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Figure 1: Objectives of involving service users in mental health nurse education

- To recognise the strengths and abilities of service users, not just their problems and symptoms;
- To draw on users' first hand experiences of mental health problems, treatments and services as a basis for learning how to provide acceptable and useful support and care;
- To explore the impact of mental health problems on the lives of real people so that education is broadened to incorporate ideas about recovery, status, socially valued roles and relationships;
- To enable students (and subsequently qualified nurses) to challenge cultures within their own workplace; and
- To provide a supportive learning environment for students and staff with mental health problems to enable them to use their own experience in an appropriate manner to help others.

Adapted from Repper et al (2001)