

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 the elderly population. The Department of Health (1998) has published a strategy for the care of the elderly, and the Department of Social Security (1998) has published a strategy for the care of the elderly.

The Department of Health (1998) strategy for the care of the elderly is based on the following principles:

• The elderly should be able to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

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