

Co-Production  
Partnership



Sharing the power

# Taking Co-Production Forward Event Large Print Summary

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

at Margaret McMillan Tower, Bradford



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## **Alternative formats**

This report is available in easy read and audio (spoken word) formats. If you require it in an alternative format please get in touch. Email [willq@equalitytogether.org.uk](mailto:willq@equalitytogether.org.uk) or call/ text 07432 264 881.

## **Background**

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”.

Our primary focus is to ensure that the voice of disabled people is heard and acted upon and that our communities are an equal and valued partner working with Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC). The aim of the Co-Production Partnership is to ensure that disabled people are truly involved as the services they use change.

The focus of the work is on adult social care services. Social care services are things such as home care support or day services. However,

social care services are part of the wider community, and link to issues such as transport, employment and housing.

## **Taking Co-Production Forward event 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Following on from our previous co-production events held in 2022, it was decided to have another event to bring together disabled people, their carers, people who work in services and people who commission services.

The Taking Co-Production Forward event had three aims. There were:

- To allow disabled people to say what is important within the Bradford Council social care commissioning priorities. Commissioning priorities are the things that the council want to spend its money on.
- To allow disabled people to say what the Co-Production Partnership should be doing for the next year.
- To bring together people from different backgrounds and organisations to allow people

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to talk together and listen to each other as equals.

The event brought together 90 people. These included disabled people and carers, people who work in services used by disabled people, as well as colleagues from Bradford Council and the NHS.

## **What has the Co-Production Partnership done so far?**

The day started with Wil Quick, Co-Production Co-ordinator, outlining the work of the Partnership over the last two years.

He started by outlining how its first year saw the Partnership establish a solid base to build from. This including holding district wide events to agree how the Partnership would do its work and what the most important issues are for disabled people.

During 2023, the Partnership set up four working groups. These were:

- Access to Services
- Accessible Information
- Day Services
- Independence and choice

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The four topics had been chosen by disabled people as the most important areas to concentrate on.

Each working group brought together disabled people and colleagues from the commissioning team in Bradford Council and other relevant organisations.

One part of the work where the Partnership has struggled is the setting up of the Partnership Board. The Partnership Board would oversee the work of the Co-Production Partnership.

Wil finished off by telling people about how Bradford Council had asked the Co-Production Partnership to find a disabled person who could join the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (usually called HOSC for short).

# Adult Social Care commissioning intentions 2024/25

Holly Watson works as the Senior Commissioning Manager for Adult Social Care at Bradford Council. She told people about how Bradford Council decides what social care services are needed.

Holly spoke about what area the council will be looking at over the next year. These are:

- Mental Health Supported Living
- Advocacy
- Homeless services
- Local Community Support Grants (small amounts of money to support local community led groups)
- Extra Care Services (support to allow people with complex needs to remain independent)
- Small Supports (personalised care for adults with learning disabilities)

She was very straight forward about the financial difficulty the council was facing. This means that adult social care services are needing to save around £5 million each year. And the council is

needing to save £40 million a year across all services. This means that it is important that the council spends its money on where it is going to make the most difference to the people who need it most. She did recognise that some services will have to change how they work or even close. However, she also said that the council recognised that services which stop people's conditions from getting worse are really important.

One of the key points to come from the discussion strongly was that services need to be person centred and accessible.

The main service areas which people felt were important were advocacy, social inclusion and support for voluntary and community organisations.

# **“We are more than disabled people”**

The afternoon session was called ‘We are more than disabled people.’ Wil explained that when he was talking to disabled people, often the conversation is about how they interact with different care services. However, as disabled people, we should be able to be part of and make a contribution to our community.

Some of the highlight of the discussion included:

**Arts and culture:** Events which are part of Bradford 2025: City of Culture needs to be accessible to all. This includes making events accessible to disabled people. It also means having events throughout the district.

**Housing:** There is not enough affordable or accessible housing. If you need accessible housing the wait can be really long.

**Health:** Health staff need to be more aware of the needs of disabled people. They need adapt their communication methods and services so disabled people can use them. For example, people may need longer for their appointments.

Work: Disabled people often find it hard to get jobs. They can be excluded from work for their whole working lives. Large organisations such as the council and NHS should run work experience placements for disabled people.

## **Priorities for the Co-Production Partnership**

The final session of the day was looking at what the priorities should be for the Co-Production Partnership. We ask this as the Partnership can't do everything people want it to, so needs to concentrate on doing fewer things well.

The most common comments which were recorded were around increasing participation and involvement in co-production. This could take many forms, including offering training for disabled people and people who work in services to allow people to work positively together.

The most important issues were advocacy, transport and accessible information. Although transport sits outside the remit of social care, it clearly links to disabled people being able to access

services and have a good quality of life. Some of the issues raised included the need for better communication around changes to services, in ways that are genuinely accessible to disabled people. It was also noted that many buses were not very accessible for disabled people. All the issues raised around transport will be passed onto the relevant organisation, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority which has overall responsibility for overseeing bus services in the district.

## **What next**

This report, which is available in easy read, large print and an audio (spoken word) version, has been sent to everyone who registered to attend the event. It has also been sent to the Adult Social Care Commissioning Team and all the organisations which support disabled people across the Bradford District.

The detailed information on specific topics will be sent to relevant organisations or teams, asking for a response. We aim to do this by the end of April.

We will work with disabled people and people who work in services to develop training to allow people to work together more effectively.

We will set up working groups to bring together disabled people and colleagues from the council and other partner organisations to work on the issues which disabled people have identified as important.

We will support the disabled person who is elected to be the representative on Bradford Council's Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

We will continue to produce regular updates on our work to send to individuals and organisations.

## Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event and shared their views. We would also like to thank the people who facilitated the group discussions, Holly for her presentation, David for the photography, everyone who helped with jobs such as running the signing in table and serving lunch. Special thanks go to Emily for sorting out lunch under very difficult conditions.

# Contact the Co-Production Partnership

If you want to contact the Co-Production Partnership you can do so by

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