

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 vision for the future of mental health care in the UK. This vision is based on the following principles:

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

The Department of Health (1999) has also set out a number of key objectives for the future of mental health care in the UK:

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

The Department of Health (1999) has also set out a number of key actions for the future of mental health care in the UK:

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

The Department of Health (1999) has also set out a number of key challenges for the future of mental health care in the UK:

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

The Department of Health (1999) has also set out a number of key messages for the future of mental health care in the UK:

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