

## Transformative Co-production in the Forensic Mental Health Setting

Ward staff and Service users at John Howard Centre and Wolfson House , Jena Hall (Speech and language Therapist), Gita Patni (Welfare rights & Recovery Lead), Sophie Akehurst (Senior People Participation Lead), Forensic Dietetic team, Vincent Dubre (People Participation Worker), Chouna Smith (physical health lead nurse)

### AHP Living Well- Working together 2024

#### What was the problem?

The term co-production is used interchangeably with service user involvement (SUI). Uniquely to the Forensic Mental Health setting, considerations for safety and legalities can become barriers to parity in collaboration.

#### Aim(s)

" There is no single, universal model of co-production" so the aim of this project was to produce an easy plain English guide to co production specific to the Forensic setting, for use by new/ current (incl. Temp staff) and Service Users (SUs) and all those involved in their care.

#### What did you do?

1. Improving access to relevant information and key participants of co-production.
2. Assemble a directory of all current co-produced activities and projects across the directorate.
3. Learn from best practice, challenges of implementing a culture of co-production, what went well and what not so well.
4. Reduce and bridge the gap between senior stake holders and frontline staff and service users.

#### If you have any data pop it in here (if not delete)

- 17 monthly SUI & Co-production working group meetings to date and to be continued with SUs attending for meaningful and valued contribution.
- Proposed an Initial staff survey to explore & identify gaps and barriers to co-producing as well as current good practice.
- Proposed a SU based focus groups to understand their experience
- In process of co-producing a 2 day course on Co-production as part of the Recovery College Programme. Staff attending alongside SUs.
- A 'How to co-produce' guide to be provided as resource ([Recipe for Transformative Co-production](#)).

**Co-Production**

The course is for staff and service users who would like to learn about working together to improve and maintain quality of care. The session will give information and resources to help deepen understanding of working together.

The course will cover:

- What is co-production and why is it important in mental health
- SUI strategy for service user involvement and co-production
- Ladder of citizen participation and values (principles of co-production)
- Learning from current and previous service user involvement and co-production projects
- Challenges faced for staff and service users

After attending the session you will have a better understanding of what co-production is and how it can help at every point of service delivery, know where to start, and how to build on patient ideas using co-production. Be provided with a handy guide to co-production and service user involvement, including a step by step guide from how to start and who to contact. The guide will include important considerations for service user involvement and co-production such as payment procedures & top tips.

**Where:** John Howard Centre  
**When:** September & October 2024  
**Professional Tutors:** Jena Hall, Nastaran Sepanj & Gita patni  
**Peer Tutor:** IDC  
**Course duration:** 1 sessions

#### How did this work improve the lives of our service users or staff?

- Reducing Stigma around mental health and improving social inclusion.
- Develop practical and meaningful skills that can be transferable to vocation outside of Forensic setting upon discharge to the community.
- Challenging the hierarchical structures and institutional norms by sharing power and allowing all staff and service user to shine and collaborate regardless of their role, pay grade, background & personal circumstances.
- Harness a sense of identity & empowerment for all.

#### Learning and what next?

We hope to create a live and interactive 'how to co-produce' web page accessible for all staff and SU's . Another future goal of our project is to be able to demonstrate the effects of co-production being translated into meaningful outcomes such as improvement in mental health, staff well-being, SUs' clinical presentation and improvement in their recovery journey.