

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 (15.5% 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: The Government's Strategy for Older People* (Department of Health, 1999). This strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- Older people should be able to live in their own communities.
- Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key objectives for the Government:

- To ensure that older people are able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- To ensure that older people are able to live in their own communities.
- To ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions for the Government:

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