

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased by 50% (Mental Health Foundation, 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a vision for the future of mental health care, which includes a commitment to the development of a new generation of mental health professionals. This vision is based on the principles of recovery, self-help, and community care. The Department of Health (2000) has also set out a number of key objectives for the future of mental health care, which include: to reduce the number of people with a mental health problem who are in hospital; to improve the quality of life for people with a mental health problem; and to ensure that people with a mental health problem have access to the services they need.

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