



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 (1990-2000) (ONS 2001).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, which includes a commitment to improve the quality of care for the elderly. This strategy is based on the following principles:

• To ensure that the elderly are treated as individuals, with their own needs and preferences being taken into account.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in their own homes, wherever possible.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their care.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a community, wherever possible.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live a full and active life.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a safe and secure environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a caring and supportive environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a healthy and well environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a dignified and respectful environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a peaceful and quiet environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a clean and hygienic environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a well-maintained environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a well-served environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a well-organized environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a well-managed environment.

• To ensure that the elderly are given the opportunity to live in a well-governed environment.