

ASC Strategic Commissioning Team Co-production framework

2025

Best Life
Derbyshire



“Co-production is when people come together as equals to make decisions, or co-create strategy, policy and support that works for everyone. This always includes people who draw on care and support and their carers, usually alongside people who work in care and support. It is based on the idea that those who draw upon care and support are best placed to decide how it should work for them”.

[Think Local Act Personal \(TLAP\)](#)

In Derbyshire, one of our key strategic objectives is to "**embed co-production to strengthen true partnership between people who use adult social care services, carers and professionals to deliver better outcomes**" [Council Plan 2025-29](#). This also links to our departmental [participation strategy](#) which sets out our [co-production](#) vision and priorities.

This framework supports Adult Social Care’s strategic commissioning practice by defining what we mean by co-production, identifying opportunities for co-production and co-design within the strategic commissioning cycle, and linking to useful resources to improve our practice.

The Care Act 2014 is one of the first pieces of legislation to include co-production in statutory guidance. It defines co-production as *‘when an individual influences the support and services received, or when groups of people get together to influence the way that services are designed, commissioned, and delivered. It should bring people with lived and learned experience together as equals, to share power and to have influence over decisions that are made’*.

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities’ delivery of regulated care functions set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. Co-production is cited within CQC’s Assurance Framework, and Councils are required to evidence that *‘they actively seek out and listen to information about people who are most likely to experience inequality in experience or outcomes, and tailor care and support in response to this.’* CQC will look for evidence that co-production is embedded throughout the local authority’s work and that we use it to influence key decision making within our service.

In April 2023, ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) published [Time to act: A roadmap for reforming care and support in England](#). The report is an enabler for Directors of Adult Social Services, and their professional association (ADASS), to drive progress, in partnership with people who draw on care and support, towards realising the shared vision for care and support: *“We want to shift away from viewing social care as a service where decisions are made by local authorities, towards care and support... where decisions are made by, and with, people who draw on care and support and their families and carers.”*

ADASS also published [‘A vision for co-production with ADASS – TLAP’](#) in March 2025, committing to making co-production part of ADASS culture.

Benefits of embedding co-production in commissioning

There are many benefits to embedding a co-production approach to Adult Social Care (ASC) strategic commissioning including:-

- Services are more likely to be relevant, accessible, and effective when designed with the input of those who will use them.
- Services and care and support are more likely to deliver improved outcomes for individuals.
- Individuals who feel heard and involved in shaping their care and support are more likely to be satisfied with the services they receive.
- Co-production can empower individuals by giving them greater control over their lives and promoting a sense of agency.
- By involving people with lived experience, co-production can help to identify more effective and efficient ways of delivering services.
- Co-production can lead to greater transparency and accountability in social care services, as people with lived experience are involved in monitoring and evaluating their effectiveness.

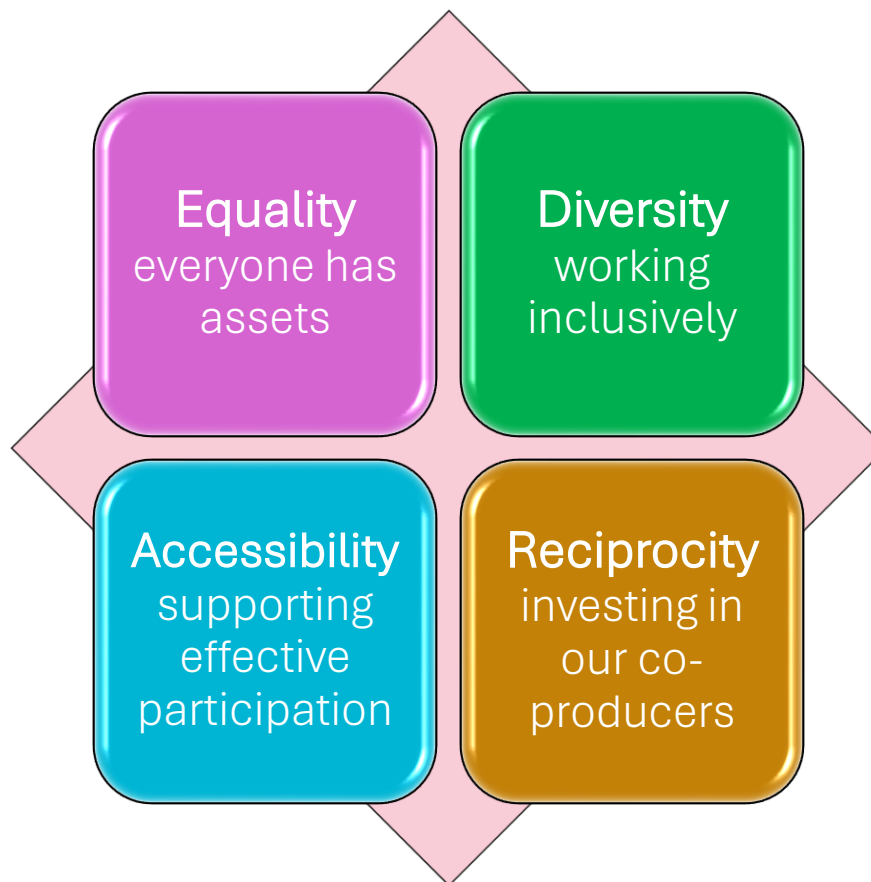


EQUALITY - everyone has assets

- Work in equal partnership
- Avoid tokenism
- Be clear together on what can and cannot be influenced or decided

ACCESSIBILITY - everyone has the same opportunity to take part in the way that suits them best

- Communication needs are addressed including EasyRead, interpreting and translation
- Accessible venues for face to face
- Support to get meaningfully involved
- Using familiar support services



DIVERSITY - being as inclusive as possible

- Hearing a wider range of views
- Understanding who is impacted by a service or decision
- Consider where co-production may be better delegated to a third party with prior connection to partners

RECIPROCITY – co-producers getting something back for putting something in

- Acting on insights
- Telling people what has happened because of their involvement
- Considering rewards /remuneration
- Consider wider benefits and incentivising (e.g. employment skills training)

Sharing Power

- Acknowledge that commissioning holds power by default
- Define the boundaries of shared decision-making
- Encourage collaboration and dismantling of professional/non-professional divide
- Focus on building trust

Recognising the value of experts by experience

- Emphasise clear incentives and appreciation of lived experience
- Support individuals through training, briefings, adjustments, and engagement with support networks
- Respect and utilise people's skills effectively

Diversity and flexibility

- Actively seek participation from diverse backgrounds
- Ensure the inclusion of new and varied voices
- Adapt communication and settings to be accessible for all

Reflection and review

- Promote honest feedback for continuous improvement
- Learn and adapt for continuous improvement
- Accept that effective co-production requires openness, intensity and investment of time

There are different levels of involvement or participation. In ASC Strategic Commissioning, we wish to move towards embedding genuine co-design and co-production throughout our commissioning activity

However, we recognise that sometimes we must engage with people through consultation, especially if the Council is proposing to make significant changes to policy or service delivery that may impact particular groups of people and where we have a legal duty to carry out statutory consultation

We also understand that not everyone wants to be involved in co-production and co-design but still want opportunities to express their views or contribute to conversations about the types of support they need. We will ensure that we create opportunities for people to be involved, however big or small to ensure that ASC Strategic Commissioning has the voice of people with lived experience at the centre of all that we do



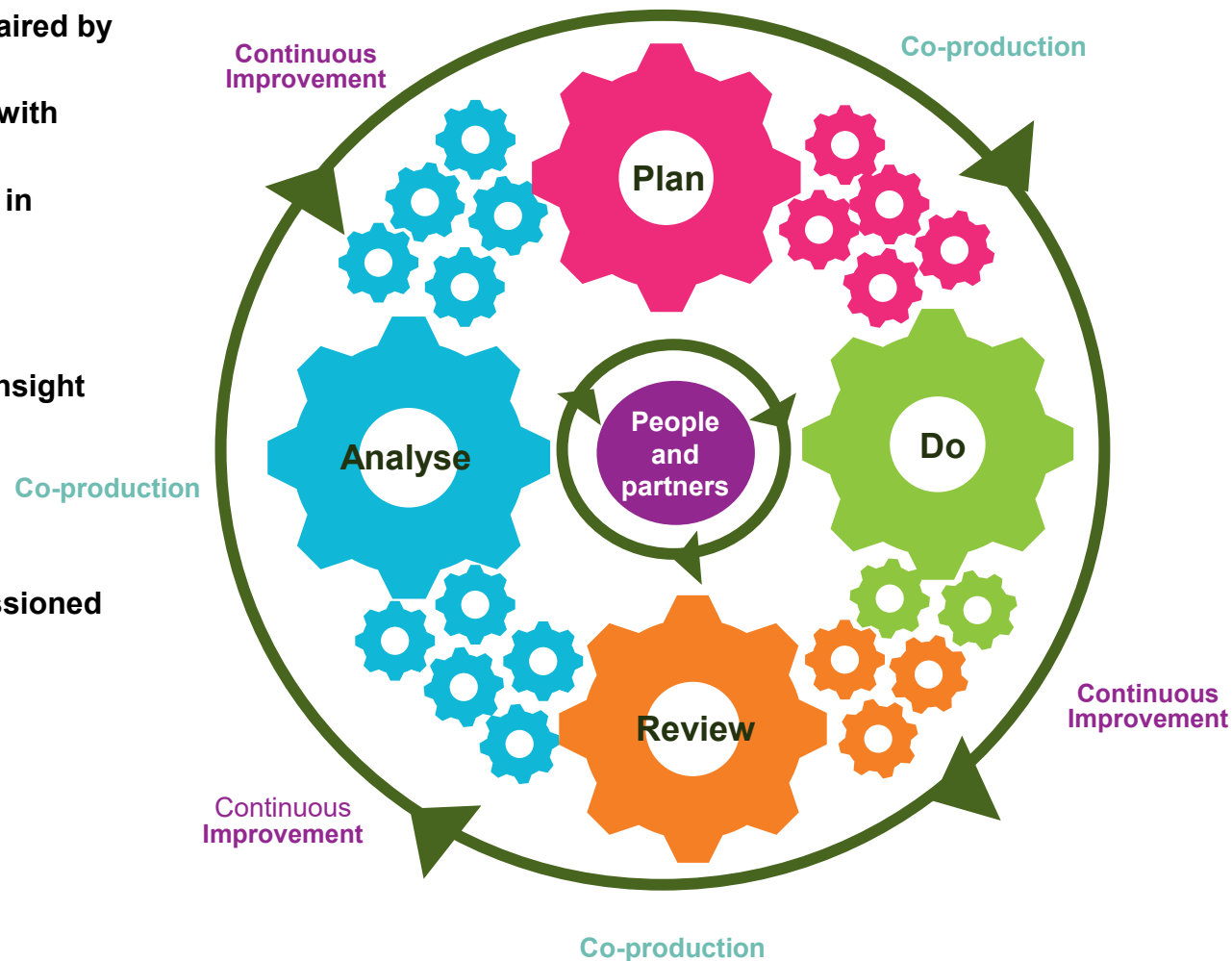
Opportunities for co-production in our commissioning cycle

ANALYSE

- Co-production groups co-chaired by people with lived experience
- Topic specific focus groups with people with lived experience
- Opportunities to be involved in research
- Partnership Boards
- Living Well Collaboratives
- Gathering local community insight

REVIEW

- Quality monitoring of commissioned service delivery
- Service development and improvement
- Feedback from people using commissioned services
- Mystery shopping
- Developing case studies



PLAN

- Co-design of service models and desired outcomes for people drawing on care and support
- Service specification development
- Soft market testing prior to tendering
- Commissioning specific co-production activity
- Commissioning strategies
- Provider forums

DO

- Involving people with lived experience in the tender selection process
- Storyboards to develop person-centred approach
- Co-design of new-build accommodation
- Provider summits including people with lived experience
- Provider forums

Strategic Commissioning Team commitments

We will recognise and value the diverse population of Derbyshire, with co-production being inclusive and reflective of our communities

We will work with people and providers to co-design support giving the best outcomes for people who draw on support and their carers

We will value and work with people's skills, knowledge and interests to co-produce improvements to services and support

We will ensure that involvement is a positive and mutually beneficial experience for everyone involved

We will identify and overcome any barriers to inclusive participation

We will ensure everyone involved has the information they need at the right time

We will work with commissioned services to embed co-production approaches with people who draw on their services for support

We will act on community insights and intelligence, value stories of change and examples of what works

We will regularly review our co-production activity in partnership and measure the impact of working together

We will be clear about the scope of co-production and what can and cannot be achieved

We will let people know what we are learning and achieving through co-production

We will take time to look at how we do things and change them if we need to

Co-production in dementia services planning

“I have been involved in the Derbyshire Together Co-Production team for about twelve months, helping to develop dementia services across the County. Sharing my lived experience and having an input is a valuable way of designing the Dementia Service, and making relevant changes to support is invaluable. Giving people living with dementia and their carers the opportunity to talk directly to professionals helps to make them feel valuable.” (Carer and Co-Chair of Derbyshire Together)

Co-production in designing supported living with family carers

On developing a new supported living scheme with ASC Strategic Commissioning, working actively with the provider and family, using principles of [Building the right support for people with a learning disability and autistic people - GOV.UK](#)

“We can really tell how much thought, and planning has gone into the build. Thank you so very much for your continued support for us as a family.” (**Family carers**, involved with co-designing accommodation)

“We think this accommodation is perfect... we can really see our influence in the build... I can really tell how much thought and planning has gone in.” (**Family carers**, involved with co-designing accommodation)

“The team around X have been actively engaged with our commissioner in designing and building a home that is right for them. The floor plans have been designed by their family, provider, commissioner, health and social care. X’s family have shared that they have felt empowered from the very beginning, that every person is valued, and that it’s the cumulation of so many people contributing that makes the whole. By taking everything into consideration together, we have created a safe, secure and supportive home for X that will promote their autonomy”. (**Care provider**)

DCC 'Connect' guidance

[Co-production](#)

ADASS A Time To Act

[Time to act: a roadmap to reform care and support in England – ADASS](#)

ADASS A Vision for co-production

[A vision for co-production with ADASS – TLAP](#)

Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) Making It Real / I-Statements: values created by and for people who draw on care and support around co-production <https://makingitreal.org.uk/explore-making-it-real/>

Think Local Act Personal - Guides for communication [Guides for communicating about key topics – TLAP](#)

Guides to co-production: including video and resources

Social Care Institute for Excellence

[Co-production – SCIE](#)

Think Local Act Personal

[Co-production – TLAP](#)

West Midlands ADASS

[Co-production | WMADASS](#)

Co-production toolkit (Single Homeless Project / FLIC): [FLIC co-pro toolkit edited summary.docx](#)

Extensive but excellent guide on applying co-production for providers – see link to summary

<https://www.shp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FL-Co-Production-Toolkit-May-2022.pdf>

Sample of Local Authority and Health co-production reference points: [Summary of reference points.docx](#)

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Adult social care - commissioning services



Collaborative

We listen and engage
to deliver shared goals



Innovative

We are curious,
embrace change and
continuously improve



Empowered

We support, trust and
value each other



Accountable

We hold ourselves
and others to account