

6 December 2023

Subject:	Commitment to Co-production Plan
Presenting Officer and Organisation	Susan Eagle/ Justin Haywood Commissioning Team Manager/ Operational Manager Adult Social Care Complex Commissioning Team Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Susan_eagle@sandwell.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	Information

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider and comment upon the Commitment to Co- production Plan.
- 1.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers its role in overseeing progress against the Co-production Charter.

2 Links to the following Board Priorities:

Priority 3	We will work together to join up services The Co- production Plan aimed to allow partners and service users to be involved in all areas of the service, including reviews, co- produced support plans and commissioning intentions for support services.
Priority 4	We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services The approach had been designed with customers, residents and partners.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 ASC are required by law to meet statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Care Act 2014 (and wider legislation). The Care Act states that co-production is:

'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'

4.2 Following a review of current practises it has been recognised that whilst there are pockets of good co-production, there are opportunities to improve the way Sandwell residents are able to 'shape' services.

4.3 The Adult Social Care (ASC) Directorate play a key role in improving the lives of residents through delivering, commissioning, and reviewing care and support services.

4.4 This plan captures the current position, good examples and different approaches that are required to achieve our aims. Adult Social Care are building on good practice from across the Council, partner organisations (agencies) in Health and the Voluntary sector, often referred to as 'Place or Place based partners/agencies'.

4.5 To improve the way we work across Sandwell; this plan includes an overarching aim: -

to co-produce a place-based charter of principles and top tips, that will enable people to be involved in their care or support. It will act as a shared resource for all staff to embed good practice.

4.6 A 'one council' approach is central to the plan, recognising the good practice and learning across the council and wider partners that can be shared.

4.7 This approach seeks to co-ordinate and promote good practice to benefit all residents across the borough and enable more people to 'get involved' through a simplified process.

4.8 The plan contains several aims which sit into three key themes: education, infrastructure and digital.

- Education - relates to actions to strengthen staff knowledge about co-production and promote confidence in working with people.

- Infrastructure -recognises the opportunities to improve networks and how we work with people across organisations.
- Digital -the actions relate to how technology can be used to promote opportunities and to also include people’s views.

4.9 An implementation plan has been developed and will be monitored through Directorate management structures.

5 Engagement

5.1 The views of ASC staff were obtained to developing the Directorates plan. Staff were asked to share their understanding of co-production and ways to promote the ‘person or residents voice’.

5.2 The Commissioning Manager for Prevention and Community Based Services attends the Councils Consultation and Engagement network, and the West Midlands Co-production Advisory Group to learn from other councils.

5.3 A working group consisting of Council, Health and Voluntary Sector representatives has been established to take forward the coproduction commitment on corporate and placed based level, through the endorsement of a Coproduction Charter.

6 Implications

Resources:	The biggest resource to consider when looking to work in a coproductive way is time. Sufficient time needs to be built into process to facilitate effective involvement with people who have lived experience. Often when coproduction is rushed, then it is deemed tokenistic.
Legal and Governance:	Co-production and the activities within the plan support the Councils compliance with the Care Act 2014 in addition to the Equality Act which oversees people with protected characteristics are engaged and consulted with in relation to decisions affecting a wide range of council services.
Risk:	There is often greater risk of not involving people in the design and shaping of services than there is in doing so. Involving people, generally people with lived experience, can create its own challenges but these challenges will need to be overcome. Any increased risk can be managed through effective risk management and mitigation measures and should

	not be a reason not to involve people in coproduction activity.
Equality:	Engagement and Consultation are key pillars of the Equality Act 2010 and Coproduction takes this commitment further by involving people with lived experience, often from protected groups, helping to shape and inform services The Councils Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team have also been invited to the steering group.
Health and Wellbeing:	There is plenty of evidence to show that people being involved in shaping and designing services has massive positive impacts on health and wellbeing rather than being a passive recipient of services.
Social Value:	The Social Value of true coproduction is based on the principles of equality, diversity, accessibility, and reciprocity (or getting something back for putting something in) are critical values for putting co-production into practice.
Climate Change:	People will be given a range of methods to meet or have their say, this will include online surveys and meetings to reduce negative climate implications.
Corporate Parenting:	This work should only positively contribute to the Councils corporate parenting responsibilities where the voice of the child is an important part of service review, design and delivery.

6 Appendices

Appendix One - Our Commitment to Co-production Plan
Appendix Two - Implementation Plan for Adult Social Care

7. Background Papers

None.