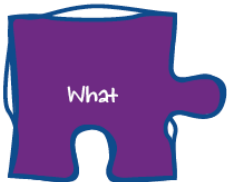


Co-production at Mind



What is co-production? Co-production is about developing more equal partnerships between people who use services, carers and professionals when designing and delivering activities, projects or services. Co-production must be a genuinely equal and reciprocal relationship between staff and people with lived experience, recognising that both parties' contribution is valuable.

Why should I co-produce? Mind is the leading mental health charity working in England and Wales. We work hard to understand the needs and experiences of people with mental health problems. This drives everything we do. That means people with lived experience of a mental health problem must be at the centre of everything we do. Co-production can help challenge the notion that people with lived experience – traditionally those who have used services – are unable to participate on an equal level to people in professional roles. It can be an extremely effective way for people with lived experience to influence change.



How do I co-produce? Co-production happens when input from people with lived experience is given equal weight to input from staff at the organisation they're working with. This helps collaboratively design and deliver services or a project. If you want to work within a co-production model, it might be useful to ask yourself the following questions in relation to your project:

- Are people with lived experience of mental health problems able to work with staff at all stages of this piece of work?
- Will people with lived experience have an equal role to staff in making decisions?
- Will staff and people with lived experience be jointly responsible for designing and delivering this project/service?

If you can answer 'yes' to all three questions, it's likely your project or service can be developed with a co-production approach.

Overcoming challenges Things to consider to avoid unnecessary challenges:

- Is the balance of power truly equal in relation to decision making?
- Are there mutually agreed responsibilities and expectations?
- Are you able to support people to take part in the development process and subsequent delivery? How will you do this?



For more information and tips on co-production visit mind.org.uk/workplace/influence-and-participation-toolkit/how/methods/co-production



Other Useful Resources

Alongside the Mind Influence and Participation Toolkit, there are other resources you may want to consult when planning your co-production activity:



Mind has signed up to the 4Pi model, a framework for meaningful involvement developed by a partnership of organisations and people with lived experience. It is hosted and led by National Survivor User Network (NSUN).

The 4Pi National Involvement Standards of 'Principles, Purpose, Presence, Process, Impact' ensure effective Co-Production, helping to improve experiences of services and support.

Find out more at: nsun.org.uk/faqs/4pi-national-involvement-standards

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has produced a set of co-production fixed principles that are useful to consider when using co-production as a method:

1. **Equality** - Co-production starts from the idea that no one group or person is more important than anyone else and everyone has skills, abilities and time to contribute.
2. **Diversity** - Co-production should be as inclusive and diverse as possible. Particular efforts may be needed to make sure seldom heard groups are included.
3. **Accessibility** - Making everything accessible is the way to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate fully in an activity in the way that suits them best.
4. **Reciprocity** - Reciprocity means people get something back for putting something in. There are formal ways of doing this, like using time banks as a way of rewarding people, but sometimes the reciprocity comes from the more equal relationships that develop between people and organisations.

Find out more at: scie.org.uk/co-production/

Co-production Network for Wales

Co-production Network for Wales is an inclusive, member-led network of people who support each other to improve co-production.

They do this through events, resources, evidence, mentoring and training. They also contribute to the laws that make Wales a more enabling state.

The network is made up of citizens, volunteers, service users, carers, community leaders, professionals, researchers, academics, civil servants, government people, policy makers, directors, managers and frontline workers.

Find out more at: copronet.wales



Rhwydwaith
Cydgyhyrchu
Cymru

Co-production
Network
for Wales

Pawb gyda'i gilydd
All in this together

If you need help with your co-production activity, or any other Influence and Participation work, contact the team on livedexp@mind.org.uk Or check out the [toolkit via the Intranet](#). To find out who your Influence and Participation coach is take a look at [who is my Influence and Participation coach?](#)