



# A Co-production Guide for Adult Social Care in Devon

## Who is the guide for?

Members of staff from Integrated Adult Social Care who wish to apply Co-production methods to their work.

## What is Co-production?

In its purest sense, Co-production is a means by which people from different perspectives come together to work on a particular issue on an equal basis. A principle of Co-production is empowering all participants, and this is best-done when the starting point for a piece of work is a blank canvas.

### Co-production involves:

- making something happen together
- making decisions with others
- equal participation by people who use services, carers and professionals

## What Co-production isn't

Co-production is at the top of the 'Ladder of Participation' and is the most empowering form of engagement and consultation. It is not:

- An easy solution
- A way to save money
- A professional speaking to, or on behalf of citizens
- Another word for consultation, engagement, or participation, where all the power and decisions do not lie with the participants.

## What are the benefits of Co-production?

Co-production can help provide better outcomes for people who use services and their carers, help build stronger communities and empower citizens, and can help make best use of resources.

## Co-production is based on the following principles.

### **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.

### **Diversity**

Co-production should be as inclusive and diverse as possible. Particular efforts may be needed to ensure that seldom heard groups are included.

### **Accessibility**

Making everything accessible is the way to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to participate fully in an activity in the way that suits them best.

### **Reciprocity**

Means people get something back for putting something in.  
A relationship of mutual exchanges.

## How to begin your Co-production project?

First of all it is important to identify pieces of work that Co-production principles can be applied to, and therefore which projects service users and carers can meaningfully influence.

## The 6 steps of Co-productive working



Diagram showing the 6 steps of Co-productive working. Produced by Devon Co-production Working Group.

## Contact details and useful information

How to find out more - [Link to Co-production web page](#)

How to book a course – [Link to course page](#)

How to contact us – [adultsc.coproductiontaskfinish-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:adultsc.coproductiontaskfinish-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

## Other information

[Link to Social Care Institute for Excellence Co-production pages](#)

[Link to Think Local Act Personal website](#)

community being positive and proactive in what contribution it can make to the whole system. The very earliest stages of co-production are about identifying what you want to do and how to do it.

What do you want to do? Who are you doing it with? How are you doing it? How will you do it? How will you do it?