



Coproduction principles
October 2022

Context

- Good coproduction is essential to design services that work for people with multiple disadvantage.
- Our aim is to learn from good practice across the city to create a set of coproduction principles and collaborate with organisations to embed them in the system.
- On 22 September 2022, we held a Coproduction in Practice event which showcased good examples of coproduction. The attendees worked together throughout the day to coproduce a set of principles.
- These are the principles that we collated following the event.



What is coproduction?

Coproduction is a way of working where organisations work in partnership with their service users and/or people with lived experience to design, review or deliver services.

Coproduction requires everyone to work as equals to see each other's perspectives and make decisions collaboratively that work for services and service users alike. This ensures that services cater to the needs of the people that use them.



Co-production principles

Creativity



Relationships



Resources



Equality, diversity & inclusion



Trauma- informed



Sustainability



Creativity

Coproduction requires a **creative** and **flexible** approach to working.

Consider which **adaptations** might be needed to create an **inclusive space** where everyone is able to contribute equally.

Be **courageous**, keep your **mind open** and stay **curious**. Engaging with people with lived experience might require **different ways of working** but it's worth **stepping outside of your comfort zone** to meet them where they're at.

Relationships

Building **trusting relationships** with people with lived experience is key for genuine coproduction.

Be **open and honest**, act with **integrity** and **authenticity** and give yourself **time** to build positive relationships.

Be **clear** and **transparent** in your communications and **manage expectations**, yours and theirs.

When working with people with lived experience, acknowledge and **respect** their expertise and help **empower** them to contribute meaningfully.

Resources

Coproduction must be **resourced** properly to be **meaningful**.

This includes giving you and them plenty of **time**. Lived experience representatives should be **included at every stage** of the project and **kept updated** about progress, outcomes, blocks, and risks. They should be briefed before and after each project.

Be ready to provide extra **support** and **equipment** to create an **inclusive** working space.

People with lived experience bring valuable expertise to the table, they must be **appropriately rewarded** for their time and input.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Coproduction starts from the concept of **equality**. No one person is more important than any other within the group. **Be aware** that **power** can come in many forms and that **power dynamics** aren't always obvious.

Multiple and diverse perspectives are essential for **intersectionality**. It enables people to **challenge** each other about their assumptions and **unconscious biases**.

Create an **inclusive environment** where every person feels equal, welcomed and able to contribute. Think about **accessibility** of the space and the materials and provide **allyship** by **amplifying the voices** of people with lived experience. To be inclusive, all **communication and language** should be accessible.

Trauma-informed

To succeed, coproduction needs to be done in a **safe space** for all. A **trauma-informed** and **strengths-based** approach is essential.

Working with people with lived experience, requires **trust**, **patience** and **compassion**.

Acknowledge that the **person is the expert** and help **empower** them by providing **choice** and **clarity**.


Sustainability

People with lived experience bring their **valuable expertise** to the work. We need to acknowledge this and ensure coproduction is **resourced** and **funded** properly.


Invest in people, offer **education** and create **opportunities** for them to lead a **life beyond services**.

To **create growth**, we need to build and record **evidence** and create **feedback loops**.


Up to you



What do you think of these principles?



How will you implement these principles in your organisation?



Which of these 6 principles will you commit to implement in your practice first?

Let us know at: alex.collins@changingfuturesbristol.co.uk



For more info or questions, contact:

Alex Collins

Alex.collins@changingfuturesbristol.co.uk

www.changingfuturesbristol.co.uk