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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 (15.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the Government has set out a strategy for the 21st century in the White Paper on *Ageing Better: Our Future, Our Choice* (Department of Health 2000). This sets out a vision of a society in which older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities.

The White Paper sets out a number of key objectives, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key principles, including:

- older people should be able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- older people should be able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- older people should be able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key challenges, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key opportunities, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key priorities, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes, and to receive the care and support they need.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions, including:

- to ensure that older people are able to live well, and to contribute to their communities;
- to ensure that older people are able to live independently, and to participate in their communities;
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The White Paper also sets out a number of key challenges, including:

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