

GETTING STARTED

Co-production begins with relationships, trust, and a willingness to share power. It is not a single activity or consultation, but an ongoing way of working together.

Start with Purpose

Be clear about why you want to use co-production and what people will be able to influence. Honest conversations about expectations help build trust from the beginning.

Build Strong Foundations

Ensure there is organisational commitment, adequate time, and resources for meaningful participation. Consider accessibility, safeguarding, reimbursement, and staff training before starting.

Recruit Inclusively

Work with trusted community organisations and create flexible, welcoming opportunities for involvement. People should not need formal qualifications, confidence, or perfect English to participate.

Invest in Relationships

Take time to listen, build trust, and understand people's strengths, experiences, and goals. Offer mentoring, training, and regular check-ins to support participation.

Share Power in Practice

Involve people with lived experience in shaping decisions, facilitating conversations, designing projects, and evaluating outcomes. Co-production works best when responsibility and ownership are shared.

Close the Feedback Loop

Always communicate what changed as a result of people's involvement, what could not change, and why. Transparency and accountability are essential for meaningful co-production.

Co-production is a learning process. Starting small, listening carefully, and being willing to adapt are often the most important first steps.

