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There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the UK. The Department of Health (2000) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out a vision for the future of health care for older people. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- Older people should be able to access the services and support they need to live well.
- Older people should be able to participate in decisions about their care and services.

The strategy also sets out a number of key objectives, including:

- To improve the quality of life of older people.
- To reduce the number of older people who are dependent on others.
- To ensure that older people have access to the services and support they need to live well.

The strategy is a key document in the development of health care for older people in the UK. It provides a clear vision for the future and sets out the principles and objectives that should guide the development of services and support for older people.

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