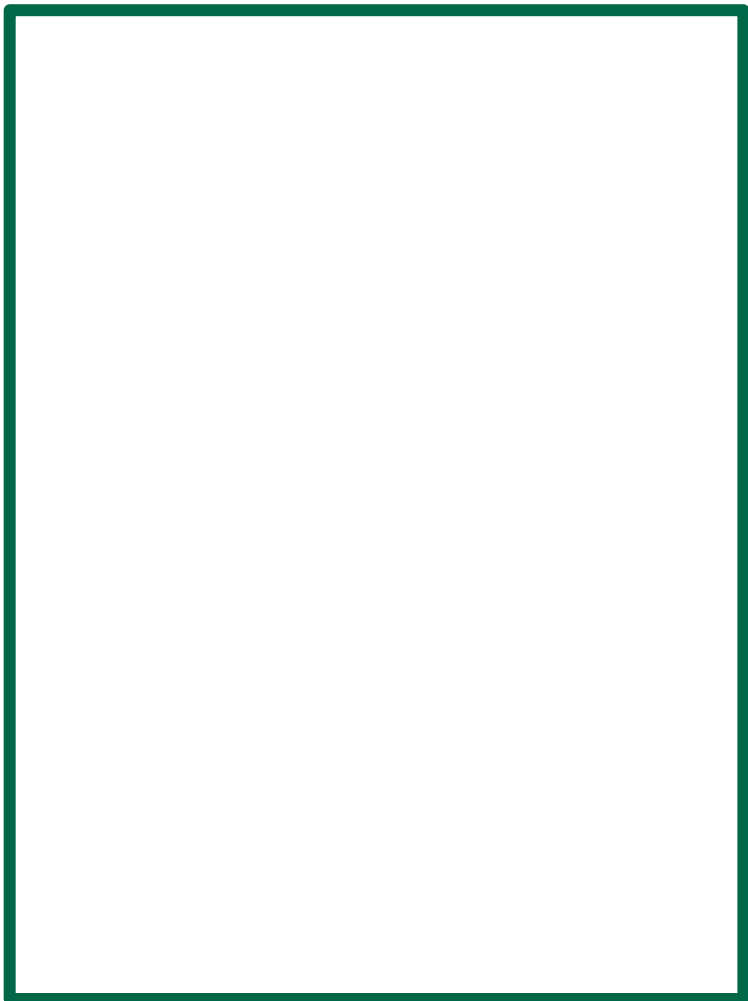


A vertical list of three circular icons, each in a light green circle, with corresponding horizontal lines to their right:

- Top icon: A simple line-art smiley face. A horizontal line is positioned to its right.
- Middle icon: An envelope icon. A horizontal line is positioned to its right.
- Bottom icon: A rectangular box icon. A horizontal line is positioned to its right.



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 (19.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of the elderly population. The Department of Health (1998) has set out a strategy for the care of the elderly, which includes a commitment to improve the health and quality of life of the elderly population. This strategy is based on the following principles:

- To promote the health and well-being of the elderly population.
- To ensure that the elderly population has access to the services and resources they need to live well.
- To ensure that the elderly population is treated with respect and dignity.
- To ensure that the elderly population is able to participate in decisions about their care and services.

The strategy also includes a commitment to improve the training and education of health care professionals working with the elderly population.

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