



An Overview

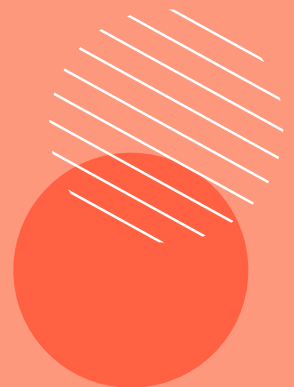
The Value of Co-Production Research Project

Community Reporting
Summary of Findings

Version 1.0 [31 October 2022]



Co-Production
Collective



This report was co-authored by the 100 people who shared their stories of co-production, and facilitated and curated by collaborative teams from People's Voice Media and Curators of Change. Members of Co-Production Collective provided vital support and guidance throughout the process.



What was the purpose of this research?

- To understand the value of co-production – the benefits it brings to individuals, organisations and society, and its impact on policy, services and research.
- To use the positive or negative experiences of co-producers to explore this value.
- To begin to explore what are the conditions needed for co-production to happen

This work forms part of the Value of Co-Production Research Project, 31 October 2022
Version 1.0

What did we do?

We used the [Community Reporting method](#) to gather 100 stories of co-production experiences. This process has 3 stages.

1 Gathering stories:

Dialogue interviews were carried out in a peer-to-peer fashion.
Key to these interviews are the storyteller sets the agenda

2 Sense-making:

Online workshops with some of the people who shared their stories, to listen to some of the recordings and pick out key themes and findings.

3 Responding:

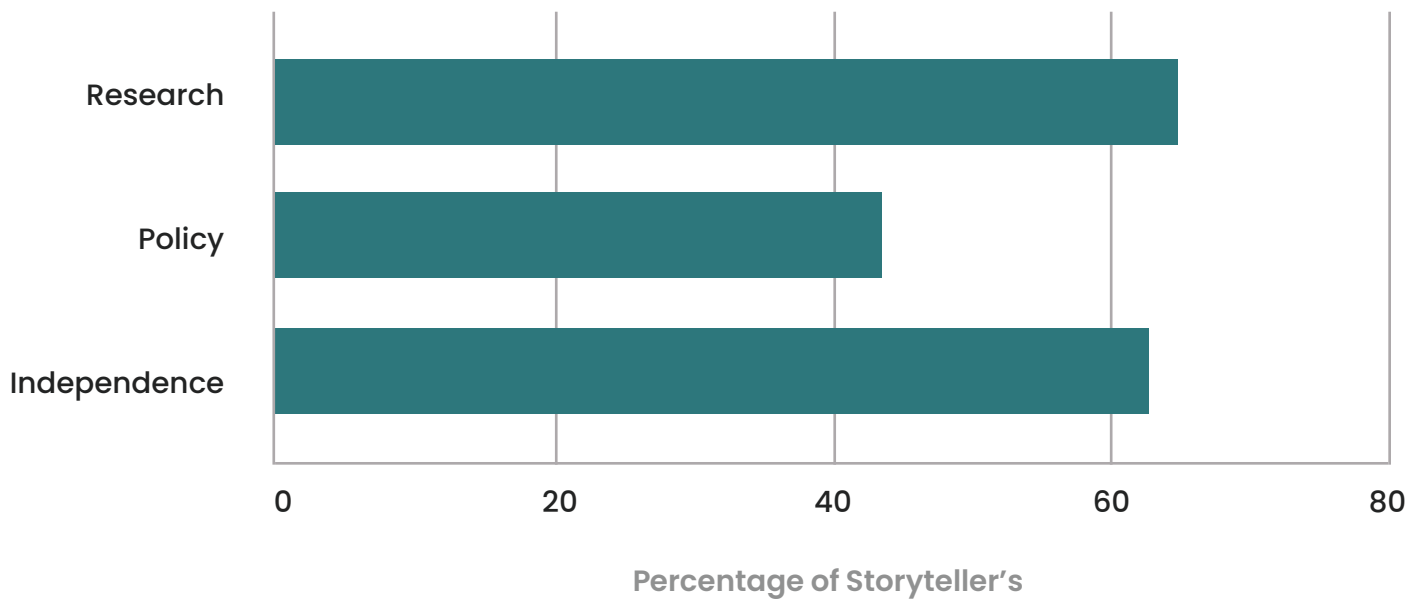
We've begun to mobilise the insights in the stories to support people to use this learning to effect change. To do this, we've created a range of products to help share the knowledge.

- A written report summarising the key findings, using the themes identified by the sense-making and supported by quotes from the stories.
- A YouTube playlist of short extracts from all the stories.
- Full stories uploaded to the Community Reporter website.

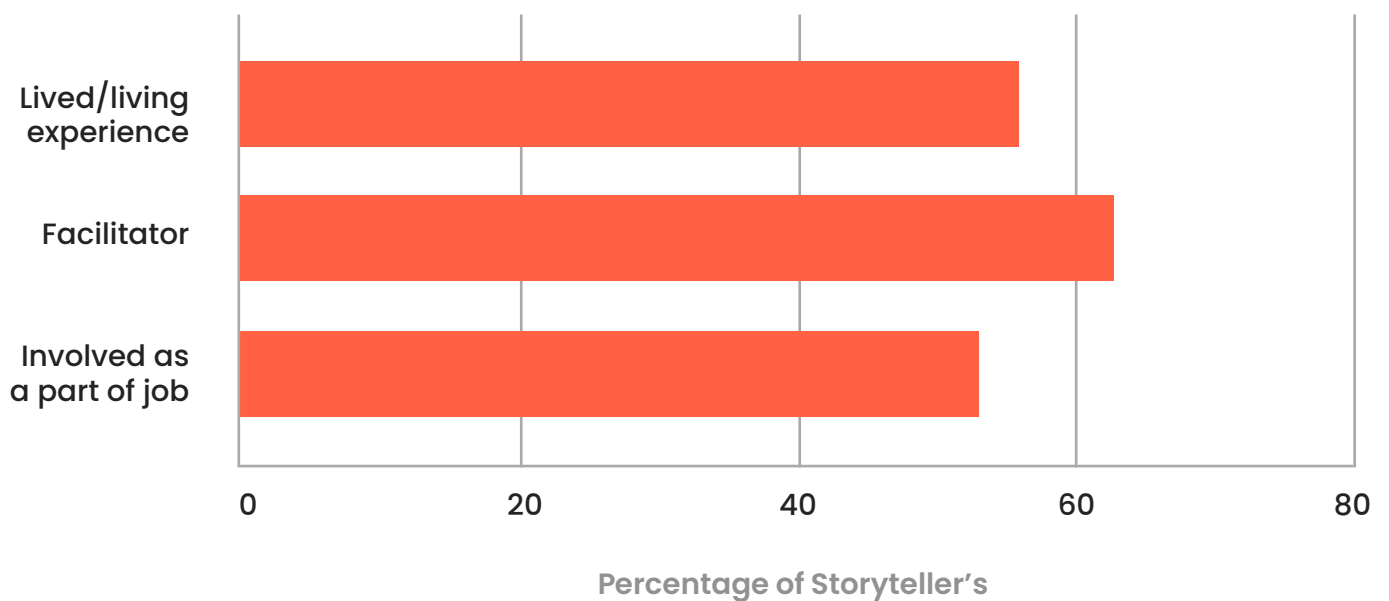
Who shared their stories?

We wanted to speak to a spread of people with different perspectives and roles in co-production. People could select more than one category that applied to them.

Storyteller's experience by sector



Role in co-production



The majority of the stories collected related to co-production in health and social care, with housing, local authorities, communities and education also featuring frequently.

- Two-thirds of storytellers were female
- Nine identified as LGBTQIA+
- A quarter described themselves as having a disability
- The majority of respondents were white British. Storytellers also identified as British Pakistani, Black, Bangladeshi, mixed race and minority ethnic.
- The age of storytellers ranged from 20-85.

Storytellers had lived experience of physical disability, mental health challenges, neurodiversity, addiction, homelessness, poverty, care system, being a carer, adverse childhood experiences, prison, adoption and sexual exploitation.

“Everything is shared, your knowledge, your values, even your confusion. Co-production is a space where you not only share the things, you also learn the things.”

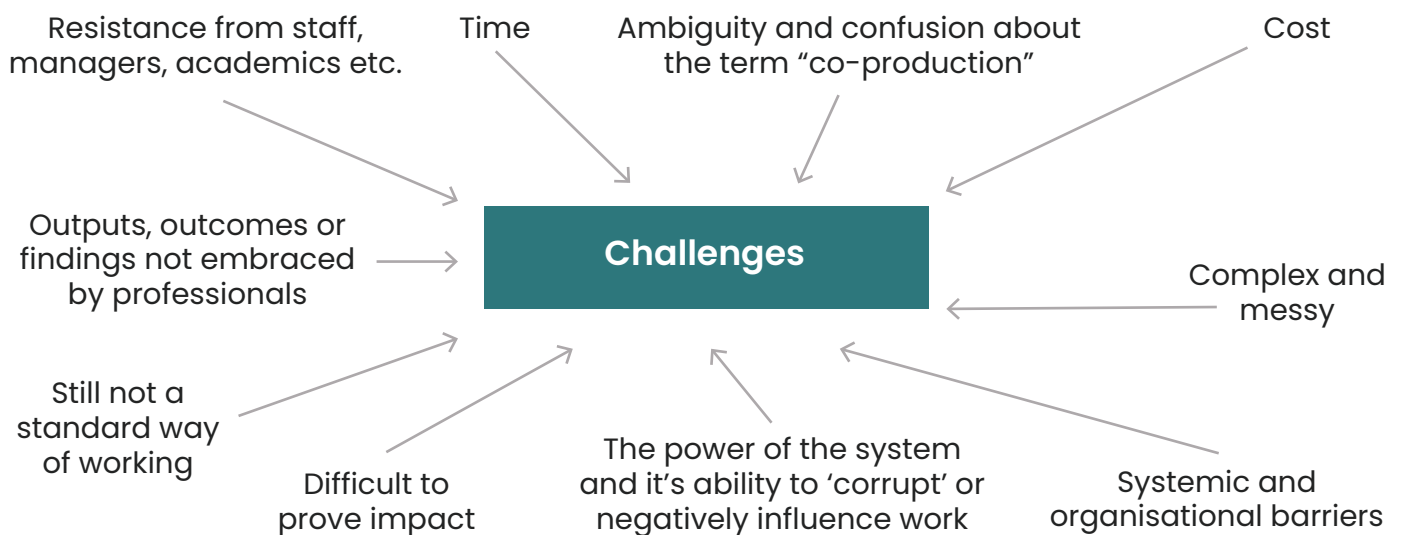
What did we find out? The benefits of co-production

Diversity of Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to unheard perspectives • Cultural inclusion and adaptation • Multiple perspectives on a topic • Offers learning opportunities • See things from another point of view • Social justice 	<p><i>“Having that diversity of thinking creates better solutions”</i></p> <p><i>“hearing unheard voices”</i></p>
Difficult to achieve the same results without lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of insights leads to greater benefits • The expertise of people with lived experience • Inject creativity and independence • Finding the unexpected • Changed understanding and behaviour of professionals • Changed process, outcomes and outputs • Ability to address needs of different groups 	<p><i>“People who are at the heart of the things that society is trying to change are best placed to help with the change. Beneficiaries of services are best placed to help with that change as they live and breathe these services and know how they should feel, look and operate.”</i></p>
Depth of insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth of information and analysis – first-hand, up-to-date • Less agenda-driven • Includes evidence from different perspectives 	<p><i>“We had amazing in-depth life conversations; the analysis sessions were full of passion and spirit...that’s really how co-productive research should be.”</i></p>

Co-learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the answers together • Sharing different types of knowledge and information • Continuous process • Sharing learning more widely 	<p><i>“A win-win situation for everyone. They get to do their jobs better because they’ve spoken to me, and I get to live my life better because they’ve brought their expertise and combined it with my experience.”</i></p>
Sharing roles, sharing power, striving for equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to remove hierarchy • Power-sharing - stepping up, stepping back • Putting people with lived experience into power-holding roles • Being humans together 	<p><i>“With co-production, what it’s really good at addressing is the power dynamics. Especially when you’re working with clinicians, there’s often that inherent power dynamic. What I’ve found working in co-production is it becomes flattened.”</i></p>
People driving change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine control over project and process • Change in attitudes - recognise capacity to create change • Professionals changing practice to put others in control • People feel ownership - buy-in helps you achieve more • Empowering 	<p><i>“I think it’s really important that whatever comes out throughout that process can grow in different directions... it’s not about ‘come and tell us what we want to hear’ it’s more about ‘come and lead us’.”</i></p>
Collective action and connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting with power • Connection and support = power and opportunity • Growing empathy • Social connection has a positive impact on wellbeing 	<p><i>“[The] group felt empowered to help others in the community as well as themselves, because they realised their own assets and knowledge”.</i></p>
Enhanced ability to create change organisationally and in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to communities • Meaningful connections that increase community cohesion • Sharing resources, findings, tools • Organisations changed to become more dynamic and people-focused 	<p><i>“[The] group felt empowered to help others in the community as well as themselves, because they realised their own assets and knowledge”.</i></p>

<p>Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust in services • Trust in research • Trust in communities • Trust in co-production itself • Hope 	<p><i>“Having the involvement from the people in the community also built trust in the research. People were more willing to come and talk to the research team...because they knew that it had that authentic input from people with that lived experience.”</i></p>
---------------------	---	---

Challenges of co-production



“Academic systems and structures are not set up for co-production... I wanted to apply for funding collaboratively, but often when you're applying for funding it has to be through an academic institution so the power automatically goes to the academic even though the whole principle of co-production is about sharing power.”

Value for all

Impacts on individuals	Impacts on organisations	Impacts on society
Developing skills and knowledge	Better informed decision-making	A fairer society
Growing in confidence	Less waste - saves money	Addressing stigma, discrimination, inequality
Career and employment	Producing better outcomes using shared experience and knowledge	Awareness-raising
Emotional value - satisfaction and making a difference	Inclusion - nothing about us without us	Taking power to grassroots
Friendship, connection, networking	Changing the way things are done	A model for others to follow
Having a voice	Putting recommendations or learning into practice	Sharing learning more widely
Practical benefits of outcomes	Long-term change	Positive impacts on wellbeing
Support	Embedding co-production principles throughout work	Services that better meet needs
<p>"I found it fantastic, it gave me a purpose, I felt really motivated... What people overlook is the incredible benefit to the individual involved in co-production...It gave me a purpose, it gave me confidence, it allowed me to network."</p>	<p>"Co-production can create a culture within organisations. It changes the way organisations work and see the involvement of people's lived experiences. It changes an organisation and staff thinking. It enables organisations to produce the best work as this will be centred around the living experiences of those that may have been beneficiaries of the offer the organisation is delivering"</p>	<p>"Communities who have social capital - can engage with each other, services, councils etc enjoy better health and outcomes, and are better funded. Co-production is a vehicle to produce social capital - to harness people to be "bothered".</p>

Services

Research

Long-term thinking

Trying to remove hierarchy

Finding the unexpected

Services that better meet needs

More dynamic

Changed understanding of professionals

People feel ownership - buy-in helps you achieve more

Including evidence from different perspectives

More people-focused

Producing better outcomes using shared knowledge and experiences

Professionals ceeding control/stepping back

Developing new methodologies

Professionals changing practice and behaviour

Findings of research more widely shared and available beyond peer-reviewed academic journals

Co-learning

Social justice - addressing discrimination and inequality

Less waste - saves money

Increased trust in research

Putting recommendations into practice

People driving change - in power-holding roles

Richer insights leads to greater benefits

Better informed decision-making

Changing the way things are done

Being humans together - growing empathy

Sharing learning more widely

Identifying need and being able to address it

Diversity of perspectives and contributions

Research/policies are less shaped by researchers, less agenda-driven

Practical outcomes and benefits


Trust

Policy

Build consensus and community

Supports compromise in policy

Collectively agreed way forward



Ingredients for co-production

Share power	Human	Value each other	Listen
Flexibility	Time	Make change	Creativity

Money	Support	Be open to learning from mistakes	Ongoing evaluation
Action-based	Honesty		Good facilitation

Good intentions	Open culture and attitude	Openness to change
Live with discomfort	Embed from the beginning	Appropriate spaces

“It’s the feeling that you get when everyone involved in a project is bringing their own different set of skills... and it’s working in harmony... we all have our own different areas of expertise we bring to a project, so it’s not that anybody is of higher value or less value... when that works really well and we’re all treating each other as equals in that project... we’ve all got our own areas of interest and agency in tasks that we’re dealing with delivering on those - that feeling when that project comes together at the end is just amazing. Because we’ve all contributed equally in our own way and the end piece of work - it really does feel collaborative - it feels like we’ve all inputted into this equally.”

In partnership with:



Co-Production
Collective

