

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 1.2 million (Office for National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to improve the health and social care of older people. The strategy is based on the following principles: older people should be able to live independently in their own homes; older people should be able to access the services they need; older people should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment. The strategy is being implemented through a number of initiatives, including the establishment of the Older People's Commissioner, the introduction of the Care Act 2004, and the implementation of the National Care Standards for Residential Care for the Elderly.

The Care Act 2004 is a landmark piece of legislation that sets out the principles and standards for the care of older people. It introduces a new framework for the regulation of care services, and it sets out the duties of local authorities to ensure that older people receive the care and support they need. The Care Act 2004 also introduces a new role for the Older People's Commissioner, who will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the care of older people. The Care Act 2004 is a key piece of legislation that will shape the future of care for older people in the UK.

The National Care Standards for Residential Care for the Elderly (NCSRE) are a set of standards that set out the requirements for residential care for the elderly. The NCSRE are designed to ensure that older people living in residential care receive the highest quality of care and support. The NCSRE cover a range of areas, including the physical environment, the quality of care, and the involvement of older people in decisions about their care.

The NCSRE are being implemented through a number of initiatives, including the introduction of the Care Act 2004, the implementation of the National Care Standards for Residential Care for the Elderly, and the implementation of the National Care Standards for Residential Care for the Elderly. The NCSRE are a key part of the government's strategy to improve the care of older people.

The Older People's Commissioner is a new role that was established in 2004. The Older People's Commissioner is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the care of older people. The Older People's Commissioner will be responsible for ensuring that older people receive the care and support they need, and for ensuring that the care services they receive are of the highest quality. The Older People's Commissioner will also be responsible for promoting the rights of older people and for ensuring that older people are able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

The Older People's Commissioner will be working closely with the Department of Health, the Care Act 2004, and the National Care Standards for Residential Care for the Elderly to ensure that older people receive the best possible care and support.