



# Working together on Welsh Government research

## What we learnt



# How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version of: **Co-production in Government Social Research - lessons learned research.**



You might need help to read it. You can ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue** may be hard to understand. You can check what they mean on **page 26**.



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Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

**Website:** [www.gov.wales/equality-race-and-disability-evidence-units](http://www.gov.wales/equality-race-and-disability-evidence-units)

**Email:** [EqualityEvidenceUnit@gov.wales](mailto:EqualityEvidenceUnit@gov.wales)

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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.

# About this report



In 2023 we started working with disabled people to find out about:



1. Starting a National Centre for Independent Living in Wales.



2. Improving how we support employers to hire disabled people.



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Welsh Government

This report was written by the Welsh Government.

You can read Easy Read reports about this work online:



1. [Easy read: could we create a National Centre for Independent Living in Wales?](#)



2. [Easy read: looking at ways to improve a scheme that supports disabled people in work](#)



As part of this **research** work, we wanted to test how we can use **co-production**.



**Research** means finding things out.



**Co-production** is working together as equal partners. Everyone is included and has an equal say.



We set up a **research** team that included disabled people.



The team agreed to work together as equal partners on the **research**.



This report is about what we learnt from **co-producing research**.

# Our aims

We wanted to learn about:



- Using **co-production** for Welsh Government research.



- Using the **Social Model of Disability**.



The **Social Model of Disability** says people are disabled by barriers around them. Not by their illness, injury or condition.

Barriers can be:

- Buildings with no lift or ramp.
- Information that is hard to understand.
- People not having the right support.





Using the **Social Model of Disability** means making changes to remove barriers.



For example, we used Easy Read information to make the **research** easier to understand.



We had meetings in buildings that people could get into and move around easily.



We gave people time and support to share their views.



This helped disabled people in the **research** team to get involved.

## We also wanted to learn more about:



- If it is possible to work together to do **research**.



- How to use **co-production** in the future.



- What works and what does not work when working with others.



- How working with disabled people helps **research**.

# What we learnt about doing co-production

## Planning for co-production



There is not 1 clear way to work in **co-production**. People have different views about what it means.



It was important that everyone agreed what **co-production** meant for this **research** work.



People need the rights skills and training to do **co-production** well.



In this project, people were not paid in money to be part of the **research** team.



They got learning opportunities instead.



This worked for some people, but it may stop others taking part in future.



Research teams need to take time to plan and agree how people are paid.



Working together takes more time, effort, and money. It was hard to plan for this.



Future projects need to allow more time to do **co-production**.



And also spend more time early on to plan and agree what the **research** will find out.

## Wellbeing and trust



The **research** affected people's wellbeing at times.



We checked how people were feeling at each meeting. And if they needed help. Future projects must support people's wellbeing.



Things changed a lot. And at times they changed quickly. We need to allow extra time for when things change.



And be clear about how decisions are made. This helps build trust in the group.

## What we learned about relationships and making decisions



Good relationships are very important for **co-production**.



Trust takes time to build, especially at the start of a **co-production** project.



It was useful to take time to understand what people wanted to do in the **research** team. And what they wanted to learn.



Some people could make more decisions than others. This caused some problems.



Some people felt included, and some felt less involved.



Future projects should look at this from the start. So everyone understands who can make decisions and why.

## Getting involved at different stages of research



The **research** was meant to involve everyone equally. But this changed over time.



Sometimes everyone in the team worked closely together. Other times, fewer people were involved.

This was because:



- Some members of the team had less time as the **research** went on.



- People's experiences helped improve the **research**.



- Not everyone could take part in the same way. Some people had more skills or experience than others.



- Government **researchers** made some of the final decisions.



This meant not everyone was involved in making decisions over the final report.



It made people think about who could make decisions about the research and the results.



Working together with disabled people improved the **research**. It made the research better and more useful.



Future projects should include disabled people and people from different backgrounds.

## What we learnt about the Social Model of Disability



We worked to make sure everyone could take part, no matter what their needs were.



Removing barriers so everyone can take part takes more time. But it was important so everyone could take part properly.



We asked team members about their needs throughout the project.



This worked well and people felt it was better than other projects they had joined.



We learnt more because different people were able to take part.



Future projects should use the **Social Model of Disability** more.

## What people learnt by taking part in co-production



People learnt new skills. They learnt from each other and worked through challenges together.



Some people learnt more about disability rights in Wales.



Some people learnt about **research** skills. And how government **research** works.



Some people learnt about the **Social Model of Disability**.



Some people felt more confident as they learnt a lot from working with others.



The results from this work can help improve government **research** in Wales.



This says people should be involved in decisions that affect them.



The results from this research project will be used in the **Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units plans.**



The **Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units** make information about people in Wales better.



To make sure the information is:

- Easy to find.
- Easy to use.
- Good quality.
- Detailed and easy to understand.



This helps us learn about the differences in people's experiences across Wales more clearly.



It will help make **research** easier for more people to take part in.

# What we learnt



Working together with disabled people is a fairer way to do **research** work.



People should be included in decisions and **research** about their own lives.

There are different ways to involve people, such as:



- Telling people about what we are doing.



- Asking people to give feedback.



- Doing **co-production**.



In this project, we tried to use **co-production** as much as possible.



Sometimes the word **co-production** made people think everyone would make all the decisions together. But that was not always possible.



Future **research** projects should be clearer from the start about how people will be involved at each stage.

# Hard words

## Co-production

Co-production is working together on a project as equal partners. Everyone is included and has an equal say.

## Research

Research means finding things out.

## Social Model of Disability

The Social Model of Disability says people are disabled by barriers around them. Not by their illness, injury or condition.

Barriers can be:

- Buildings with no lift or ramp.
- Information that is hard to understand.
- People not having the right support.



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