



Joint Report of the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care & Community Health Services, Children Services and Supporting Communities

Cabinet – 21 January 2021

Co-production Social Care Strategy

Purpose:	To report on the development of a Co-production Strategy in Social Care
Policy Framework:	Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services, Social Service Directorate and Citizens
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Co-production Strategy for Social Care is approved and adopted for the Social Services Directorate
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets a clear expectation within the Code of Practice to Part 2 that Local Authorities adhere to the principles of Co-production when planning, designing and delivering care and support.
- 1.2 Co-production puts people who receive care and support on an equal footing with the people organising care ensuring voice, choice and control.

This says that Local Authorities must:

- Put in place transparent arrangements where people are equal partners in designing and operating services
 - Ensure these arrangements comprise local and regional panels of commissioners, citizens and providers working together to shape services that meet the needs of people who need care and support
 - Report on what they are doing to support Co-production in the Social Service Directors' Annual Report
- 1.3 Within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 there is a requirement for public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The 5 ways of working to achieve this sets out clear expectations for involvement and collaboration. Co-production supports these requirements.
- 1.4 Whilst the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act is not restricted to Social Services; it does place particular emphasis and expectation on the Director of Social Services to report on how they discharge duties under the act relating to people with care and support needs. Much of the guidance relates to Social Services and other 'people' related services. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines collaboration and involvement and whilst co-production supports these requirements and fits with Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working; it is not explicitly stated as a requirement.

2. Work to date

- 2.1 The development of this strategy has been a collaboration between the Swansea Co-production Network and Swansea Council, taking place over 2019/20
- 2.2 The strategy has been co-written and sets out clear expectations for the implementation of Co-production across Social Services.
- 2.3 Numerous workshops have been held with citizens from the Co-production Network and Council Officers and iterations have been worked on together.
- 2.4 Individuals from the Co-Production Network have brought their real lives and experiences to bear in contributing to this strategy. They have also consented to the use of their image and individual quotes and they realise that they will appear in a public document.
- 2.5 Links have been made with officers working on the corporate approach to Co-production and with regional colleagues to ensure consistency and to minimise duplication.

- 2.6 Training programmes are in development; an online 'Introduction to Co-production' for Social Service staff is nearing completion and an outline for more in-depth 'How to Co-produce' training has been produced. Co-producers are working with us to both design and deliver this training.
- 2.7 A handbook or toolkit is also being co-produced and this will support the implementation of the strategy. This work has begun at a local level but it may be better to complete this work at a regional level to ensure consistency.

3. Future work

- 3.1 The strategy requires the establishment of a Co-production Implementation Group that will oversee implementation and monitoring of the strategy. This group should include senior managers and citizen co-producers.
- 3.2 Key actions, required to ensure our systems, culture and practice become Co-productive, have been identified and we need to ensure that these are part and parcel of existing transformation, and other strategic, action plans.
- 3.3 The strategy sets out that this is a starting point and we are not going to be in a position to fully co-produce until we have delivered on the key actions. Covid 19 presents us with a number of difficulties in relation to working together e.g. we are unable to facilitate any face to face meetings, events or workshops.
- 3.4 However, the ethos and principles of Co-production are more important, than ever, particularly when we are considering recovery from Covid 19 and how we re-design and deliver services in the future. We will learn from and build on our experiences of remote Co-Productive engagement.
- 3.5 Re-design and re-commission Co-production support services to help deliver the strategy.
- 3.6 Continue to build links with corporate and regional colleagues to ensure consistency of approach and minimise duplication.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 4.2 This strategy has been co-written with the Co-production Network Swansea.
- 4.3 An EIA Screening has been completed and outlines that a full EIA is not needed at this time.
- 4.4 This strategy does not change existing service provision, but rather sets out a commitment to the embedding of Co-Productive approaches in social care; thereby ensuring that any individual who has care and support needs has the opportunity to have increased voice, choice and control as per the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- 4.5 Whilst we anticipate an indirect impact across all protected groups, it will be a positive impact as individuals with care and support needs will have the opportunity to shape and influence the design, delivery and review of support services.
- 4.6 A strategy implementation group will be established to oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of the strategy and this group will include citizen representatives.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 expects LA's to put in place transparent arrangements where people are equal partners in designing and operating services.
- 5.2 This strategy will ensure we are compliant with the legislation.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 We currently commission a number of services to support Co-production and engagement activity across the Social Services Directorate. We are working with the Co-Production Network Swansea to re-design Co-production support, particularly in adult services, and in doing so we hope to increase efficiency in both cost and outcomes delivered.
- 6.2 Budgets already exist (and are required) to support Co-production and engagement work across the Social Service Directorate. There is no additional resources required. Working virtually has actually led to a decrease in costs in this area; which mostly cover out of pocket expenses which are not being incurred currently.

- 6.3 There is also scope to further consider resources across West Glamorgan Regional Partnership and corporately to ensure resources are maximised.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Working Together – A Co-production Strategy for Social Care in Swansea

Appendix B – EIA Screening Form