

Co-Production
Partnership



Sharing the power

Building a Co-Production Partnership Engagement Event Summary

Monday 4th July 2022

At The Mercure Bankfield Hotel, Bradford



1. Background

Disabled people want to ensure that they have a genuine voice and involvement as adult social care services develop in the Bradford District. To achieve this the Health and Wellbeing Directorate at the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council has funded Equality Together and BTM to develop a pilot Co-Production Partnership.

2. What do we mean by co-production?

Co-production is a way of working where people who use services are genuinely equal partners with people who manage and work in them. This is why, in consultation with disabled people, we chose our logo strapline: "[sharing the power](#)".

To meet the needs and expectations of disabled people, co-production can work at different levels:

- It can look at how an individual accesses and uses services
- A positive approach to how disabled people can shape and improve a service overall

3. Building a Co-production Partnership

To start the journey towards co-production in the Bradford District, an engagement event was held on Monday 4th July 2022 at The Mercure Bankfield Hotel. This was the first large cross-disability event held in the district since the pandemic.

The day was introduced by Councillor Dale Smith, former Co-Chair of the Strategic Disability Partnership. Iain MacBeith, Strategic Director of Health and Wellbeing at Bradford Metropolitan District Council outlined the Council's commitment to co-production in Adult Social Care Services.

Celebrating the former Strategic Disability Partnership

Our morning focused on the work of the former Strategic Disability Partnership (SDP). This presented an overview of the SDP's journey from conception through to its conclusion. It had given disabled people from across Bradford District a strong voice when working with Bradford Council. The presentation highlighted the areas of engagement and of the successes, as well as the difficulties that were faced.

Where we are now

Our morning session ended an overview of where we currently are with co-production in Bradford District. There were pockets of good practice and good engagement happening with self-advocacy and voluntary and community sector organisations. There is a commitment from Bradford Council to build co-production in adult social care.

Starting the process

The focus of our afternoon sessions was facilitated discussions on **How do we build a genuine Co-Production Partnership (CPP)?** As well as the facilitated discussion there was also the opportunity for people to voice their thoughts, opinions and issues via a "Talking Wall".

4. What do we want a Co-Production Partnership to look like?

a) Aims (what we want the partnership to do)

The key points were perhaps summarised by the following comments from the afternoon discussion.

Make a real difference to disabled people's lives day to day

and

Sharing power

The Partnership needs to be a strong voice for disabled people within the Bradford District. To do this it needs to talk and listen with a broad and diverse range of disabled people and groups.

b) Principles – what is important in how the partnership does its work?

What the Partnership achieves is important, the way it carries out its work is important too, with a strong set of principles needed setting out how it will work.

The phrases and themes which came up frequently were: diversity; inclusion and widening participation; accessible; relevant; honesty and leadership.

c) How should the CPP work?

With the above principles in mind the following points were shared by people at the first engagement event.

Diversity

The CPP to reflect the diversity of the Bradford District and needs to take steps to ensure that it connects with people with a wide range of different lived experiences.

The CPP should proactively work to ensure that people from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) and LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, +) communities are included.

Inclusion

The CPP needs to reach people who are not involved with groups and organisations or do not attend meetings.

Meetings

Meetings of the Partnership should be accessible and inspire people to participate.

Communications

When doing general communications the CPP will use plain English about the work of the CPP we will include audio recording, BSL and EasyRead.

5. What issues were raised by disabled people at the event?

The main issues which were raised across the day were: access to services; employment; getting around; health; housing and independence and choice. Some of the specific issues highlighted were: access to services; employment; getting around; health; housing and independence and choice.

6. Next Steps

a) Working groups

The CPP will set up working groups that are agreed by the members. These will look at how the CPP will take forward pieces of work. These will be where the CPP can make the biggest difference.

b) Events and meetings

Before March 2023 there will be at least three more events. As part of our commitment to work across the district we aim to hold these in different locations.

Our next programme of meetings will take place in September in which we will look at developing the structures and frameworks for the CPP, and how it works.

Other meetings will focus on the key areas which affect and impact the lives of disabled people and the services they use. Some of our meetings will look at these key areas highlighting issues and providing quality assurance, challenge and opportunities for change. These meetings will take place in the autumn and winter.

c) Visiting groups and organisations to gather opinions

We recognise that not everyone wants to attend formal meetings. Part of the role of the Partnership will be to visit groups and attend events across the community. The aim of this is to gather the opinions and gain greater involvement of disabled people into the partnership.

Contact the Co-Production Partnership

If you would like a copy of the full report from the Building a Co-Production Partnership event, or would like this summary in alternative formats, please contact us.

You can also contact us with any other comments about co-production and how services for disabled people in Bradford District can be improved.

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