

An introduction to co-production

Report by SBC Chief Social Work Officer

Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board

9 June 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents the co-production toolkit entitled 'An introduction to co-production'. The toolkit was discussed by the Joint Delivery Team on 18 May and agreement received for its presentation to the Strategic Board. It has been developed, under Scottish Borders Council's Transformation programme, to support staff to use a co-productive approach when commissioning, designing, delivering and/or assessing services.

1.2 Co-production is a proven way of working in partnership with communities to commission, design, deliver and/or assess public services and support the improvement of outcomes. It has been used successfully across the Partnership with some examples given within the document itself.

1.3 An introduction to co-production has been developed by a working group involving Council, Public Health and Third Sector officers.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board agrees and adopts the Introduction to Co-production.

3 BACKGROUND - WHAT IS CO-PRODUCTION?

3.1 Co-production means that the people who use the services are equally involved alongside professionals in the planning and delivering of services. The New Economics Foundation defines it as "...delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using their services, their families and their neighbours. Where activities are co-produced in this way, both services and neighbourhoods become far more effective agents of change." Or more simply, "Co-production is about combining our mutual strengths and capacities so that we can work with one another on an equal basis to achieve positive change."

4 SBC CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION

4.1 Co-production was initially identified as a good way of working that could be used across the Council to support the meaningful involvement of communities in the development, design and/or delivery of a service. It is not a new concept and there are already areas of good practice across the Community Planning Partnership. It was recognised that the development of guidance to support this approach would be of benefit across the Partnership as a whole, and sits very naturally with the Community Planning Partnership's Community Engagement Framework. In order to progress this, the project was assigned to the Corporate Transformation programme.

5 BACKGROUND - WHY CO-PRODUCE?

5.1 Neither the Community Planning Partnership nor the community have all the resources required to address the needs of the area. Recognising these resources and bringing them together in partnership can be beneficial to both. It is important to stress that co-production is different from consultation in that it is a collaborative working relationship with shared decision making and equality between partners.

6 DEVELOPMENT

6.1 In order to make sure the toolkit meets the needs and expectations of Partners, a working group, led by Elaine Torrance, has been established to take the project forward. Membership includes representatives from the Council, Public Health and the 3rd Sector

7 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW PLAN

7.1 An Implementation and Review Plan, supported by an e-learning module, has been developed for use within the Council. The content of the module, and the Plan itself, can be shared with Partners for use within their own organisations if required.

8 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

8.1 The Community Empowerment Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act on 24 July 2015. Different parts of the Act are coming in to force at different times. Part 11 of the Act (Non-domestic rates) came in to force on 31 October 2015, Part 1 (National outcomes) and sections of Part 4 (Community rights to buy land) came into force on 15 April 2016.

8.2 The aim of the Act is to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them. Co-production very much supports this aim by involving community groups/individuals in the commissioning, design, delivery and assessment of services.

8.3 It is expected the co-production approach will support the development of locality plans under part 2 of the Act (Community Planning) and outcome

improvement processes initiated under part 3 of the Act (Participation requests). Both parts of the Act are expected to come into force in October 2016.

Approved by

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