

the 1990s, the number of people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia has increased in many countries, including the United Kingdom (Murray and Lewis 1998). The prevalence of schizophrenia is estimated to be 1% of the population (Murray and Lewis 1998).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with schizophrenia. The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a strategy for the care of people with schizophrenia, which emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to care, including social, psychological, and medical interventions (WHO 1993).

One of the key components of this approach is the need to provide a supportive environment for people with schizophrenia. This includes the need to provide a safe and secure environment, as well as the need to provide a range of social and psychological interventions. The aim of this approach is to help people with schizophrenia to lead a more fulfilling and meaningful life.

One of the ways in which this can be achieved is through the use of community care. Community care involves providing a range of services to people with schizophrenia in their own homes or in the community. This can include the provision of housing, day care, and other services. The aim of community care is to help people with schizophrenia to live more independently and to participate more fully in the community.

Community care can also help to reduce the stigma associated with schizophrenia. By providing a range of services to people with schizophrenia in the community, it helps to show that people with schizophrenia are capable of living independently and contributing to the community. This can help to reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with schizophrenia often experience.

Community care can also help to reduce the costs of care for people with schizophrenia. By providing a range of services in the community, it can help to reduce the need for hospital care, which is often very expensive. This can help to reduce the financial burden on the health system and on individuals.

Community care can also help to improve the quality of life for people with schizophrenia. By providing a range of services in the community, it can help to provide a more supportive and meaningful environment for people with schizophrenia. This can help to improve their mental health and their overall quality of life.

Community care can also help to improve the lives of families and carers of people with schizophrenia. By providing a range of services to people with schizophrenia in the community, it can help to reduce the burden on families and carers. This can help to improve their quality of life and their ability to care for people with schizophrenia.