explain why these issues matter to you personally – how do these things affect you and/or your family?*

E.g. My family and I have struggled to get the support we need, and my mother’s condition has deteriorated without access to specialist support. There was a lack of communication or follow-up after the diagnosis, which made it difficult for us to know where to turn to, or how to access the care and support that we needed.

*Explain what you’d like the CCG to do.  They have a strategic role locally, planning out local health services, so have the power to make planning or spending decisions that could expand or improve local specialist dementia support. What do you think could be better locally? We’ve provided some ideas below from our Only together report, so please use, add to, or change these as you’d like.*

* Provide sufficient support and funding so that as a standard, families have a clinically trained professional as their single point of contact when specialist dementia support and advice is needed
* Ensure that all local families have information on dementia, including caring for someone with dementia, tailored to their needs and circumstances
* Work locally and with Dementia UK to review local support for families affected by dementia, and identify ways to expand or improve services
* Help local GPs to provide Dementia UK’s resources and information leaflets to patients and families via virtual appointments, or at the surgery, memory clinic, or other health service. You can find further information about available resources here: [www.dementiauk.org/get-support/diagnosis-and-next-steps/](http://www.dementiauk.org/get-support/diagnosis-and-next-steps/)
* Provide information to local GPs to ensure they are familiar with local relevant support services or charities for people affected by dementia or can signpost patients and their families to them. The Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline on 0800 888 6678 or helpline@dementiauk.org can offer help and advice to both families and health professionals. The online Alzheimer’s Society’s Dementia Directory lists available local support services for people with dementia and carers

For your information, Dementia UK is also contacting GPs to offer Dementia UK’s own support, information and services to improve the experiences of families affected by dementia. You can find out more about Dementia UK’s Only together campaign here: [www.dementiauk.org/onlytogether](http://www.dementiauk.org/onlytogether)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[NAME]

[ADDRESS] [PHONE NUMBER]