Developing Co-Production in York

Summary

1. This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with a progress update on developing an approach to co-production that can be used by all partners across the health and social care system in York.

Background

2. At the November 2016 meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board the Board committed to following a co-design and co-production approach for all future major changes to health and social care services (in line with the Social Care Institute of Excellence definition).

3. Co-production is a way of delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours (New Economics Foundation). It can be defined as designing, reshaping or delivering services in equal partnership with the people who use them in order to create better services and outcomes.

4. In order to support members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with this approach, City of York Council agreed to work with Healthwatch York to develop a co-production strategy for the city.

5. Using existing documents and guidance an initial rough draft was produced and in the spirit of co-production preliminary engagement undertaken to collect comments and thoughts from both residents and stakeholders at an early stage.

6. This engagement and awareness raising took place during National Co-Production Week in July 2017 with City of York Council,
Healthwatch York and International Service working together to hold an event entitled People and Places: York goes Global.

7. The event was well attended and comments and suggestions were received at the event via table top discussion and also via a short survey circulated after the event.

8. Table discussions were focussed around a number of questions with the concept of co-production itself being very much supported and a clear message of ‘for the people, by the people, because of the people’ at the heart of this.

9. There were a number of comments and concerns raised around the practicalities of services and/or organisations working together; how best to agree common objectives; ensuring that co-production wasn’t just a tick box exercise and a strong concern around ensuring everyone had the appropriate support to equally contribute. The event in particular recognised that residents should not merely be perceived as passive recipients of services but as active citizens contributing to new approaches and co-designed services and a challenge to agencies to recognise and celebrate this.

10. This strategic direction would complement York being recognised as ‘an asset based place’ where we have strong, resourceful and connected people – and are recognised as a hub of place based social action, informed by principles of co-production. This approach and thinking complements the ‘People and Place - strength based approaches and collaboration’ conference held in May and co-hosted by City of York Council and the National Local Area Coordination Network.

11. Some examples of good practice in the city were also referred to and these included the development of the safe haven which had been identified as a need by service users and developed by service users.

12. Additionally there were a significant number of comments in relation to using accessible language in any document produced.

13. The above are a snapshot of the most common themes emerging from the preliminary engagement. All comments received will now be collated and analysed in a thematic way and used to progress this piece of work through its next stages. Consideration will also be given to good practice used in other areas.
14. Some comments have already been used to rewrite the initial draft co-production document and this second draft is attached at Annex A to this report.

Main/Key Issues to be Considered

15. When this piece of work was first started there was an intention to develop a co-production strategy for the city. Having considered the comments received to date and the purpose of any strategy produced (including how a strategy on co-production could be delivered), it would seem more appropriate to develop a set of guiding principles/approach to working as an alternative option based on Annex A. These principles could be used by all organisations within the city and could sit alongside and complement the common design principles being developed through the Future Focus work; and the work of the Central Locality Delivery Group.

16. Whilst not yet explored in any detail, a programme of work could be developed to enable the principles to be embedded throughout organisations across the city.

Consultation

17. Preliminary engagement has taken place as described in the paragraphs above.

Options

18. Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to comment on the draft at Annex A and agree that this work progresses to a third draft (using the comments already received to shape it) and then to proceed to formal consultation.

Additionally the Board has, at this stage, the following options:

**Option A:** Change the focus of this piece of work and agree to the development of a set of guiding principles for co-production, or;

**Option B:** Proceed as originally intended and develop a co-production strategy for the city

Analysis
19. Having considered the comments received to date from residents and partners it would seem that the best way forward would be to raise awareness and increase understanding about how and why we should be co-producing and co-designing services together. This would be better achieved by developing a set of guiding principles that can then be embedded across numerous organisations in the city rather than producing a strategy.

20. Should Option A be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board work can begin immediately on reviewing Annex A to convert this into a set of guiding principles that can then be consulted on. As part of this consultation there would be an opportunity to not only seek views on the document itself but to ask for views on how best to embed the principles across the different organisations in the city.

**Strategic/Operational Plans**

21. In order to deliver the priorities and commitments in the joint health and wellbeing strategy there is a need to transform the way organisations within the health and social care system work with individuals and each other. The joint health and wellbeing strategy commits to continuing this transformation in a co-productive way.

22. All future strategies and operational plans for the local health and social care system should endeavour to have co-production at their core.

**Implications**

23. There are no implications associated with the recommendation in this report. However, implications may arise as this piece of work develops.

**Risk Management**

24. There is a risk that the services provided to our local residents will not be the services they need if service changes aren’t carried out using the guiding principles of co-production.

**Recommendations**

25. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to comment on the draft document at Annex A and approve Option A to change the focus
of this piece of work and agree to the development of a set of
guiding principles for co-production.

26. Additionally they are asked to agree that this work progresses to a
third draft (using the comments already received to shape it) and to
then proceed to formal consultation.

Reason: To keep Health and Wellbeing Board up to date with
ongoing work around co-production.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None
Tel No.

Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

Annex A: Draft Approach to Co-Production Document