

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a strategy for mental health care in the UK. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- People with mental health problems should be treated as individuals.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their care.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to live in their own homes.

The strategy also sets out a number of objectives for the mental health services:

- To reduce the number of people with mental health problems who are admitted to hospital.
- To improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the support available to people with mental health problems.

The strategy also sets out a number of actions that need to be taken to achieve these objectives:

- To improve the training and skills of mental health professionals.
- To improve the support available to people with mental health problems.
- To improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems.

The strategy also sets out a number of actions that need to be taken to improve the support available to people with mental health problems:

- To improve the support available to people with mental health problems.
- To improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the training and skills of mental health professionals.

The strategy also sets out a number of actions that need to be taken to improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems:

- To improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the training and skills of mental health professionals.
- To improve the support available to people with mental health problems.

The strategy also sets out a number of actions that need to be taken to improve the training and skills of mental health professionals:

- To improve the training and skills of mental health professionals.
- To improve the support available to people with mental health problems.
- To improve the quality of care for people with mental health problems.