

Definition of Co-production - what does it mean to *The Way Ahead*?

Co-production is where Londoners work with those in power, and each other, in a way in which all voices are heard equally in developing a shared understanding of need and in crafting solutions to make London a better place. To be clear, effective co-production goes well beyond consultation. Pragmatic co-production should cover a continuum of activity as set out in the diagram overleaf.



By “pragmatic” co-production we mean honest conversations should be held between communities, funders and civil society about the constraints on what is possible and the tensions between differing viewpoints. The effectiveness of this approach has already been proven in sectors such as children’s disability, where co-production has become central to how services are shaped within the overall context of finite resources.

Who are we?

The co-production working group is made of people from a range of different organisations including; national and local charities, local CVSs, volunteer bureaus, and council officers. The chair is Jake Ferguson, whose day job is Chief Executive Officer at Hackney CVS, the umbrella body for community groups and charities in Hackney.



‘As Chair of the working group I appreciate how much knowledge and experience you will have of co-production so please send me your examples so that we can compile a compendium of good practice happening across London. The idea is to try and pull this together by April this year’. Jake Ferguson

What’s happened so far?

On the 30th November 2016 *The Way Ahead* conference was held to start the process. There were wide ranging discussions and a specific workshop on co-production. It concluded that:

- co-production needs to be simple and easy for people to engage with
- service users should be respected in any processes developed
- that there are many different ways of doing co-production and these should utilise assets that already exist (people & communities)
- some of the principles of co-production have been around for a while – some things have worked and others not so well
- there needs to be a focus on equalities

We have also had the first meeting of the co-production working group in December (an informal group for those interested in furthering co-production as a method of people empowerment). If you are interested in attending meetings of the group then please drop me an email at jake@hcv.org.uk