

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–2000) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2020 (Office for National Statistics 2001).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the health and well-being of older people, and the need to ensure that the health care system is able to meet the needs of this growing population. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a vision for the future of health care for older people, and has identified a number of key areas for action. These include: improving the quality of care; ensuring that care is person-centred; and ensuring that care is accessible to all.

One of the key areas for action is to improve the quality of care. This involves ensuring that care is safe, effective, and of high quality. It also involves ensuring that care is person-centred, and that it meets the needs of the individual. The Department of Health (2000) has identified a number of key areas for action in this regard, including: improving the quality of care; ensuring that care is person-centred; and ensuring that care is accessible to all.

Another key area for action is to ensure that care is accessible to all. This involves ensuring that care is available to all who need it, and that it is accessible to all who need it. The Department of Health (2000) has identified a number of key areas for action in this regard, including: improving the quality of care; ensuring that care is person-centred; and ensuring that care is accessible to all.

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