

Figure 1: *Framework of topic areas covered in the research interviews*

- 1) Recognition of mental health needs – By employing the ‘life cycle’ model as a concrete frame of reference (Booth and Booth, 1996), the interviewer sought to obtain the perceptions of the participants regarding when in their lives, and how, their mental health needs were first identified.
- 2) The care and support that was provided when the participant’s mental health needs had been recognized.
- 3) Personal thoughts and feelings of individual participants concerning their experiences of mental health issues.
- 4) The level of care and support that the participants currently required to live in their communities.
- 5) Views of participants relating to their involvement (or otherwise) in decisions about their care management.