**The impact of subtype diagnosis on living well with dementia and carers: results from the Improving the experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life (IDEAL) study**

**Lay summary**

There are several different types of dementia. Each type has different symptoms and challenges. These challenges can affect the ability to ‘live well’. People who are ‘living well’ are satisfied with their lives, and experience good quality of life and wellbeing. We wanted to find out whether the person’s type of dementia makes it easier or harder to ‘live well’. We used information from 1283 people with dementia and their family carers taking part in the IDEAL study. IDEAL is following a large group of people with dementia and family carers in Great Britain over several years.

We compared the ‘living well’ scores of people with different types of dementia. Alzheimer’s disease was the most common type of dementia. People with some other types of dementia had lower ‘living well’ scores than people with Alzheimer’s disease. These were vascular dementia, mixed Alzheimer’s and vascular dementia, Parkinson’s disease dementia and Lewy body dementia. Family carers of people with Parkinson’s disease dementia and Lewy body dementia had lower ‘living well’ scores than family carers of people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Living with dementia is challenging for everyone. This study shows that it is harder to ‘live well’ with certain types of dementia. This helps us understand how to improve support for people with dementia and their family carers.