

Co-production at Making Space

Working together equally



A GUIDE TO CO-PRODUCTION

Co-production is for everyone. It can happen between two or more people, and can focus on anything from personal support or care to large projects and events.

Co-production is where everyone:

- Works together on something from the very beginning
- Starts with what they can do and give
- Discovers, values, and works with what matters to each person
- Shares power and responsibility, and has an equal say in what happens

Co-produced services is one of Making Space's strategic pillars for 2020-24.

What this means is:

- Offering people the chance to take part, especially before anything begins
- Everyone is given opportunities in ways that are appropriate to them
- Anyone can choose how much they give, or take part in
- Everyone takes part with honesty and openness
- Everyone respects diversity, each other's views, and ways of working
- The complete pool of skills, knowledge, resources, and time, is taken into consideration

Examples include:

- Creating an activity or event
- Building connections and partnerships in the local area
- Transforming support planning
- Creating and working on projects across the organisation

Co-production does not happen when anyone:

- Becomes involved in something set up by employees only
- Works on something that becomes fixed or closed
- Expects big results or outcomes too soon
- Looks for only the most efficient or convenient ways of working



Benefits include:

- Everyone gets to own a piece of our organisation, which is not led by the actions and ideas of employees only
- It moves away from the one-way practice of services providing and people receiving support or care
- It helps everyone to make the very best use of their knowledge and skills
- It strengthens relationships, and improves trust and understanding

Challenges include:

- Making sure that everyone has a fair chance to be included
- Working out what can be achieved together, and what the limits are
- Balancing positive risk taking with keeping everyone safe
- Keeping everyone informed in accessible ways



Co-production has the best chance of succeeding when everyone:

- Recognises each person's contribution and maintains equal partnership
- Is flexible and open minded to change, welcoming fresh ideas from within a project and elsewhere
- Values that there is often more than one way to achieve something
- Understands that it is okay for people to not agree on something, and makes sure that things are worked through respectfully
- Looks at what is working, what can be improved, and makes changes



This guide has been co-produced with the Making Change Group, which brings together people at Making Space to work on projects across our organisation.

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