Exploring Approaches to Co-Production

Workshop One: Approaches to Co-Production in Research

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Unpacking Co-Production in Research
What are the Principles of Co-Production?

• Sharing of power
• Including all perspectives and skills
• Respecting and valuing the knowledge of all those working together on the research
• Reciprocity
• Building and maintaining relationships
• Joint understanding and consensus and clarity over roles and responsibilities.
What are the Features of Co-Production?

- Establish Ground Rules
- Joint Ownership of Key Decisions
- A commitment to relationship building
- Opportunities for personal growth and development
- Flexibility
- Valuing and evaluating the impact of co-producing research
- Continuous reflection
Why co-produce research?

• Co-production takes time and energy
• Why is it the right approach for your project?
• Benefits
  • Political – social justice, democracy, including the marginalised
  • Personal – empowerment, personal development, learning skills, developing confidence
  • Producing ‘better’ or ‘different’ knowledge that takes account of context (may be difficult to evidence)
  • Knowledge that is more practical and more likely to be implemented
  • Ethically the right thing to do
When to co-produce research

• One size doesn’t fit all: it can happen at any or all stages of the research cycle

• Is it feasible and practical to co-produce the entire way through? Some people might not want to be involved in everything

• Project priorities: need to come from people who you will be co-producing with
  • Who sets the agenda?

• Honesty about what has been decided, what is in the scope to be decided
Who is included?

- What stakeholders are important for your project?
- Same people/groups for whole project?
- Patients, service users, carers, members of the public
- Health professionals
- Community organisations
- Commissioners
Power – What is it and when can we see it?

Power imbalances might affect:

• Our aims, objectives and research questions
• Who is involved
• How we connect and work together
• How we work within and across organisations
• The outcomes and changes we make through the project
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