

Co-Production in Adult Care and Wellbeing

Our ambition for Adult Care and Wellbeing continues to be for inclusive, meaningful, and effective engagement and co-production to be business as usual in everything we do strategically and in day-to-day operation.

This includes:

- Ensuring engagement and co-production is inclusive, accessible and engaging for all who want to take part.
- Valuing the specialist lived experience of people who use services and unpaid/family carers, providing training and support to take part confidently, as well as a clear approach to Reward and Recognition.
- Proactively developing routes to ensure minoritised communities have equal voice, influence, and power.
- Supporting the development of Peer/Community led early help and asset-based initiatives.
- Demonstrating the impact of engagement and co-production.

We aim to achieve this through increased collaboration with people who use services, unpaid/family carers, communities, workforce, commissioned providers, and partners.

Update on Involvement Delivery Plan 2023-2025

In the Involvement Delivery Plan 2023-2025 we said we would:

- Provide a partnership of care and support, designed and delivered with communities.
- Make sure everyone can be involved as an equal partner in designing the support and services they receive across the whole system.
- Embed open and transparent decision making alongside our plans and priorities for adult care and wellbeing, created with the people of Sheffield.

This included working with partners, providers, local groups and organisations, and citizens to shape and improve services. Engagement and co-production activities delivered in this period have been described in detail in previous committee reports, and include:

- The Partnership Boards for Learning Disabilities, Autism, and Personalisation: These are running well with strong co-production and clear input and oversight of related strategies and plans, as is the Carers Strategy Implementation Group.
- The co-produced Local Account: Following on from this we are now working with people who use services and unpaid carers to create a live web-based Local Account.
- We are currently working with Sheffield Voices to pilot a Peer Led Quality Checkers programme to evaluate services for people with learning disabilities.
- SACHMA has been commissioned to develop a peer volunteer model embedding culturally appropriate care in Sheffield, including the Black Elders Programme to address improve equality in Adult Care and Wellbeing.

- As a system wide partnership Changing Futures trained 60-70 Associates with lived experience of multiple disadvantage to co-produce services and support for 137 people.
- The Citizens Involvement Project delivered a series of workshops to improve co-production in Adult Care and Wellbeing. These workshops identified key themes of Good Practice Principles, Involvement Roles, Power and Influence, Diversity of Inclusion, Feedback Loops, Support/Training Needs.

The benefits of engagement and co-production are widely recognised across Adult Care and Wellbeing. Relationships with citizens, providers and partners has improved significantly as a result of our efforts to work more openly and collaboratively, and there is shared optimism and willingness to participate.

The next phase of the Delivery Plan: 2025-2027

We recognise that we have more to do, and we want to do this in true partnership. The Changing Futures approach to co-production shows that:

- This way of working delivers clear benefits but needs to be committed to over the long term.
- Co-production can be empowering, valuable and challenging but needs properly resourcing and supporting.
- The value of a co-production approach increases over time as individual people develop their confidence and expertise in terms of peer support networks and pathways to volunteering and employment.
- Living the values of inclusion, coproduction and equality takes time, commitment and creating space for dialogue and constructive challenge and support.

Following this valuable learning, we are currently exploring options for dedicated resource to support this programme as we move into the next phase of the Delivery Plan. The intention is to maximise opportunities for connection and collaboration with partners and communities, and to enable shared ownership and accountability. Once this is in place we will:

- Map current engagement and co-production activity across Adult Care and Wellbeing, as a baseline to highlight good practice and identify gaps.
 - In addition to learning from Phase One of the Citizens Involvement Project, we will use the Council's Statement of Intent and Foundations for Good Engagement (see below), the ADASS Guide to Co-production and the NEF Co-Production Self-Assessment Framework to guide this.
- Look at practice from partners, providers, VCS, and communities across Sheffield, particularly the Changing Futures Programme, as well as learning from other local authorities and leaders in co-production to generate ideas for best practice, including growing community power and social capital through community/peer-led initiatives.
- Map and review existing policies, such as Reward and Recognition payments for co-production, including looking at examples nationally from local authorities, health and social care research, and other specialist organisations.

- Deliver further Citizens Involvement Project workshops and roadshow events, taking forward the learning and themes from previous work and informed by the mapping, as well as best practice guidance from SCIE, DHSC and elsewhere.
- Establish governance for the development and ongoing delivery of best practice.

From this we will co-produce Shared Principles for Engagement and Co-production, and a Toolkit that provides guidance, training, and resources for all stakeholders to ensure engagement and co-production is accessible, inclusive and impactful.

We will also incorporate this into the Adult Care and Wellbeing strategy delivery plan, commissioning, and partnership work so that together we can consolidate and grow best practice engagement and co-production, and proactively develop opportunities to support inclusive community and peer led initiatives.

Aligning our approach with the 2024 Council Engagement Statement of Intent

The Council wide Statement of Intent and Foundations for Good Engagement were approved by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee 24 July 2024, following reviews undertaken as part of the Race Equality Commission, the Lowcock Report into the Street Tree disputes, and Peer Challenge.

The Council approach places emphasis on high quality engagement and community participation. As part of Adult Care and Wellbeing’s Statutory Duty to Involve, and our commitment to working collaboratively, we propose to take the Council statement and foundations a step further and publish a Statement of Intent for Co-production in Adult Care and Wellbeing.

Aligned with the Council approach and the Adult Care and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan for Citizens Leadership, this statement describes how we will work with all stakeholders to create shared Principles for co-production, along with a practical toolkit and framework to support best practice.

The statement is set out in the table below.

Sheffield City Council Engagement Statement of Intent	Adult Care and Wellbeing Statement of Intent
1. Over the medium term, we aim to become a Council that is recognised nationally for its innovative and open approach to engaging and involving its citizens and communities.	1. We aim to become a service that is recognised nationally for its innovative and open approach to engaging and co-producing with citizens and communities.
2. We will aim to be genuinely led by citizens of Sheffield and those who use our services, seeking and valuing their insights on what they want from us and for their communities.	2. We will aim to be genuinely led by people who use our services and their families, unpaid carers and communities, seeking and valuing their contributions to improving care and wellbeing for citizens and communities.
3. We will live our values of openness and honesty, being frank about any restrictions we are under, but creative about working with Sheffield residents and the communities in which they live their lives.	3. We will live our values of openness and honesty, being frank about any restrictions we are under, but creative about working with people who use service, their

	communities, and partners to establish and achieve shared ambitions.
4. We will be proactive in reaching out, not just a passive receiver.	4. We will be proactive in reaching out, not just a passive receiver.
5. We will embed a consistent approach and culture of engagement across the whole organisation.	5. We will embed a consistent approach and culture of engagement and co-production across Adult Care and Wellbeing, including with partners and commissioned providers.

SCC Foundations for good engagement	Adult Care and Wellbeing Foundations for best practice
1. Capacity-building for engagement.	1. Capacity-building for engagement and co-production.
2. Being clear about the scope and purpose.	2. Being clear about the scope and purpose.
3. Knowing the groups you need to reach.	3. Knowing the groups, organisations, and people we need to work with and building constructive relationships.
4. Using existing feedback sources.	4. Using existing learning to inform plans and activity.
5. Knowing when consultation is required.	5. Knowing when there is a legal requirement to consult, in addition to engagement and co-production.
6. Choosing the right engagement method(s).	6. Choosing the right engagement and co-production approaches together.
7. Using digital engagement effectively.	7. Using digital engagement effectively and inclusively.
8. Planning and resourcing the engagement.	8. Planning and resourcing engagement and co-production.
9. Authorising and 'owning' the engagement.	9. Enabling shared ownership of engagement and co-production, with clear lines of accountability.
10. Quality-assuring the engagement.	10. Quality-assuring engagement and co-production activity
11. Monitoring and analysing the engagement / consultation.	11. Monitoring and analysing the impact of engagement and co-production
12. Communicating the impact of the engagement/consultation	12. Communicating the impact of the engagement and co-production to stakeholders and publicly.