



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 (19.5% 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 doing so in the White Paper on *Ageing Better* (Department of Health 1999). This paper sets out the following objectives:

- (i) to improve the health and well-being of older people;
- (ii) to improve the opportunities for older people to live independently and to participate in the life of their communities;
- (iii) to improve the opportunities for older people to live in their own homes and to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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