



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK 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, and the importance of the role of the community in this. The UK government has set out a vision for mental health care in the 21st century, which is based on the principles of recovery, self-help, and community support (Department of Health 1999). This vision is reflected in the Mental Health Act 1983, which provides a framework for the care of people with mental health problems. The Act is based on the principle of least restriction, and aims to ensure that people with mental health problems are treated in the least restrictive environment possible.

The Act also provides for the establishment of mental health review tribunals, which are responsible for reviewing the cases of people who are subject to compulsory treatment orders. The tribunals are made up of a judge, a doctor, and a lay member, and their role is to ensure that the treatment is necessary and proportionate to the person's needs.

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