

Co-Production Partnership: Sharing the Power

Bradford Co-Production Partnership

Update 5 - March 2023

Welcome to this latest Co-Production Partnership update. In this edition we will reviewing the first meetings of the Co-production working groups which have been set up to take forward the work of the Partnership.

Co-Production Partnership Working Groups

The Co-Production Partnership has set up four working groups. These were agreed at last year's Making Co-Production Work events. They are Access to Services, Accessible Information, Day Services and Independence and Choice. They all had their first meetings in January and February.

Each working group aims to bring people with lived experience of disability and staff from Bradford Council. We want the working groups to have a good cross section of different communities within the district. The different organisations for disabled people in the district were invited to send representatives to different working groups.

The aim is to work together to make positive changes for disabled people across the Bradford District.

The different disabled people's organisations which are based in the Bradford District were invited to send a representative to the meetings. As a working group each group needed to be large enough gain a good section of different views and experiences from disabled people, but small enough to allow people to participate fully and for meetings to work effectively. With over 80 disabled people's organisations across the district, between 20 and 30 organisations were invited to each working group. We thought having between 5 and 10 organisations taking part in each group would make the groups about the right size.

However, our plans did not work out as we want. Not many disabled attended the working group meetings. Although some good work has been started, we really wanted the partnership to find ways of allowing wider numbers of disabled people to have a voice in this process.

We will look again at how we can make the working groups more effective at the Partnership Board meeting.

Access to services – 23rd January

The Access to services group met on 23rd January. It looked at what issues have been raised by disabled people regarding access to services.

The main issues which had been raised include:

- Many services struggle if people have more than one disability or health condition
- Services need to be better at understanding individual's needs

- Disabled people can face difficulties using public transport
- There are limited opening times of many service
- Disabled people want to access mainstream services
- Services to be in accessible locations and to be closer to where people live.

The working group has will focus on looking at what barriers people with autism and other neuro-divergent conditions face when accessing mainstream services.

It will also write to local public transport providers outlining the issues which disabled people face when using public transport.

Day services – 1st February

The day services working group will be focusing its work on taking forward some of the ideas which came from the ‘Let’s Make Day Services Work’ events in November 2022. We will be working with people with Learning Disabilities to find out what activities they are wanting to participate in, in the community or in a buildings based service.

Accessible Information

The accessible information group had a wide ranging discussion. People were frustrated that some of the same issues which are being discussed now have been being raised over the last 20 years or more.

The group looked at the guiding principles of accessible information.

- Information needs to meet people’s needs.

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- People should be able to choose how they receive information.
- Information should be based around plain English, which makes it easier to turn into other formats.

The group also recognised that creating information in different formats has a cost, and needs to be targeted to areas where it will be needed.

The group heard how Bradford Council are updating the Connect to Support website. One of the issues which people have frequently raised is that information can be out of date. This website has an ability for people who use it to highlight any errors so corrections can be made quickly.

The projects the group are going to work on first are: working with the Connect to Support team to make sure the new website is as accessible as possible. We will also work look at influencing Bradford Council to see if they can log people's information needs more consistently. We will initially contact Adult Social Care to see if their IT system can do this.

Independence and choice – 15th February

Unfortunately only two people from disabled people's organisations were able to attend the meeting, so it was agreed to try having a meeting at a later date.

Contact the Co-Production Partnership

You can call/ text on 07432 264 881 or

email us at co-production@equalitytogether.org.uk

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