

Impact Report 2024

Co-producing change together

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Links to Co-Production Collective initiatives are underlined to show they are hyperlinked.

Welcome to our community

Co-Production Collective at UCL (University College London) is a diverse and growing community of people from a variety of backgrounds, supported by a small staff team, who come together to learn, connect, and champion co-production for lasting change. We do this through providing consultancy, delivering training and talks, and participating in the design and implementation of research and evaluation projects; all with our community members involved. We host 'Co-Pro Cuppas', a monthly meet-up for anyone with an interest in co-production,

offering the chance to share and learn with others. We also work hard at practising what we preach and co-produce ourselves. This means our policies, practices, priorities and plans are shaped by our community benefiting us as well as being an example of co-production for others to learn from.

We are committed to creating a culture of active anti-discrimination, where we go beyond diversity and inclusion to challenge and dismantle structural inequalities. We recognise that racism and other forms of discrimination persist in co-production spaces and society at large and are taking tangible actions to address this.

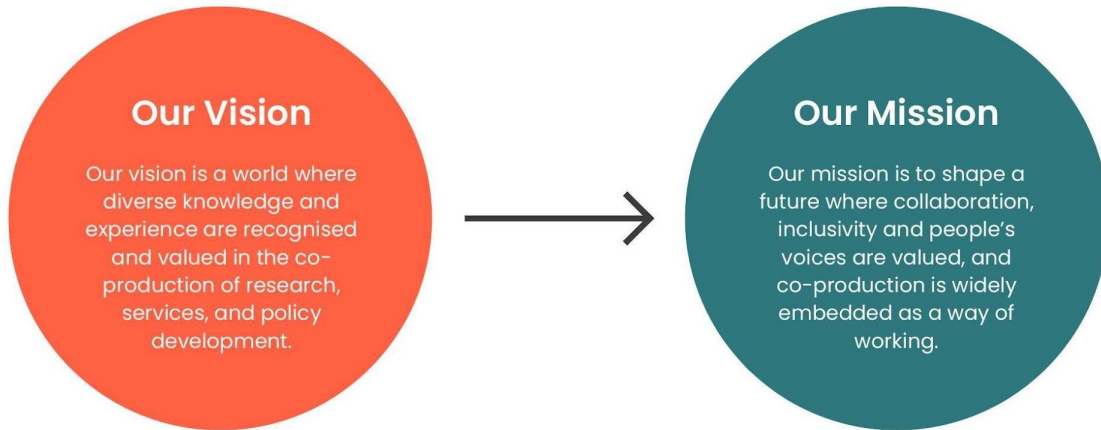
Co-Production Collective is part of the UCL (University College London) Co-Production and Public Engagement team. The UCL Public Engagement and Co-Production Collective staff teams work closely together to share knowledge and opportunities.

Awareness and understanding of co-production is growing across different sectors and settings. People with living, lived or learnt experience are more regularly working as teammates alongside researchers, service providers, policymakers and practitioners from a variety of fields, improving lives together. In the last year this is demonstrated by the increase in people who are employed as co-production professionals getting involved in what we do and attending our Co-Pro Cuppas. Some of whom have lived experience relevant to their work.

When done well, co-production can be transformative. However, when done badly, it can significantly damage relationships between those involved which can take a long time to repair. We don't have all the answers, but we try to lead by example and never stop learning. We exist to influence individuals, organisations and systems, to embrace

co-production and to put people at the heart of everything they do.

What do we do?



Our co-created strategy 'Our Direction 2023-2028', states that 'we plan to work towards achieving our vision and mission by putting the following 'steps to change' into action.



**Leading
culture change**



**Planning
for the future**



**Learning and
developing**



**Growing our
community**

This report illustrates our progress towards achieving our 'Steps to Change' with the support and dedication of our community.

[Find out more](#)



Our vision: Our vision is a world where diverse knowledge and experience are recognised and valued in the co-production of

research, services, and policy development.

Our mission: Our mission is to shape a future where collaboration, inclusivity and people's voices are valued, and co-production is widely embedded as a way of working

Our co-created strategy 'Our Direction 2023-2028', states that 'we plan to work towards achieving our vision and mission by putting the following 'steps to change' into action.

Leading culture change, Planning for the future, Learning and developing, Growing our community

This report illustrates our progress towards achieving our 'Steps to Change' with the support and dedication of our community.

Our Year in Numbers 2024



We delivered **28** co-production training sessions to **855** people across **22** organisations including **7** UCL departments and teams, **2** not for profit organisations, **2** networks/communities of practice, **2** universities, and **1** council.

We delivered 28 co-production training sessions to 855 people across 22 organisations including 7 UCL departments and teams, 2 not for profit organisations, 2 networks/communities of practice, 2 universities, and 1 council.

Gave **10** talks about co-production to **1002** people across **11** organisations, including **2** UCL departments and teams, **2** universities, **3** networks/communities of practice, **2** public bodies and **2** government departments.

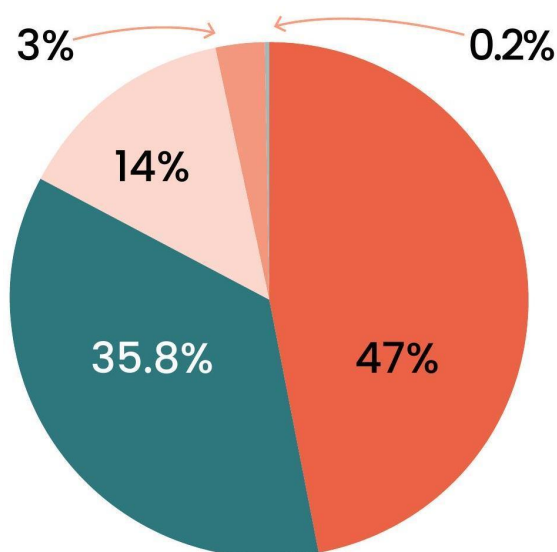


Contributed to **5** research bids that have resulted in **£2,979,126.57** funding being awarded to the research project teams and **£196,473.68** for Co-Production Collective.

Gave 10 talks about co-production to 1002 people across 11 organisations, including 2 UCL departments and teams, 2 universities, 3 networks/ communities of practice, 2 public bodies and 2 government departments.

Contributed to 5 research bids that have resulted in £2,979,126.57 funding being awarded to the research project teams and £196,473.68 for Co-Production Collective.

Where our money comes from



47% from research projects

35.8 from £150,000.00 utilised for the Measuring Success project

14% from consultancy

3% from training

0.2% from talks

Co-Production Collective Events 2024

Our co-creation events in 2024: 6 co-creation sessions. 50

people attended in total

CoPro Cuppas (our informal networking opportunity)...

12 Co-Pro Cuppas

273 attendees

49% attended for the first time, compared to 35% attending for the first time in 2023.

“I recently attended my first Cuppa, and I was instantly struck by how engaged everyone was. I attend many training sessions and get-togethers focused on co-production and involvement, but I find few actually understand what co-production means. It was useful to have the breakout rooms and find out about real projects in more detail.” – Co-Pro Cuppa attendee

September always feels like a great month to try new things, and last week I attended my first event - a very informal but informative cuppa over Zoom with some brilliant folk doing co-production work across the country. Looking forward to putting some of my learning and thinking on this into practice in the coming months with some new work opportunities. Their next one is in October if you fancy joining!

Co-production Collective Communications in 2024

Our website 12,000 users

Most popular blogs of 2024

1. New opportunities to help co-produce summaries of research evidence and policy
2. New opportunities to help co-produce reproductive health research and policy

3. Our Co-Production Payment Policy has been updated!

LinkedIn: 1397 followers -> 164% increase since 2023

Awards and Achievements

The Ear Checks Programme with NHS England won two awards at the National Association for Special Educational Needs (nasen) Awards in October. The awards recognise “individuals and organisations for their outstanding work to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and learning differences reach their full potential”.

We won Co-Production Initiative of the Year sponsored by Seashell Trust and Ruth Thomsen of NHS England won Leader of the Year sponsored by TG Escapes for her tireless work on the programme. We have been part of the Ear Checks programme since 2021 and are thrilled to see everyone’s hard work on the project recognised in this way.

“Working on the programme for the last few years has been a privilege. It genuinely centres the needs and experiences of children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability, supporting them to have ear checks (facilitated by innovative technology) with familiar people in familiar environments. As an autistic person, I know what is at stake.” - Chloe, co-producer as part of the programme team.

In December, the programme was also proud to be shortlisted at the HSJ (Health Service Journal) Awards in the category of ‘Reducing Inequalities and Improving Outcomes for Children

and Young People’.

Our Work in Detail: Research Projects

This year has seen us provide co-production support to a wide range of research projects, covering areas such as health, public policy and urban regeneration.

We worked on the CONNECT project, with a research team from the Unit of Academic Primary Care at Warwick Medical School (part of the University of Warwick). Alongside people with lived experience, we co-produced a way to provide community-based care for women and partners who have experienced a stillbirth or second trimester miscarriage. The project seeks to address the lack of standardised follow-up care and improve physical and mental health outcomes for those affected by pregnancy loss. It is funded by NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research).

We began work as the co-production partner of the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health. This is a collaboration between the Universities of Birmingham, Oxford and Warwick, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Co-Production Collective and Hywel Dda University Health Board (which is funded by National Institute for Health and Care Research for three years). The purpose of the unit is to produce high quality research evidence to inform policy about health, care and public health systems for reproductive health in England. So far, we have:

- Recruited two co-producers to co-produce the day to day running of the Unit and support the project teams to work in a co-produced way.

- Recruited two people to be co-chairs of the Unit's Independent Advisory Board to help shape and lead its development. Later in the year we supported the recruitment of ten members of this group which met for the first time in December.
- Delivered online co-production training and face to face workshops to all working within the Unit.
- Contributed to the development of four projects to support them in taking a co-production approach to the work where possible within the constraints of the projects. These projects will be continuing into 2025.

Next year we look forward to continuing to support the Unit to work in a co-produced way.

We are working with Glentworth House Nursing Home in Hove and the VIVALDI Research Project Team at UCL to find ways to improve hydration for residents in nursing homes. The aim of the project is to create a co-produced resource about what we discover, with a view to this supporting the implementation of practical interventions to improve health outcomes of residents and reduce illnesses such as urinary tract infections in care homes.

Thanks to 'Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Funding' from UCL Innovation and Enterprise we continued to work with Croydon Council. We delivered a series of four workshops for a group of 25 people who live, work and study in Croydon of different ages, and backgrounds who had different perspectives and experiences of the town centre. This group also included representatives from different departments of Croydon Council.

The workshops aimed to develop ideas to improve the Croydon North End Quarter by focussing on specific locations within this

area and coming up with ideas to improve them. The group took into account the constraints the council were working under, and what was causing these to come up with viable solutions and ideas.

The workshops surfaced some key challenges as well as opportunities for the North End Quarter of Croydon. They also came up with some great ideas for what could be done to improve specific locations as well as more general ideas about how to make Croydon town centre safer. These were incorporated into the strategy that was put together for the Greater London Authority's Civic Partnership Programme and used as an evidence base to support a successful funding bid to the Mayor of London's Civic Partnership Programme fund. We look forward to continuing to work with Croydon Council next year on the funded project that is focussing on improvements to the Surrey Street area of the town centre.

"I found the workshops brought me hope about the future and were built in a way that fostered collaboration with equality and equity considered. I wanted to get involved because my voice matters. I found there were a diverse range of voices, with people who were born, live and work in Croydon represented and met some wonderful people, new faces and old. Local knowledge and experiences were given space to be heard and were valued. I'm looking forward to seeing where this goes, which is refreshing" - Leoni Descartes, Co-producing Croydon workshop participant

"Co-production amongst the group was great as everyone respected each others' ideas, listened to each other and worked together to produce a vision that we felt would enhance

Croydon's environment and ultimately present our town with a much more positive image. I really loved being part of the project and meeting new people - it has given me greater confidence to take a more active role in my community and become more involved with local groups" - Sarah Hamill, Co-producing Croydon workshop participant

We are working with the EPPI Centre (Evidence for Policy and Practice Information Centre) at UCL and UCL Health Economics Policy Lab on a large programme funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) to deliver high quality summaries of research (known as evidence synthesis) to inform health and social care decision making across the UK. The group name for this programme is "London Alliance for the Co-production of Evidence Synthesis" otherwise known as LACES. The programme runs for 5 years and involves co-producing 3-5 evidence syntheses each year. In 2024, we recruited nine co-producers to support individual projects and the LACES Advisory Group that oversees the co-production process across all the projects. We supported three evidence synthesis projects on:

- Mapping evidence about how screening and guidance for diabetic eye conditions is put into practice.
- Exploring how we can capture and use a wider range of ways of measuring wellbeing related to being overweight or obesity compared to just using clinical measures such as body mass index (otherwise known as BMI) when mapping evidence for policy and practice.
- Guidance for weight management in specific underrepresented groups (i.e. people with serious mental illness, physical immobility and learning disabilities). This project is continuing into 2025.

We are working with the University of Southampton, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System on a project to drive actions to reduce maternity disparities and improve outcomes for women and children across the UK. It aims to develop and implement a programme to deliver a step change in the health of women and their babies. The project initially received start-up funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and is part of a wider consortium of UK wide partnerships which will be working together in 2025 within the £ 50 m NIHR allocation. We are supporting the initiative to co-produce an initial business case as our project's application for future funding.

In 2023 we supported the UK Preconception Partnership (a coalition of organisations and individuals from all four UK nations, spanning academic, clinical, public health, voluntary and charitable sectors) to work out key priorities for their strategy. This year we held sessions with them and people with lived experience to discuss and develop their draft strategy and plans for the future.

Our Work in Detail: Training Sessions

We co-created and co-delivered training courses for 22 different organisations, alongside members of our community. These sessions covered the principles and practice of effective co-production, tailored to the needs of the audiences we were delivering to. They included 6 sessions delivered as part of the Measuring Success Programme which focussed on how to measure success in co-production to the 15 organisations involved. In total, we trained 613 people (compared to 502 in 2023) this included researchers, charity workers,

commissioners and healthcare practitioners.

We conducted training for 22 organisations in 2024:

- UCL Grand Challenges
- King's College London
- UCL Global Business School for Health
- UCL Wellcome Mental Health Sciences PhD students
- Commissioning with Communities programme

We worked in partnership with Collaborate CIC and Ideas Alliance to design and deliver the Commissioning with Communities course to support commissioners who want to develop their practices. The programme is underpinned by translating theories of co-production, collaboration, and a systems level approach to leadership into practice enabling and supporting commissioners to embed these approaches within their organisational ways of working. In 2024 we delivered co-production training as part of two courses, one specifically for commissioners from Westminster Council, the other open to any commissioners. We look forward to running more co-production sessions for new courses planned for 2025.

“The programme challenged my assumptions on what ‘great’ commissioning looks like - creating a fresh perspective on the value and power of co-production, insight gathering and innovative procurement in driving inclusive and sustainable improvements in population health and care outcomes.” -

Commissioning with Communities training participant

“I enjoyed the training and coming together very much and feel inspired to be brave as a commissioner to bring service users as partners to the table to make decisions that will influence services that matter to them” - Commissioning with Communities training participant

Our Work in Detail: Consultancy

Since our official launch in 2020 we have been providing co-production consultancy, partnering with organisations to build capacity, embed co-production and support them to achieve the aims of their projects in a sustainable way.

We do this by helping to develop the competency of the individuals and organisations we work with to enable them to work in a co-produced way.

Following on from the online co-production training we delivered to staff at the Royal Free Charity last year, we have continued to work with them to help embed co-production into the way they work as an organisation. We provided support and advice on setting up a Patient Involvement Group based on co-production principles. We also held three workshops with staff and members of the Patient Involvement group to:

- Reflect on what user involvement and co-production is already being done within the charity.
- Develop their understanding of co-production and how to embed it in the charity.
- Discuss what the charity is doing or plans to do that could benefit from a co-production approach.
- Come up with practical ideas of how co-production could be embedded to the culture, structure and practices of the

Royal Free Charity as well as how its impact could be evaluated.

“I have more confidence to develop co-production. More understanding of resources to access to get further ideas to develop co-production.” - Royal Free Charity workshop participant

In 2024 we entered the fourth year of our project with NHS England to co-produce an accessible approach to ear checks for children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability in residential special schools and colleges. We built on the work we did last year to develop the ‘Hearing Health Collective’ which aimed to bring together interested parties (such as education and healthcare professionals, parents etc) to share learning from the pilot project and inform local practice.

In October NHS England announced plans to roll out free eyesight, hearing and dental checks for children at residential special schools from next year. As a result of this very welcome announcement, the ‘Hearing Health Collective’ turned their attention to embedding a co-produced way of working locally and advocating to ensure the needs and preferences of children and young people remain at the heart of the ear checks

We continued to develop the Peer Worker Community of Excellence by supporting its Co-production Working Group. Their role is to represent the wider Community to co-ordinate activities targeting short and longer-term areas of impact that were co-produced with its members.

This is an initiative developed over two and half years ago to ensure the lived experiences and expertise of Peer Workers are valued and supported, enabling them to be seen as an

essential and integrated part of the recovery journey of people using NHS services. This project is being coordinated with a range of partners including the North London Foundation Trust, Central North West London NHS Trust, community and charity organisations and people with lived experience. Over the year we:

- Held a large workshop with over 100 people from the community in May 2024.
- Started developing stories from peer working.
- Published a blog on compassionate and responsible storytelling
- Developed a map of career pathways for peer workers to better understand opportunities for development.
- Started developing a podcast series that we hope to launch in 2025.

We are now working towards longer-term aims to transform peer working by offering more opportunities to peer workers for personal development. To support this, we applied for a Wellcome Innovative Lived Experience grant, were shortlisted and submitted a full application in November 2024.

As a result of being involved in the project, Peer Workers gave the following feedback:

“I feel more part of a community and connected to other peer workers.”- Peer Worker Community of Excellence participant.

“It has opened my eyes to the fact that stigma is still a big problem and needs to be addressed through co-production.” - Peer Worker Community of Excellence participant.

We supported anti-poverty charity Z2K to deliver a series of interactive workshops to understand what people felt about the

proposed changes to the disability benefits system. The output from these workshops were used to inform a report aimed at the new government that includes solutions and recommendations to improve the system from a lived experience perspective.

We supported Disability Rights UK to start thinking about how to embed co-production at all levels of the organisation. We helped facilitate conversations with staff and helped analyse findings from a staff survey. This work is continuing into 2025.

“Co-Production Collective members are top of their game. They have up to date knowledge and skills in the fast-moving world of coproduction and, equally importantly, are able to apply these in practice. We have recently engaged them to do a comprehensive piece of work in assisting us to embed co-production across our organisation, which builds on work they have already done to assess and benchmark our current status. They are diligent, competent and unafraid to challenge, but always constructively and with an understanding of complexity. They are also refreshingly human in their approach - I always enjoy my interactions with them, and they often leave me with something to think about” - Rebecca Clarkson, Head of Partnerships, Disability Rights UK.

We supported the UCL Grand Challenge's Build-a-Lab programme aiming to support students to design an innovation lab framework over seven weeks, addressing global challenges through social innovation. We facilitated the kick-off event for this work, supporting students during the event and as part of an expert panel to help them understand the benefits of working in a co-produced way.

We supported Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board

with setting up and running the Personalised Care in Cancer Conference which took place in September 2024. The conference was designed to explore practical approaches to improving care and outcomes for individuals living with and beyond cancer. We captured stories from attendees about what co-production means to them and how they felt it could help improve care in the area. We also produced a report to help challenge for change as well as an evaluation of the event itself.

We are working with Barts Charity and East London NHS Foundation Trust on the HIYA (Health and Care Improvement for Young Asylum-seekers) project. This project aims to improve healthcare for unaccompanied children and young people who are seeking asylum and refuge in the UK.

In 2024, we delivered a workshop exploring what co-production is, and how healthcare professionals and young people can work together in a co-produced way.

In 2025 we look forward to continuing to explore new ways of engaging with young people who have experience of seeking asylum and supporting them to co-produce a new way of providing healthcare to support young people with their emotional wellbeing as well as their physical health.

Our Work in Detail: Talks

Together with our community members, we delivered talks about co-production in various settings to a wide range of audiences. This year, we engaged 11 organisations and 1002 people in our talks. Here are some highlights from this year's talks.

We gave a plenary talk at the [Health Services Research UK \(HSR UK\)](#) Conference about our anti racism work titled,

‘Bridging the divide between involvement and inclusivity in health services research’. This was chaired by Lynn Laidlaw (Co-Production Collective member) and Manni Sidhu. It also included a panel discussion and talks from Simon Denegri from Academy of Medical Sciences (who is also a member of our [Allies Group](#)), Shoba Dawson from University of Sheffield and Angela Ruddock (a Patient/Public Contributor working with Shoba).

We gave a talk with the ‘Co-Production from the Inside Out’ project team at the 3PUK Conference about their Measuring Success Project with a women’s refuge, and what they had learnt from being involved in the [Measuring Success in Co-production: Learning by Doing Programme](#).

We gave a talk on ‘Research ethics, a state of doing or being across the lifespan: reflections on working with people when co-producing research’ to the Converge Evaluation and Research Team (CERT) Research Group at York St John’s University.

As part of NHS England Co-Production Week, we gave a talk on ‘[Measuring](#) what success looks like in coproduction’ with ‘Co-Production from the Inside Out,’ one of the eight project teams from the Measuring [Success in Co-production: Learning by Doing Programme](#).

We gave a talk to the One Dance UK Network that reflected on how creativity impacts co-production.

We spoke as part of a training session for the Public Involvement group (called PIER) at the Health and Social Care Division in Northern Ireland about our work on ‘Research with people outside of the University system and research ethics’ with Lynn Laidlaw. One member said, "It was the best PIER

session yet.

Measuring Success Programme

Our [Measuring Success in Co-production: Learning by Doing programme](#) aims to gain a better understanding of the conditions required for good co-production and evaluation. It is funded by a participatory research grant from Research England with additional funding from The Academy of Medical Sciences and UCL Grand Challenges.

It is co-produced by a range of individuals and partnering organisations who form The Measuring Success Team. This comprises of people with a range of lived experience, staff working for Co-Production Collective at UCL, representatives of two of our co-funders, UCL Grand Challenges and The Academy of Medical Sciences and The Evaluation Exchange, which is a collaboration between UCL and Compost London.

Last year we set up the programme and recruited eight funded projects from the mental health, well-being and/or climate changes context. This year, we delivered a co-produced programme to support these projects with their co-production and evaluation activities and help us better understand how to measure success in co-production.

The eight funded projects

1. Co-production From the Inside Out: Finding Freedom in a Secure Place

A collaboration between two social enterprises and a group of experts by experience. Their work focused on supporting the wellbeing of people in difficult life circumstances.

2. Assessing the Impact of Co-production in Fostering Equality and Diversity in Mental Health and Wellbeing Research

A collective of UCL researchers and clinicians joined people from minority and marginalised communities with lived experience of mental health issues and neurodiversity to co-produce strategic priorities for the newly founded Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences.

3. Exploring Neurodivergence and Maintaining and Acting on Eco-Hope

An organisation supporting eco and social sustainability recruited a team of co-producers who were neurodivergent to explore how neurodivergence interacts with taking climate action.

4. Closing the Loop Beyond the Loop; Strengthening Partnership Working with Meta-Co-Production

A collaboration between London NHS trusts and an existing Lived Experience Advisory Group which examined co-production in mental health settings.

5. Promoting Mental Health Conversations at the University of Warwick

Having identified a growing need for mental health support at the university, this project co-produced a sustainable resource to encourage conversations about mental health between staff and students.

6. Co-producing an Evaluation of the Aphasia New Music Group

An existing partnership between people with aphasia (language difficulties acquired after brain injury), their family members, musicians, and research speech and language therapists which aimed to co-produce a method to evaluate their creative collaborations.

7 Homelessness and Dual Diagnosis: A Co-Production Project

This project brought together people with lived experience of homelessness and two charities. They raised awareness to support people experiencing addiction and mental health conditions.

8. The East of England Psychological Professions Co-production Group

Psychological Professionals, the University of East Anglia and people with lived experience worked together to develop new content for the teaching of a postgraduate diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and to introduce trainees to the concept of co-production.

The programme

Between January - August 2024 our programme team met regularly with the project teams to provide a structured programme of support which included:



4 Deepening Practice sessions which focused on co-producing evaluations

2 Co-Pro Cuppa-style events for members of the teams to meet with each other more informally – this was based on feedback received during the other support sessions

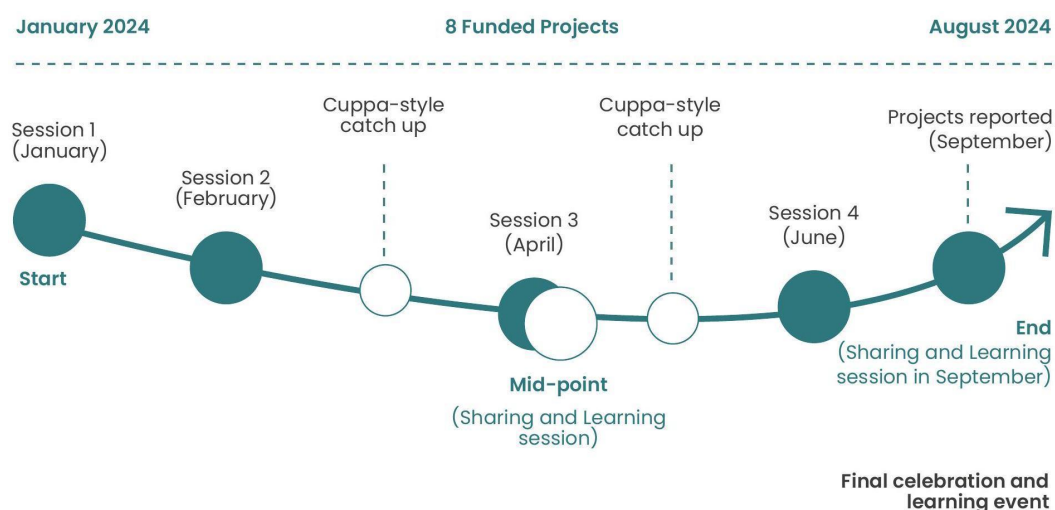
2 Sharing and Learning sessions which supported co-production activities

Over 20 catch ups with individual teams to provide tailored support for their projects

The programme ended in September 2024, and projects submitted reports which include their feedback on our participatory funding approach. They also shared what they had learned during the programme about the optimum conditions for co-production, co-producing evaluations and the impacts co-production had on their projects.

We then held an online ‘Celebration and Learning Event’ in December 2024, which celebrated the experiences and outputs of the eight project teams funded in the programme. Alongside our programme team, all eight funded project teams shared some of their experiences and collective learning gained during this journey. This event was attended by 144 people. You can read more about it in [our blog](#).

The learning from the projects and the programme team will be shared in a programme report and via several accessible resources in 2025.



Session 1 (January): start

Session 2 (February)

Cuppa-style catch up

Session 3 (April) – mid point (sharing and Learning session)

Cuppa-style catch up

Session 4 (June)

Project reported (September)

End (Sharing and Learning session in September)

Final celebration and learning event

“I’ve learnt that reflection and reflective learning is at the heart of co-production. It spans across all the principles as we know them at Co-production Collective and helps us to adjust our ways of working and learn how to do better” - Lisa Richardson, co-producer

“We feel so lucky to have been able to take part in the Measuring Success programme and for all the support we have

received.” - The Big Simple, staff member

“Thank you on behalf of the team for this support and the expertise, and all the sessions you run. Your persistently kind responses and your tireless advice on this call really stand out for me and I think every single one of us feels that they have learned a lot by this project whether it is by interacting directly with you or not. Your impact has rippled.” - Fostering Equality & Diversity, academic

Championing Co-Production and Co-Producing Ourselves

At Co-Production Collective, collaboration and inclusivity are actively encouraged and embedded throughout our work and people’s voices are listened to, respected and valued. We are supported in all we do by our [Allies Group](#) who continue to act as a sounding board, helping us to ensure our future sustainability. As a result of feedback we received, as well as an attempt to take into account in the increased cost of living, we updated our [Payment Policy](#) to pilot new payment rates for a period of six months from October 2024 - April 2025. We also updated our payment methods to align with UCL finance requirements and to make the process easier. We look forward to sharing how this evolves in next year’s Impact Report.

We continued to work on the new website with the support of the Communications Sub Group and other community members who have been helping test it and checking it. The new website has been designed to grow with us, as we continue to develop in line with our new co-produced strategy ‘[Our Direction 2023-2028](#).’

“Being part of the Co-Production Collective has opened my

eyes to the real power of co-production in driving social justice. It has strengthened my ability to have difficult conversations and helped me recognise the value of my own voice in creating positive change within the community. Most importantly, it has enabled me to use my lived experience to build bridges with population groups who once felt unheard-because when we truly listen, collaborate, and uplift one another, we create spaces where everyone belongs” - Nat Farley, co-producer and member of our Allies Group

Becoming an anti-racist community is something we are committed to being and we began to explore how we could do this with our community in 2022, In October 2023, we launched our Anti-Racism in Co-production project together with People’s Voice Media to understand the experiences within co-production of individuals from racialised backgrounds and global majority communities. At the beginning of 2024 we gathered over 30 personal stories from people lived experience of racism within co-production spaces and held numerous sense- making workshops with a view to launching a report with our findings and recommendations in early 2025.

In line with our commitment to be anti-racist community following the horrific rise in racist attacks we saw in August, we hosted two wellbeing sessions for racialised community members that were attended by 22 people.

“While we recognise the long road ahead, there is a shared vision and hope for a truly inclusive co-production space-one where racism has no foothold. The work continues, the emotional labour persists, but so does the determination to effect meaningful change. As

we navigate this journey, we are reminded of the power of collective action and the transformative potential of genuine dialogue. Together, we can create a future where every voice is heard, valued, and respected." - Isaac Samuels, co-producer and member of our Allies Group, who is leading on this project with Samantha-Jane Ofoegbu

As a result of a need identified by our community members, we held our first co-produced LinkedIn training session in October, which brought together people with different levels of experience to learn how to use LinkedIn more effectively. We also wanted to gain a better understanding of how to champion co-production on the platform and how use it in a way that works for our community. We covered the basics like setting up a profile, making connections, posting interesting content, and championing co-production on LinkedIn. The interactive format allowed everyone to ask questions and discuss interesting topics like managing different roles as professionals and people with lived experience. The training was so oversubscribed that we will be hosting at least one more of these sessions in 2025.

"I had the great pleasure co-producing the Collective's introduction to LinkedIn session for the community. This was utterly an amazing experience for me, not only did I have the opportunity to meet lovely people working on something for a good cause, but I also learned so many things in terms of using this platform for other purposes apart from job hunting and professional development. I highly recommend it to everyone looking for opportunities to connect with Co-Production Collective and engage with other people in such a great, friendly environment." - Lydia, co-producer of the LinkedIn training session

“It was great to be involved in the coproduction of the LinkedIn session - as always, the collective sticks firmly to its values of being kind and transparent and inclusive. I felt genuinely supported in my concerns about LinkedIn and have now managed to get back on it!” - Mandy, co-producer of the LinkedIn training session and member of our Allies Group

The input we received from the End of Year Survey in 2022 was insightful and constructive. It helped us to understand how our community engages with us and to explore what else we could do to reach more people and remove barriers for those getting involved. It resulted in us redeveloping our website with our newly formed Communications Sub Group to make it easier for people to share what they would like to get involved with and participate in our activities. As a result, we decided to conduct a survey every two years and in November launched our Community Survey 2024 which aims to find out:

- How well you think we are living up to our values of being transparent, kind, inclusive, embracing of change and reflective, and what we can do to further improve this.
- What else we can do to champion co-production for lasting change.
- What we else we can do to support the personal development of our co-producers.
- How we can enhance our Co-Pro Cuppas.

We look forward to sharing how this impacts how we work going forwards in next year's Impact Report.

How we impact our community

Our community is made up of a wide range of people from

different backgrounds and walks of life including researchers, people with lived experience, and people who work in jobs where co-production is part of what they do. It also includes people whose organisations don't currently do co-production and therefore want to learn more to change their culture. All of them have found their way to us because of their interest in co-production.

These are reflections from a few members of our community about the impact being involved with Co-Production Collective has had on them.

"I single out my involvement in Co-Pro Collective's activities as a personal highlight, a time invested in learning new things, coming across brilliant minds, finding plenty of inspiring moments, stretching my comfort zones to the benefit of self-awareness and personal growth, and eventually becoming a better version of myself - a confident Chris believing in myself and our collective ability to shape the world." - Chris Pavlakis, co-producer

"I feel very supported by the team, and I am excited by all the opportunities to get involved. There is a lot of information on the website which I find useful in all my roles."- Member of the community who has been involved for less than a year

"I see being part of the Collective as an opportunity to make meaningful change by means of collaborating with diverse groups and communities. I love that it's a space where everyone's opinions matter and decisions are made as a collective."- Member of the community who has been involved for between 1-3 years

"It's an essential part of my work as a researcher and clinician. I

hugely value the open and frank exchange of ideas. The group feels like a collective but with Co-Pro as the clear focus and with a unique and welcome diversity of experience and ideas. Put simply, it continues to change and enhance my work and my understanding of society.” - Member of the community who has been involved for over 5 years

“I have gained a lot of learning, increased confidence and more opportunities outside of the Collective thanks to being able to evidence both my commitment to co-productive approaches and past experience working on projects within and on behalf of the Collective. Being involved with Co-Production Collective has meant I am better able to live my values in terms of accessing more spaces and positions where I get to do this work, collaborate with others and have my voice matter.” - Member of the community who has been involved for between 1-3 years

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“I see my involvement in the Co-production Collective as a dynamic journey of learning, exchange and mutual support, in an environment which flips the status quo of power structures

on its head and gives all of us co-producers a safe and level platform to express ourselves, challenge and be challenged.” - Vita Moltedo, co-producer

“Being a part of Co-Production Collective means I have a safe space to be part of really impactful work. It really matters because the values on the website are not just buzz words but words they live by.” - Adeola Agunbiade, co-producer

“Being part of the collective is important to me because it is concerned with social justice and giving people the chance to contribute and influence local issues and their environment like the Co-Producing Croydon project I am involved in where people are so passionate about making a difference to where they live.” - Laura Able, co-producer

Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone we have worked with in 2024, this includes all members of Co-Production Collective who contributed to our work, as well as the organisations we worked with:

- Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System
- Cavendish Square group
- Central North West London NHS Trust
- Change Communication
- Charity Evaluation Working Group (CHEW)
- Collaborate CIC
- Converge Evaluation and Research Team (CERT) Research Group at York St John's University.
- Croydon Council

- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Disability Rights UK
- Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), UCL Institute of Education
- FND Hope
- Glentworth House Nursing Home
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System
- Health Services Research UK
- HIYA - Health and Care Improvement for Young Asylum-seekers
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Ideas Alliance
- Innate Health Research
- King's College London
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
- NHS England
- Nifty Sustainability
- NIHR Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health
- North London Foundation Trust
- Oedipa
- One Dance UK Network
- Pathway
- Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) at the Health and Social Care Division in Northern Ireland
- Research England
- Royal Free Charity
- Seashell Trust
- Social Origin

- The Academy of Medical Sciences
- The Aphasia New Music group
- The Big Simple
- The Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences, UCL Faculty of Brain Science
- The Evaluation Exchange, a partnership between UCL and Compost London CIC
- UCL Global Business School for Health
- UCL Grand Challenges
- UCL Health Economics Policy Lab
- UCL Innovation and Enterprise
- UCL Institute of Mental Health
- UK Preconception Partnership
- Unit of Academic Primary Care at Warwick Medical School
- University College Dublin
- University of Birmingham
- University of East Anglia, Psychological Professions Network
- University of Oxford
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick
- VIVALDI Research Project Team at UCL
- Voices of Colour
- Westminster City Council
- Z2K

For contributing to all areas of what we do:

- All of our community
- Co-Production Collective staff team
- UCL for their ongoing support

Want to find out more?

We have lots of exciting projects coming up in 2025. You can keep up to date with these by [signing up for our newsletter](#).

To find out the latest opportunities to get involved in what we do please visit the [current opportunities page](#) of our website.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this report. If there is anything we can help you with, or if you would like to speak to one of our team, please email coproduction@ucl.ac.uk.

We'd love to hear from you!