

Co-Production Collective Allies Group

Meeting notes: Wednesday 2 July 2025

Members

Present: Mandy Rudczenko, Niccola Hutchinson-Pascal, Anne Collis, Isaac Samuels, Sarah Welsher, Simon Denegri (chaired the meeting), Rosie McCann, Shoba Poduval.

Apologies: Cristina Serrao (co-chair), Marc Stears (co-chair), Ian Needleman, Nat Farley, Nathan Hudson.

Actions

Actions agreed in this meeting	Person taking this on	Deadline
1. Add funding bid opportunities in development/funding opportunities coming up to our reporting.	Nicc	Next meeting
2. Nicc to follow up on a couple of large grant application opportunities mentioned by Sarah with the relevant people in UCL.	Nicc	31 July
3. Nicc to look at the London Anti-racism Collaboration for Health resources.	Nicc	31 July

4. Nicc to add fixed agenda item about Equality Diversity and Inclusion to the Allies Group Topics to discuss every meeting.	Nicc	Next meeting
5. Isaac to talk to all Allies about support needed in relation to anti-racism work.	Isaac	29 Aug
6. Anne to share safeguarding training that she took part in with Nicc.	Anne	31 July
7. Nicc to ask Academy of Medical Science about their safeguarding approach and how they spread ownership of it across the organisation.	Nicc	29 Aug
Actions from previous meetings	Person taking this on	Deadline
A. Nicc to organise conversations with Allies Group members who are coming up to three years on the Group. Come back to the Allies Group with an update and some suggested next steps.	Nicc	In progress
B. George to present a full analysis of the Community Survey at a future meeting.	Nicc/George	Next meeting – date TBC
C. Develop an additional income report that can be shared in advance of future meetings that has a breakdown of funding types/funding that is in the pipeline but not yet confirmed.	Niccola/Nathan	In progress
D. Explore developing a statement from people with lived experience on the importance of public engagement support at UCL.	Niccola/Mandy	Ongoing
E. Develop a draft timeline and thoughts on an ideal governance plan for Co-Production Collective (how we make decisions, where we sit within UCL and how we have to report our	Niccola	Ongoing

progress/achievements) for discussion once we are able.		
F. Organise to speak to key senior people at UCL with our interim co-chairs to have a conversation, share our impact report and raise awareness of our work.	Niccola	Ongoing

Summary of conversation

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Update on actions from previous meetings

- Nicc to organise conversations with Allies Group members who are coming up to three years on the Group. Come back to the Allies Group with an update and some suggested next steps – ongoing.
- Impact Report 2024 to be shared with the Allies Group – complete.
- George to present a full analysis of the Community Survey at a future meeting – in progress, next meeting date TBC.

Group discussions were as follows:

Progress & risk report, Nicc

- Nicc talked through research grants received, consultancy work, and other projects Co-Production Collective is working on this financial year (1st August 2024 – 31st July 2025).
- Group members mentioned the following:
 - It would be good to add reports detailing what funding bid opportunities are in development/what funding bid opportunities are coming up in the future so that you can see what is coming up and plan accordingly.
 - A couple of larger grant applications being worked on in UCL were mentioned by Sarah.
 - **Action:** Nicc to follow up with Sarah and get connected into this work.
 - It was mentioned that the UK Government was to launch its "Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan" for the NHS on July 3, the day after our meeting and that we should explore it for possible opportunities.

- There is a general lack of skills in co-production spaces for creating psychological safety in uncomfortable spaces – as well as knowing how to tolerate discomfort in safe ways. This is something we should look into better supporting people for.

Anti-racism work update – Isaac provided an update and group members gave input which included:

- Discussion around the observation that the co-production space (particularly in academia and government) operates using a white, middle-class, institution cultural ‘mental model’ even if the people aren’t white, middle-class or institutional.
 - Shoba suggested having a look at the [London Anti-racism Collaboration for Health](#) that she is involved in and utilising their resources as a support.
 - **Action:** Nicc to look at the London Anti-racism Collaboration for Health resources.
 - It was mentioned that it is important that we continue to push for more change in anti-discrimination work and that we build evaluation into the work.
 - **Action:** Nicc to add a fixed agenda item about Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) to all future Topics to Discuss documents.
 - **Action:** Isaac will reach out to talk to Allies Group members about support needed – as required.
-

DISCUSSION TOPIC 1 – Safeguarding statement review work

An update was provided and discussion followed as outlined below:

- It was felt that we need to have more in-depth conversations about how to make sense of safeguarding through an anti-discriminatory lens as a community.
- Anne mentioned some safeguarding training that she had in the past that was really useful.
 - **Action:** Anne to share safeguarding training that took part in with Nicc.
- There was a discussion about how we ensure the work we do is trauma informed and anti-racist. Need to do some more thinking in this area. How do we create safe spaces and influence change in culture in relation to a trauma informed safe space.
- Emphasise in terms of how share this work, get people to think about it earlier. Simon mentioned The Academy of Medical Science as a good example to look at.
 - **Action:** Nicc to ask Academy of Medical Science about their safeguarding approach and how they spread ownership of it across the organisation.

DISCUSSION TOPIC 2 – Understanding of co-production

Nicc outlined challenges currently facing co-production projects/spaces in terms of reaching a place of understanding as a whole about co-production and the principles that underpin it and then subsequently putting this into action.

Discussions that followed included:

- The idea of a questionnaire was suggested to get people taking part to rate the co-production they feel is happening or not.
 - Nicc outlined the learnings and resources from the Measuring Success project.
 - There was a discussion about how to help organisations and teams to be honest that they aren't doing co-production so can reflect on the fact that they aren't where they need to be. It is understandable they want to achieve but need to be honest about what is needed. Suggestions included:
-

- Encourage more transparency, acknowledge what trying to achieve, use the learning from the Measuring Success project as support.
- Was felt that we should do more exploration of what we can influence to change in the current system.
- A variety of ideas for increasing the quality of co-production and public engagement were discussed.
- Suggestion to bring project leads together every 6 months or so, safe no blame space across projects – an opportunity to come together with others/explore co-production.
- Outline what does good look and feel like, feel as well as look is really important, move conversation away from performance measures, quantitative data that is being collected etc.

Any other business

- Need to work out how we communicate what the Allies Group do – add as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Support for Nicc – the group requested that this be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Date of next meetings:

- TBC
-