

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 for National Statistics 2000). The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 2.5 million by 2020 (Office for National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (1999) has identified the need to develop a new approach to the care of the ageing population. This approach should be based on the principles of person-centred care, which recognizes the individual as a whole person, with their own needs, wishes and preferences. The Department of Health (1999) has also identified the need to develop a new approach to the care of the ageing population. This approach should be based on the principles of person-centred care, which recognizes the individual as a whole person, with their own needs, wishes and preferences.

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