

All Together Now.

Easy read guide about coproduction for disabled people and their organisations.

About coproduction.

Coproduction happens when people who make important decisions work together with others to develop new policies or ways of doing things.



Coproduction is about:

- Working together in an equal way.
- Sharing power.
- Sharing knowledge and skills.
- Sharing resources, like money and people.
- Working together from the start.
- Agreeing results together.
- Making important decisions together.
- Shaping how something is done from the start.
- Finding ways to meet everyone's goals.
- Listening to each other.
- Trying new ideas that might work.
- Supporting each other to learn new things.



Ways coproduction is used.



Coproduction can be used in lots of ways. It can be used by someone planning the social care services they will get. It could be used to design an event, training pack, leaflet, toolkit, local centre or changes to public transport timetables. It can be used for developing services or policies for groups of people or local communities.



Coproduction for groups or communities is sometimes called community coproduction. This guide is about community coproduction.

About coproduction partners.



Lots of people can be a coproduction partner. For things that affect disabled people the partners may be representatives from disability organisations or other disabled people. Friends, family, neighbours and advocates may also be involved.

The partners may be staff from local councils, the Scottish Government, local Health Board, school or college. They might be from a voluntary sector organisation like a charity.



When coproduction is used.



Usually coproduction is started by the people who want to develop something. If they know about you or your organisation they might invite you to join a project group about the issue.



You could start a group about coproduction. This would work best if it is about a local issue.

What you could contribute (share).

You might be able to get involved and share:

- Knowledge about independent living.
- housing, community care or education.
- Experience about life as a disabled person.
- Information about disability or access issues.

Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) may be able to share information from research they have done or about the problems that disabled people have. They may be in touch with groups of disabled people and share their ideas.





What you may need for coproduction.

To be able to take part equally you might need training about things like:



- How to speak up in meetings.
- How to meet new people and share ideas.
- Being more confidence and assertive.
- Understanding finance (money).
- The issue to be discussed.
- How a service or policy gets developed.

If you work for a DPO you will need to:

- Work out how you are going to involve your networks or members.
- Tell them what coproduction is.
- Tell them that not everything everyone says will be used.
- Get the support of your Board.



To be a good coproduction partner you must:

- Work together to make it a success.
- Be flexible and able to change your ideas.
- Respect the aims of independent living.
- Have enough time to take part properly.



About your coproduction partners.



Coproduction partners will probably work for the public sector (like health, education or social work) or the voluntary sector (like a disability or community organisation). If they work for a local council or the Scottish Government their role is to support elected politicians. They are not allowed to do things to promote their political party. They often have to follow complicated rules which means things can take a long time to happen. They should have power to make decisions. There will be limits to what they can do. Remember that coproductions partners will have own experiences, interests and feelings.



Where to start.



Some practical things may need to be sorted out before you start working together. Here is a list of things to check:



- ✓ What disability access needs people have.
- ✓ If anyone needs transport, personal or communication assistance.



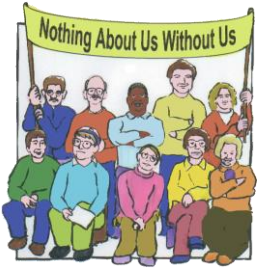
- ✓ Find somewhere suitable to meet.
- ✓ Agree how you are going to communicate.
- ✓ Check that everyone understands what coproduction is and that they agree to work this way.
- ✓ Check if anyone else needs to be involved .
- ✓ Agree some ground rules for how you will work together and respect each other.
- ✓ Agree the result (or outcome) you all want to see and what needs to be done to achieve it.
- ✓ Agree what activities need to be done and when these will be done.
- ✓ Work out how to measure how well the process is going. Check this as you go along.
- ✓ Agree roles, like who the Chair is going to be and who will take notes and organise meetings.



How to build good relationships.

We need to remember that everyone has different views and experiences. For example, our partners from a local council might not know about disability. Disabled people might not know about delivering public services. We need to support each other to learn.





Sometimes disabled people get angry because their views have not always been heard. It is really important to look forward and be positive about this new chance to be heard. So we need to build good relationships with our coproduction partners, based on trust, good communication and supporting each other.

What happens after we have finished.



When the process ends you should check to see if the process was a success. Perhaps there were good things that happened that you were not expecting. Perhaps other things did not go so well but you learned from these.



You can need to check what actually happens as a result of the change or new policy and find out what the effect is.

You might still have a role to play. Your organisation may support disabled people to use a new service and check what is happening. You may join a group that reports on progress.





If you have built good relationships with your coproduction partners it may well be good to keep in touch so you can work together again in the future.



It can be very helpful to share what you have learned about coproduction so that others can learn what works well and what does not. If everyone shares their learning then everyone can learn more easily and more quickly. This will lead to better outcomes. This is what good coproduction is all about.



For more information about coproduction, have a look at the 'All Together Now toolkit'. You can find this at: www.ilis.co.uk .



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