

Beyond Participation: Co-Production as Collective Leadership in Social Work and Social Care Research

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Why Co-production Matters

Co-production is a collaborative process that engages researchers and stakeholders, including patients and healthcare professionals, ensuring equal participation in developing a product or service.

(Iniesto, Charitonos, & Littlejohn, 2022)



From Experts to Facilitators

“Hear Our Voice”

- The team facilitated discussions, but let individuals living with Dementia set the agenda
- Key decisions were informed by their lived experience



In co-production, the researcher's role evolves into that of a facilitator, guiding the process to maintain a user-centred design approach.

(Sanders & Stappers, 2008; Bate & Robert, 2006)



Impact of Co-production on Outcomes

“Hear Our Voice”

- People living with Dementia were decision-makers, not just contributors
- The final product reflects a true experience and recommendations



There is a crucial difference between merely going through the motions of participation and having the real power to influence the outcome. Participation without a redistribution of power becomes an empty and frustrating experience for those who are powerless.

(Arnstein, 1969)



Now, Hear Our Voice

- Harnessing Collective Leadership to Create an Impactful Documentary
- Social Work Events, Social Care Worker Events, Podcasts, BBC Interviews and so much more



Play Clip

Research demonstrates that including people with dementia as co-producers improves validity by incorporating multiple perspectives. This approach also helps reduce power imbalances and increases relevance and appropriateness.

(Stevenson & Taylor, 2019)



...and Now Hear Our Voice in Full Please Watch and Share!



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Different Dimensions of Service User Involvement



Enhancing Dementia Care Project

- Collaboration with Ulster University
- Phase 1 Hospitals
- Phase 2 Community Teams
- Bespoke multi modal education programme for Dementia
- Objective: Cultural Change initially within the Southern Trust, and then Regionally

