

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2000). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 2.5 million by 2020 (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop strategies to meet the needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (1999) has identified the need to develop a new approach to the care of the elderly, one that is based on the principles of 'active ageing'. This approach is based on the idea that ageing is a process, and that the needs of the elderly are not static. It is therefore necessary to develop strategies that can respond to the changing needs of the elderly over time.

The Department of Health (1999) has identified a number of key areas for action in the development of a new approach to the care of the elderly. These include: (1) the need to develop a new approach to the care of the elderly, one that is based on the principles of 'active ageing'; (2) the need to develop a new approach to the care of the elderly, one that is based on the principles of 'active ageing'; (3) the need to develop a new approach to the care of the elderly, one that is based on the principles of 'active ageing'.

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