







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 in the community. The Department of Health (2000) has set out a vision for the future of mental health services, which includes a focus on preventing mental health problems, supporting people with mental health problems to live in the community, and providing specialist services for people with severe mental health problems. The Department of Health (2000) also states that mental health services should be based on the needs of the community, and should be accessible to all people who need them.

One of the key challenges for mental health services is to ensure that they are accessible to all people who need them. This includes people who are living in the community, and people who are in hospital. Mental health services should be able to provide support to people at all stages of their illness, from the first signs of a mental health problem to the most severe stages of the illness.

One of the ways in which mental health services can be made more accessible is by providing services in the community. This can include providing services in people's homes, in community centres, and in other places where people are likely to be found. Community-based services can be particularly helpful for people who are living in the community, as they can provide support in a familiar and comfortable environment.

Another way in which mental health services can be made more accessible is by providing services in a range of languages and cultures. Mental health services should be able to provide support to people from all backgrounds, and should be able to communicate with people in their own language. This can be particularly important for people who are from ethnic minority groups, as they may face additional barriers to accessing mental health services.

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