

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million (13.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the Government has set out a strategy for the 21st century in the White Paper on *Ageing Better* (Department of Health 1999). This paper sets out the Government's strategy for the 21st century in the White Paper on *Ageing Better* (Department of Health 1999).

The White Paper sets out a number of key objectives for the 21st century, including:

- To ensure that older people are able to live independently and actively in their own homes for as long as possible.
- To ensure that older people are able to access the services and support they need to live well in old age.
- To ensure that older people are able to participate in the life of their communities.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions to be taken to achieve these objectives, including:

- Improving the quality of care and support for older people in residential care.
- Improving the quality of care and support for older people in the community.
- Improving the quality of care and support for older people in the home.

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