

Impact Report 2025

Co-producing change
together for 5 years



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All photographs within this Impact Report are from Co-Production Collective sessions. Links to Co-Production Collective initiatives are underlined to show they are hyperlinked.



Welcome

Welcome to our 2025 Impact Report. Celebrating five years since we officially launched as Co-Production Collective in 2020, it also marks the mid-point in our co-produced strategy '[Our Direction 2023-2028](#)'.

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' and 2025 saw us take important steps towards achieving this goal.

Highlights of what we achieved as a community in 2025



In **January** with the support of Big Lemon, we launched our [new co-produced website](#) which better represents what we do, makes it easier for people to get involved, and is designed to grow with us.



In **January** we heard that we successfully secured funding from the City Bridge Foundation for a seven-year London-based project with the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA) to embed lived experience into the core of suicide prevention efforts across London.



In **February** we published our joint report with People's Voice Media on [Understanding Anti-Racism in Co-Production Spaces: Centring the Voices of Racialised Individuals](#) which set out recommendations for organisations and individuals involved in co-production and we have been working hard ever since to put these recommendations into practice.



In **May** we launched the [Measuring Success in Co-Production: Learning by Doing](#) programme reports and resources.



In **December** we hosted our first themed [Co-Pro Cuppa](#) on the subject of "How do we get others to understand what co-production really means?" in response to feedback we had received in our 2025 Community survey.

About Us

Who we are

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](#), [and Allies Group](#) who come together to learn, connect, and champion co-production for lasting change.

Our staff team is part of the wider [UCL Co-Production and Public Engagement team](#), which also includes the UCL Public Engagement Team. We work closely together to share knowledge and opportunities.

Co-Production Collective is supported by an Allies Group who act as advisors and a sounding board, bringing their different experiences and expertise to guide development, help make connections, identify opportunities, raise awareness of our work, and help us ensure our future sustainability.



What co-production means to us

Co-production is an approach to working together in equal partnership for equal benefit.

Our vision and mission

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 steps to change

We are working towards achieving our vision and mission by putting the following 'steps to change' or ambitions from '[Our Direction 2023-2028](#)' into action:



Lead culture change

Set a positive example by our approach to co-production to inspire role models within organisations and systems to adopt and embed co-production and put people at the heart of everything they do.



Promote & embed learning

Promote the benefits of co-production, contribute to projects, and share our learning with others. Challenge the barriers that prevent co-production from being valued and widely embedded.



Plan for the future

Ensure our organisation's long-term sustainability and provide support to organisations and co-production projects to assist them in making an impact through their work.



Grow our community and live our values

Build a stronger and more diverse community and truly embody our values in all aspects of our work to make co-production more meaningful, equitable, and accessible to all who are interested.

We are working on achieving our steps to change by:

- 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.
- Delivering bespoke **co-produced** and co-delivered **training** courses and talks.
- Participating in the design and implementation of **research and evaluation** projects.
- Practicing what we preach by **co-producing ourselves** as an example to others.
- **Creating a culture of active anti-racism and anti-discrimination**, where we go beyond diversity and inclusion to challenge and dismantle structural inequalities.
- Hosting online 'Co-Pro Cuppas', a monthly meet-up for anyone with an interest in co-production, **offering the chance to share and learn with others**.
- Proactively contributing to the **body of evidence, resources and understanding** about co-production and how to do it effectively.

Our Year in Numbers 2025

We delivered **16** co-production training sessions to **182** people across **8** organisations and **4** UCL departments and teams, **2** not for profit organisations, **1** network/community of practice, **1** university, **3** councils and **1** session to Co-Production Collective community members.



Gave **10** talks about co-production to **423** people across **3** UCL departments and teams, and **7** networks/communities of practice.

Our reach

We worked with **5** Universities including UCL, **3** of which were outside London. We worked with **50** organisations, **10** of which were regional, **11** were national and **1** of which was international.



Our impact at UCL

In 2025 we worked with **11** UCL departments. We also began co-producing an **online, self-led training course for UCL staff and students** about co-production that will be launched in **2026**.

“ As someone with experience of mental ill health and having worked on involvement projects before, I found the Co-Production Collective team welcoming and supportive, and I was able to work on multiple projects with the team during my PhD ”

– Humma Andleeb, Former student on the UCL Welcome PhD programme



“ I consider the Co-Production Collective a life-long friend, funder and wise collaborator fighting for a very similar cause ”

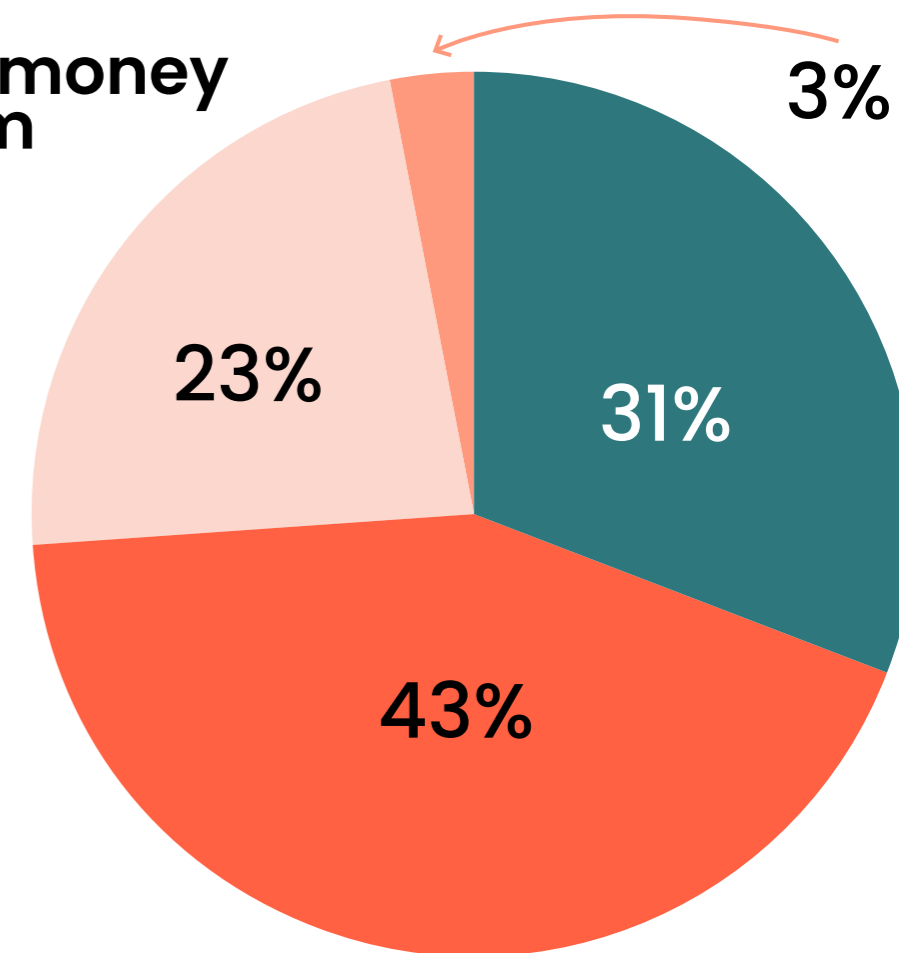
– Aikaterini Fotopoulou, Professor, Research Department of Clinical, Health and Educational Psychology, UCL



Where our money comes from

Our revenue

- 43% from consultancy
- 31% from research projects
- 23% utilised for the Measuring Success project
- 3% from training

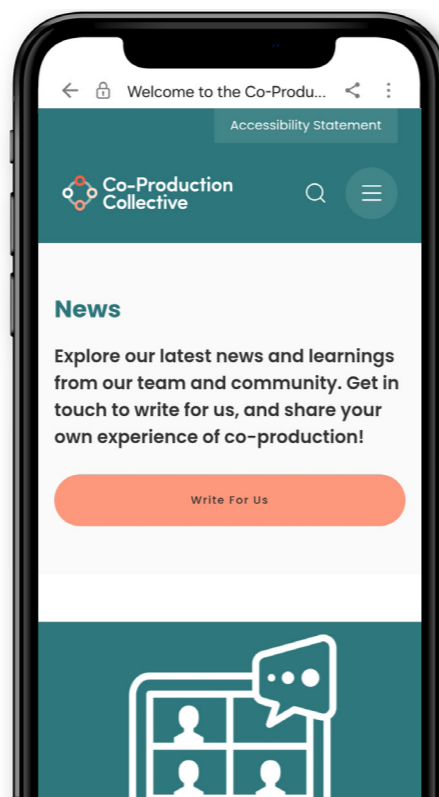


Co-Production Collective Communications in 2025

6.5%
increase in newsletter subscriptions between January – December 2025



We Published
45 Blogs
17 (38%) of which were written by 23 community members.





Bluesky
802 followers
36% increase from 2024



LinkedIn
2,731 followers
49% increase from 2024



 **Kelvin Opiepie** • 2nd
Kelvin Opiepie, author of a guest blog about co-producing mental health research. 6d • 🌱

Thank you so much for sharing this! 🙏 I'm truly grateful to the Co-Production Collective for publishing this piece and for creating a space where lived experience is valued as evidence



We launched our new website at the end of January which better represents what we do and makes it easier for people to get involved.

Since the website was launched

380

people signed up to be members of our community. (See page 31 for more details).

Co-authoring papers and posters

This year we co-authored a number of papers with members of our community:

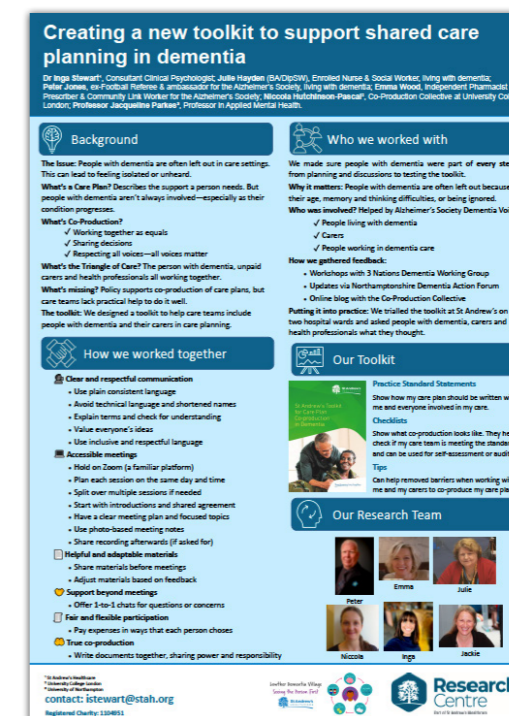
“Public Involvement in Complex Theorising: A Co-Produced Logic Model of the Role of Context in Shaping Child Health” →

[Read the paper](#)

This paper reports on the process of co-producing a theory about the importance of accounting for contextual factors (eating habits, physical habits, mental well-being) when considering influences on children’s health. It builds on our earlier work with the EPPI Centre (Evidence for Policy and Practice Information Centre). That collaboration formed part of the **Handling Complexity in Evidence from Systematic Reviews and MetaAnalyses of Public Health Interventions (CEPHI) Project in 2022**. You can read more about in this [case study](#).

“St Andrew’s Healthcare Toolkit for Care Plan Co-production in Dementia” →

A project that we worked on in 2022 which co-produced research that resulted in this toolkit was presented as a conference poster at The British Psychological Society Faculty of the Psychology of Older People 2025 Conference.




Co-Production Collective Events 2025

Our co-creation events in 2025

11 
co-creation sessions

74 
people attended in total

Co-Pro Cuppas (our informal networking opportunity)

 **12**
Co-Pro Cuppas

272 
attendees

53% → **49%**
attended for the first time compared to attending for the first time in 2025

“ Thank you for convening this session. There were so many subjects discussed of which I have “some” knowledge and it’s been really interesting. I would like to return and contribute more... What a great group. 😊 ”

 Co-Pro Cuppa attendee

“ I recently attended my first Cuppa and I was instantly struck by how engaged everyone was. I attend many training sessions and get together 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

Our Work in Detail: Research projects

As part of our strategic objective to ‘Promote and Embed Learning’ we have been providing co-production support to a wide range of research projects, covering areas such as health, social care and public policy.

Continuing research projects

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health: We entered our second year working as the co-production partner of this Policy Research Unit which is funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) from 2025-2028. 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.

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. This year, alongside supporting the unit’s four projects to embed co-production into how they work, we also teamed up with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team within the Unit to provide advice and deliver training to support the team to work in an anti-discriminatory way.

“ The biggest lessons I’ve learnt from a year and a half of bringing a co-production approach to the projects I’ve worked on are that success is built over time, through relationship building, flexibility, and openness to different ways of engaging. Scoping plans for research together collaboratively and staying flexible about how people contribute, has helped enable contributions in ways that feel most valuable everyone involved: be it through talking things through together in person, practically trying out suggested methodologies to

find limitations, or giving time for offline review of materials for visual design and accessibility points. Whilst facilitating this flexibility requires additional time and input from researchers working on projects, often within tight delivery timelines, it has strengthened the projects I’ve worked on and sparked innovative approaches and methods for understanding reproductive health ”

– Rose Stevens, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, NIHR Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health



London Alliance for the Co-production of Evidence Synthesis (LACES): Working with the UCL EPPI Centre (Evidence for Policy and Practice Information Centre) and UCL Health Economics Policy Lab we continued working on this five-year programme that began in 2025 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.

Alongside researchers, we also co-lead the LACES Advisory Group to oversee the co-production process across the programme. In 2025 we supported two meetings of this group.

Reducing maternity disparities project: We continued to support the University of Southampton, the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board on a project to drive actions to reduce maternity disparities and improve outcomes for women and children across the UK.

The project 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 worked together in 2025 within the £50m NIHR allocation. We are supporting the initiative to co-produce an initial business case as our project's application for future funding for submission in 2026. We also worked with UCL and the University of Aberdeen on a particular section of the business case about racism.

We facilitated two discussion sessions that will contribute to a report about the experiences of individuals from the Global Majority accessing maternity services in the UK. In these sessions we explored the care and support that was provided for expectant parents during pregnancy, and the follow-on care that was given after childbirth. Together we discussed the issues and challenges faced and identified ways that maternity services could be improved for people from the Global Majority.

“ Interventions to reduce racism often have poor outcomes. One of the main reasons for this is that minoritised communities are not included adequately or early enough in the process. It was therefore essential for us to work with Co-Production Collective in setting up our work. ”

– Delanjathan Devakumar, Professor of Global Child Health, UCL



Heavy menstrual bleeding project: Funded by National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR), this research project explored evidence to evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and cost-effectiveness of all available treatment options. In 2025 we supported them to involve people with lived experience in their work. Following on from this, we facilitated a final session for the team involved in 2025, that included researchers and people with lived experience. The session focussed on discussing the key messages from the research, who to share the findings with, and how to go about it.

British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence at UCL: We are working with the team to support embedding lived experience in their cardiovascular research in partnership with patients, communities and healthcare stakeholders. This project will run from October 2025 to September 2029. This year we recruited two public contributors and delivered co-production training to UCL PhD students. We are now co-producing an engagement strategy that will launch in 2026.

Improving hydration for care home residents: We began our second year working with Glentworth House Nursing Home in Hove and the VIVALDI Research Project Team at UCL, focusing on finding effective ways to improve hydration for care home residents. This year, we have been developing a coproduced resource designed to support and strengthen hydration-focused activities in care homes.

Working with the Glentworth House team and family members of residents we co-produced two short videos that shared stories about the impact improved hydration can have. This fed into an application for Programme Grant funding from National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) that if funded, will be utilised for follow-on work. Participation in the study with Vivaldi and Co-Production Collective also supported the achievement of an overall 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Paul, the Manager of Glentworth House shared his thoughts about the impact this project has had:

“ Through this collaboration, staff have received training in innovative methods to support residents in increasing and maintaining adequate fluid intake and worked in a co-produced way sharing power and decision making with researchers from Vivaldi, Co-Production Collective members and carers/family members of residents.

The partnership with Vivaldi and Co-Production Collective has had a significant positive impact on the home. Notably, infection rates and the risk of falls have reduced considerably, and residents' overall health and wellbeing have improved. ”

– Paul Cartwright, Manager of Glentworth House Nursing Home



New research projects for 2025

EndoVoices Project: We supported this co-production project that aims to put patients' lived experiences at the centre of the research process, to improve understanding of the links between endometriosis, pain, mental health, and wellbeing. We provided co-production training and ongoing support for the project including helping them to establish their core values as a team and agree ways of working. The project was funded by the UCL Grand Challenge of Mental Health & Wellbeing Catalyst Grant scheme.

DisCOURSE Network+: Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), this project was created to help people who support digital research in the UK grow and become leaders. It focuses on helping these individuals learn new skills and feel confident leading others. We supported the project team by facilitating a kick off session for them and providing training in what co-production is and how to go about it.

The project was set up to teach good practice such as caring for the environment, using technology responsibly and ethically, making research accessible to everyone, following good management, and supporting equality, diversity, and inclusion. By bringing together people from different areas, it will help them work well in teams, lead complex projects, and support strong and sustainable digital research systems.

COMMET (CO-producing Mathematical Models of Epidemics Together): This two-year research project is working with researchers from The University of Manchester and UCL. It explores how we can create better ways to understand and predict how infectious diseases spread during outbreaks. The project is using the viral illness mpox as a test case to try out new mathematical modelling tools and methods.

This year we worked with the COMMET team to embed co-production from the start. Three co-producers with relevant lived experience joined the project steering team and provide oversight of the different strands of work taking place. We have also been supporting the design of co-production workshops with different communities affected by mpox, which will take place in 2026.

“ Co-Production Collective have been an invaluable partner in our complex project, which engages people with relevant lived experience in topics perceived as technical and mathematical as well as highly sensitive to communities who have often been stigmatised. They have brought their considerable experience in helping us to embed co-production into how we operate as a team with careful consideration as to the tricky questions that inevitably arise around values, engagement with university/academic infrastructure and diverse viewpoints. ”



– Liz Fearon, Associate Professor, UCL Institute for Global Health

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Blood Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections: We supported a three month project to co-produce a workshop to reflect on and develop their Public and Patient Involvement evaluation plans. This was funded by the NIHR Infrastructure/School Pre-Application Support Fund. Three co-producers were involved in planning and facilitating the workshop which was attended by academic researchers, community organisations, charities, policymakers and people with lived and living experience. We also supported the project evaluation by collecting and analysing feedback about the process from the workshop planning team.

RECENTRE: (Understanding epidemics in pregnant and lactating people and infants: an interdisciplinary network): This research project focuses on what it is like to go through an infection outbreak when you are pregnant, breastfeeding or caring for babies. Outbreaks bring unique challenges for people in these groups but they are often left out of research, which means that their particular needs can be overlooked in responses to outbreaks. RECENTRE aims to bring together an interdisciplinary network of professionals and people with lived experience with a range of knowledge and experiences to develop new research proposals to tackle this.

Working with researchers at UCL, this year we recruited seven co-producers with lived experience to join the RECENTRE Community Advisory Board, of which two have also joined the core project team. We look forward to supporting with the development and delivery of collaborative workshops throughout 2026.

NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement award: We are supporting an early career researcher who has been granted an NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement Award to support their next step as a postdoctoral applied health or care researcher. By sharing our expertise and providing opportunities for them to be involved in all stages of co-production we are enabling them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to ensure that people living with dementia, carers and frontline health care professionals can be an integral part of their future research.

“ As part of my NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement award Co-Production Collective have provided me with opportunities to learn from their experience and be a part of co-production. Learning from the team and from the groups they are working with has been invaluable in helping me to develop the knowledge and skills I need to ensure that people living with dementia, carers and frontline health care professionals can be an integral part of my future research. ”



Michelle Parker, Early Career Researcher, City St George's University of London

Our Work in Detail: Training sessions

As part of our ambition to 'Promote and Embed Learning' we co-produced and co-delivered **16** training sessions for **8** organisations and **4** UCL departments and teams, alongside **17** 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. In total, we trained **182** people including charity and council workers, researchers, PhD students, commissioners, an healthcare practitioners.

We are excited to report that the wider team we are part of, UCL's Co-Production and Engagement Team, received funding from the UCL Research Culture Seed Fund to co-produce an **online, self-led training course for UCL staff and students** about co-production. In 2025 we held sessions to co-produce the course content with 4 staff members and 4 co-producers from our community. The course will be launched to staff and students in early 2026, and feature voiceovers and examples from the co-production team that designed the course. Offering this training will provide opportunities for staff and students to develop their understanding of public engagement and strengthen our profile so that we are able to partner with even more departments to embed co-production in their research projects in 2026 and beyond.

We conducted training for 8 organisations and 4 UCL departments and teams including:

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Equalities Trust | Z2K | UCL Grand Challenges |
| UCL Research, Innovation and Global Engagement (RIGE) | British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence at UCL | |

Building on last year's success, we recruited and delivered training to a new cohort of commissioners from around the country as part of the **Commissioning with Communities** programme, in partnership with Collaborate and Ideas Alliance. The programme aims to translate the theories of co-production, collaboration, and a systems - level approach to leadership into practice and support commissioners to embed these approaches within their ways of working. We also provided further training sessions to commissioners from Westminster Council who are taking part in a version of this course specifically for them.



We delivered a learning module for PhD students at **UCL's Global Business School for Health**, focusing on co-production and research. Following four weeks of online learning, students came together for a week of in-person teaching in February. Each session was co-designed and co-delivered with two co-producers and explored topics such as co-production as a values-based way of working, safety, and the importance of sharing power and decision making.



“ As I reflect on this experience, I can see just how much potential co-production has to reshape not just research, but entire systems. By embedding these values in education, we're influencing future leaders, researchers, and professionals to think differently - to challenge traditional hierarchies and embrace shared decision making. ”

- Lee, co-producer

“ The most significant takeaway from the Co-Production Collective module during residency week was the profound importance of listening and understanding the cultural and social contexts of communities. The insights shared emphasised that co-production is not merely a method but a philosophy that fosters genuine partnerships between researchers and communities. This approach is very important in health and social care research, where the experiences of marginalized groups are needed to inform interventions. During the residency, our facilitators highlighted that effective co-production could lead to more relevant and impactful public health as well as social care measures! ”

- Denise Adaoyibo Okpala - Global Business School for Health student



UCL Global Business School for Health

Since October 2020 we have supported the **UCL Wellcome PhD in Mental Health Science** which was funded by the Wellcome Trust to recruit five cohorts of six students from 2020 to 2025. Our role is to train students to integrate co-production principles into their research during their four-year course. This ongoing collaboration has involved delivering workshops that emphasise the value of involving people with lived and living experience, including sharing power, ensuring accessibility, safeguarding, and embedding meaningful co-production in research design and delivery. We are now supporting our fifth and final cohort of students to embed co-production into their thesis projects

“ Co-Production Collective team have been a joy to work with, and we couldn't be happier that we partnered with them to deliver this central component of our PhD programme. ”

– Professor Jon Roiser, Professor of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience

[Read full case study](#)



Bringing together members of the **Stroud Town Council** team, as well as local councillors, we spent a day exploring what co-production is and the value of working in a co-produced way. Building on some of the great work being carried out by the Community Development team with Stroud residents, we discussed how co-production can be further embedded within the council's work over the next five years.

We delivered a training session for postgraduate researchers and academics at the **University of Leeds**, supporting them to learn about co-production and how to apply this approach within their research. We also ran an extended session with academics who are developing their own public engagement practice, helping them troubleshoot difficulties they were experiencing in their projects.



Our Work in Detail: Consultancy

As part of our ambition to 'Lead Culture Change' and 'Promote and Embed Learning' we partner 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, enabling them to take a co-produced approach to their work.

Continuing consultancy projects

Croydon Council Surrey Street Action Group:

With 2 co-producers, we ran 7 workshops attended by 155 people - Croydon Council officers and members, Croydon businesses and local residents. The work is part of a new two-year project funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) Civic Partnership Programme and Croydon Council's Growth Zone Programme. The project aims to co-produce plans with the community to regenerate the Surrey Street area of Croydon town centre. This builds on the work we did last year (funded by Higher Education Innovation Funding from Research England) that co-produced ideas for the North End Quarter of Croydon that were used as an evidence base for the successful funding bid.



Disability Rights UK co-production project: Over the last year we have been supporting Disability Rights UK to work on how to embed co-production into how they work as an organisation. We supported them to set up a 'Co-production group' made up of staff and members of their community, including people with lived experience and people who work for deaf and disabled people's organisations. We then facilitated these group sessions and, alongside members of the group, delivered co-production training to the organisation's staff members. This work is continuing into 2026.



“ As a Disabled people's organisation, we are run and led by Disabled people. However, we know we can and should go further. Embedding co-production across Disability Rights UK isn't just a 'nice to have' for us - it's essential to becoming an organisation that genuinely reflects, responds to, and works in true partnership with Disabled people. Working with the Co-Production Collective over the last year has been an important part of this journey. Their passion, expertise, and deep understanding of co-production have helped us see what's truly possible when we design our work with Disabled people and bring in those external perspectives to shape our work. The guidance and support they've offered has been invaluable as we move towards a more collaborative, inclusive, and co-produced way of working ”

– Lydia Bone, Co-production Lead, Disability Rights UK

Co-producing innovation and improved access to ear checks for children and young people who are autistic and/or have a learning disability: 2025 was our fifth year working 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. In 2024 NHS England announced plans to roll out the Ear Checks programme nationally. To support this, we brought together parents and carers, educational professionals, and NHS decision makers at an online event that aimed to spread the word about the roll-out and develop resources to advocate locally for the implementation of the ear checks.

We were also pleased to see a co-produced Ear Checks animation finalised and hosted by Seashell Trust, who are a learning disability charity supporting young people across the UK. This animation explains the ear checks in a clear and engaging way for students, parents and staff getting involved with the checks, and aims to raise awareness of the programme.



[Read full case study](#)

New consultancy projects

Supporting early career researchers: We supported recipients of UCL's Grand Challenge of Mental Health & Wellbeing Catalyst Grant funding by helping early career researchers to develop the skills, confidence, and mindset required to work collaboratively with people with lived experience.

South Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (SICDATF) We began working with this partnership in Dublin to provide co-production support to a residents' association in an inner-city council estate.

Embedding lived experience in suicide prevention across London: We started working with our partners at the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA) on a seven-year initiative funded by the City Bridge Foundation. Working with people with lived and living experience of suicide, the programme will support organisations across all London boroughs to embed lived experience expertise, involvement and co-production into their suicide prevention strategies and activities.

“ We are delighted to work with Co-Production Collective in our London suicide prevention programme. They have helped us ensure that the work is co-produced from the beginning, utilised their excellent expertise in co-produced evaluation, and lived our shared values in all of their ways of working with us.”

– Jess Worner, National Suicide Prevention Alliance Lived Experience Network Manager



Our Work in Detail: Talks

As part of our ambition to 'Promote and Embed Learning' together with our community members, we delivered **10** talks about co-production in various settings to a wide range of audiences. **4** of these focused on inclusivity and anti-racism. This year, we spoke to the audiences of **7** organisations and **3** UCL Departments, alongside **7** members of our community.

In total 423 people attended our talks. Here are some of the highlights:

For the third year running we gave a talk about the impact of working in a co-produced way to research fellows at the **UCL Institute of Healthcare Engineering**.

We hosted an online workshop with Mandy from Pathway, the homeless and inclusion health charity about the [Measuring Success in Co-Production](#) project at the **Stronger Things 2025** conference organised by New Local.

Niccola, Debora and Kafilla travelled to Wales to deliver a talk as part of the **British Pain Society** conference. They spoke about co-production and our learning from our work on the Personalised Cancer Care Conference in the West Midlands.

We gave a talk about our work around inclusive practice to the **EDI Research Centre in York** as part of a collection of talks under the title: "Researching easily ignored groups - two different examples from research practice - neurodiversity and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities."



Kafilla talking at the British Pain Society conference

Talks that focused specifically on inclusivity and anti-racism

In June, we attended at the **ARC South London Knowledge Exchange Event** at King's College London. Here, we explored the question 'How do we work together to effectively understand and reduce health inequalities?'. One of our co-producers, Isaac, presented key findings from our joint report with People's Voice Media on '[Understanding Anti-Racism in Co-Production Spaces](#)' and as a panellist further discussed 'New ways of approaching health inequalities'.



Isaac talking to ARC South London Knowledge Exchange Event

We delivered a talk and workshop as part of the **Social Care Futures** gathering in Manchester where we spoke about our work around anti-racism in co-production.

Hania and Isaac gave a keynote speech and ran a workshop at **The Health and Adult Social Care Commissioners' Conference** about anti-racism in co-production and how it applies to commissioning.

Championing Co-Production

In line with our mission ‘to shape a future where collaboration, inclusivity and people’s voices are valued, and co-production is widely embedded as a way of working’ championing co-production is at the heart of what we do.

This year we have been contributing to wider conversations about co-production through sharing our views at the **Co-Production Futures Enquiry** that looks at co-production in the context of higher education. As well as conversations in other sectors that are looking how to do co-production in a more meaningful way.

In line with our ambition to ‘lead culture change’ we also continued to pro-actively contribute the body of evidence, resources and understanding about how to effectively do co-production via our **Navigating anti-racism and co-production work** and our **Measuring Success in Co-production Learning by Doing Programme**

“ I’ve been involved with Co-Production Collective in a number of ways over the last year. This has included: attending Co-Pro Cuppas, where I’ve met brilliant practitioners who I’m still in contact with; signposting people to resources, including their excellent research and guidance on centring the voices of racialised individuals in co-production; and having an ongoing learning relationship between the Collective and Shift Circle, which has proved incredibly valuable through an honest and transparent exchange of challenges and successes. They are a great source of knowledge and good practice, but not in a polished, perfect way – in a way that shows the reality of this work, and shares those realities with other practitioners far and wide. ”

– Theodora Cadbury, Founder/Facilitator, Shift Circle



Championing Co-Production: Navigating anti-racism and co-production

Over the last year, our work on anti-racism has deeply shaped how we think and go about working in a co-produced way. This has not been a separate strand of activity, but something that is a key part of our strategic objectives to ‘Grow Our Community and Live Our Values’ and to ‘Lead Culture Change’. It runs through our co-production values, our relationships, and our understanding of power, voice, and lived experience.

This work has been grounded in the belief that co-production cannot be meaningful if it does not actively challenge racism, structural inequality, and the ways that systems silence or marginalise racialised people. Anti-racism is not an optional extra; it is central to how we create shared power, value lived experience, and work towards social justice.

“ As someone who has done co-production for many years, and as a racialised person, as a Black woman, it is really great to see anti-racism being actively worked on here. It feels like our voices are genuinely valued, not just symbolically. ”

– Jacqui Darlington, co-producer



How did we get to where we are today?

What began in 2022 as a series of conversations developed into learning spaces and training sessions in 2023 and 2024, and has grown into a clearer, more intentional anti-racist approach and anti-racism strategy.

In February 2025, we collaborated with People’s Voice Media and published the report [Understanding Anti-Racism in Co-Production Spaces: Centring the Voices of Racialised Individuals](#). This initiative responded to growing recognition that co-production can reproduce racial inequalities if racism, power, and exclusion are not explicitly addressed. The work centred the lived experiences of racialised individuals to better understand how co-production spaces can become genuinely inclusive and anti-racist.

A key message emerging from this work was that co-production cannot be effective without directly addressing racism. Participants highlighted the need to move beyond symbolic inclusion and instead prioritise open conversations about race, power dynamics, and structural inequalities within co-production practice. Following the publication of [Understanding Anti-Racism in Co-Production Spaces](#) report, we began implementing the report’s recommendations. By October 2025, a Global Majority-led Anti-Racism Working Group had been established, bringing together racialised co-producers, Allies Group members, staff, and academic partners to guide and oversee the next phase of work.

[Read our Anti-Racism report](#)

“You can’t do co-production without talking about racism”

Understanding Anti-Racism in Co-production Spaces: Centring the Voices of Racialised Individuals



February 2025, v1.2 | Produced by People's Voice Media

Illustration by Kareen Cox of Absolutely Kareen

Our Anti-Racism Working Group identified three priority workstreams to work on during 2025 and 2026:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Development of an organisational Anti-Racism Strategy, including looking at how we might need to redevelop our core values and ways of working. | Creating a resource that provides guidance on how to promote change in co-production spaces in a way that prioritises personal safety. | Development of educational resources and training on anti-racism in co-production. |
|---|--|--|

Highlights of our anti-racism work in 2025

The Amplifying Voices Programme took place in partnership with People’s Voice Media which aimed to provide essential tools and skills to changemakers to enable them to share their messages effectively:

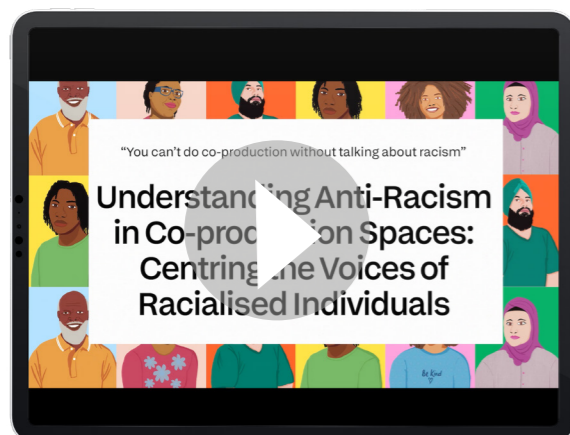
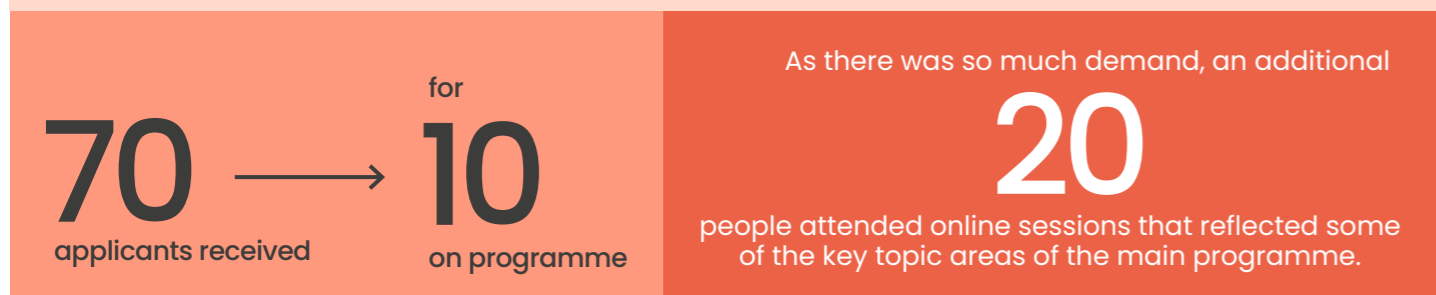
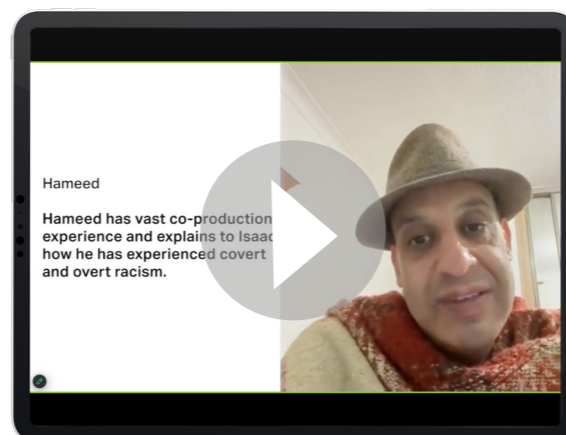


Image credit: Illustration by Kareen Cox of Absolutely Kareen



Screen shot from Anti-racism in co-production videos

Anti-racism training sessions and talks delivered in 2025

Over the past year, the Co-Production Collective has delivered and contributed to a range of anti-racism activities. These include workshops, conference sessions, and discussion forums with partners across health, social care, academia, and the voluntary sector.



Key sessions included


| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Equalities Trust discussion session | University of East London training session | Skills for Care training session |
| Commissioners’ Conference Anti-racism in co-production keynote, panel, and workshop | | Social Care Futures Conference workshop |

Reflections and learning

Through this work, we have learned that anti-racism is an ongoing practice rather than a one-off intervention. It requires sustained commitment, resources, and leadership. It also requires humility, the willingness to listen, and the courage to be challenged. Feedback from sessions has highlighted the importance of centring lived experience, naming structural issues rather than individualising racism, and supporting people and organisations to move from awareness to action

“ Being involved in the anti-racism work at the Co-Production Collective has felt both affirming and transformative. As a Black lived experience leader, I have often experienced spaces where equity is discussed conceptually but not always embedded in practice. What has felt different here is the intentionality; anti-racism is not treated as an add-on or a one-off initiative, but as something fundamental to how we understand co-production, power, and whose knowledge counts.– Member of the community who has been involved for less than a year ”

– Stuart Dodzo, co-producer



What this work has led to

Our work has led to the development of a clearer anti-racism strategy which will be launched in 2026 and marks an important step for Co-Production Collective. It provides a shared overview for how we approach partnerships, training, research, and work as a community. It also signals our commitment to accountability, continuous learning, and standing alongside racialised people in challenging injustice.

“ This work has pushed us to look honestly and deeply at how power and racism show up in co-production and in our practice as Co-Production Collective staff and community members. Anti-racism is not a one-off activity, but a long-term commitment that requires action. We are clear that learning only matters if it leads to change and accountability.”

– Niccola Hutchinson Pascal, Co-Production Collective staff team member



Looking ahead

We see this strategy as a living document and a foundation for deeper work. Our hope is that it will support more honest conversations about race and power in co-production, strengthen relationships with racialised communities, and contribute to wider system change. We want to continue building spaces where lived experience is valued in all its diversity, where difficult truths can be spoken, and where collective action towards justice is possible.



“ I recently came across the fantastic work you’ve done on Anti-Racism with People’s Voice Media and I just wanted to take a moment to say how much I appreciate it. Your work has genuinely shifted my perspective, and I’m incredibly grateful for the impact it has had on my understanding of anti-racism and co-production.”

– Lee, co-producer

“ My name is Jiten, and I just wanted to send a heartfelt thank you for all the work you did! Sharing my story was incredibly meaningful to me, and I can’t express how much I appreciate it. A special thanks to Isaac and the team—I have never felt truly heard before, and this experience has meant so much to me as an Asian man from India. I am deeply grateful for everything you’ve done ”

– Jiten, co-producer

[Find out more about our Anti-Racism Work](#)

Championing Co-Production: Measuring Success Programme

Launch of Programme Reports

In May, we were delighted to share the launch of the reports and resources from the **Measuring Success in Co-production: Learning By Doing Programme**. Drawing on the collective learning from the eight funded project teams and the experience of co-producing the programme itself, we developed a practical tool called the Reflective Learning Resource. This resource includes two adaptable templates designed to support tailored co-production and evaluation journeys.

Alongside the full report, we published summarised and quick-read versions, as well as a range of accessible formats for download, as well as a video to introduce the resources.



All resources are available to read or download from our [dedicated programme webpages](#), along with blogs that document the programme’s progress over the past two years.

The programme was supported by Co-Production Collective, co-producers with a range of lived experience, The Evaluation Exchange (a collaboration between UCL and Compost London), and representatives from two of our co-funders (UCL Grand Challenges and The Academy of Medical Sciences), who supplemented our Research England funding.



Sandy Rushton • 3rd
Project Coordinator
6d • 🌐



This is so useful! Thank you for making your work available, I’m using it to develop my thinking around evaluation on a Community of Practice project we’re working on. It’s early days but of course will credit you in any published work!



Ruth Thomsen MBE •
Scientific Director Medical Directorate, NHS England
3d • 🌐



I have learned to so much from the CoPro team!

What’s next?

We are planning a session in 2026 to bring together people who have been utilising the resources developed through the Measuring Success in Co-production programme to discuss further refinements for them. This session will complement our co-produced strategy by strengthening relationships within our existing community, expanding our reach, and supporting ongoing evaluation of our work.

Championing Co-Production: Co-producing ourselves

As part of our ambition to ‘Grow Our Community and Live Our Values’, ‘Promote and Embed Learning’ and ‘Lead Culture Change’ we co-produce the work we do with our community. Our policies, practices, and plans are shaped collaboratively, offering a living example of co-production. This year we have taken on the feedback we received from our 2025 Community Survey to place a greater emphasis on community care and transparency. This has started to come to fruition via our newly co-produced website that was launched this year and by our Community Member Journey project that we hope to launch outputs from in 2026.

Co-producing our policies

In July 2025, we released an updated version of our **Payment Policy** that adopts the payment rates piloted in 2025 which take into account the increased cost of living. The new policy (3.0) also simplifies the process of receiving payment and includes clearer wording to make it easier to understand and follow.

We created a **young person’s safeguarding policy** with National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) for use in our current projects involving young people. This will be reviewed by the community and published on our website in 2026.

We have also been reviewing our **adult safeguarding statement and processes** with a safeguarding working group made up of members of the community and will launch our new policy and processes in 2026.

As mentioned in the section of the Report about our anti-racism work, we co-produced a **Community Commitments** document to support how we work together in Co-Production Collective’s group sessions. They centre anti-racist principles and best practice in inclusivity. We started sharing these at Co-Pro Cuppas and other meetings in November to test them and gain feedback from our community, and plan to finalise and launch them officially on our website in early 2026.

[Read our policies](#)

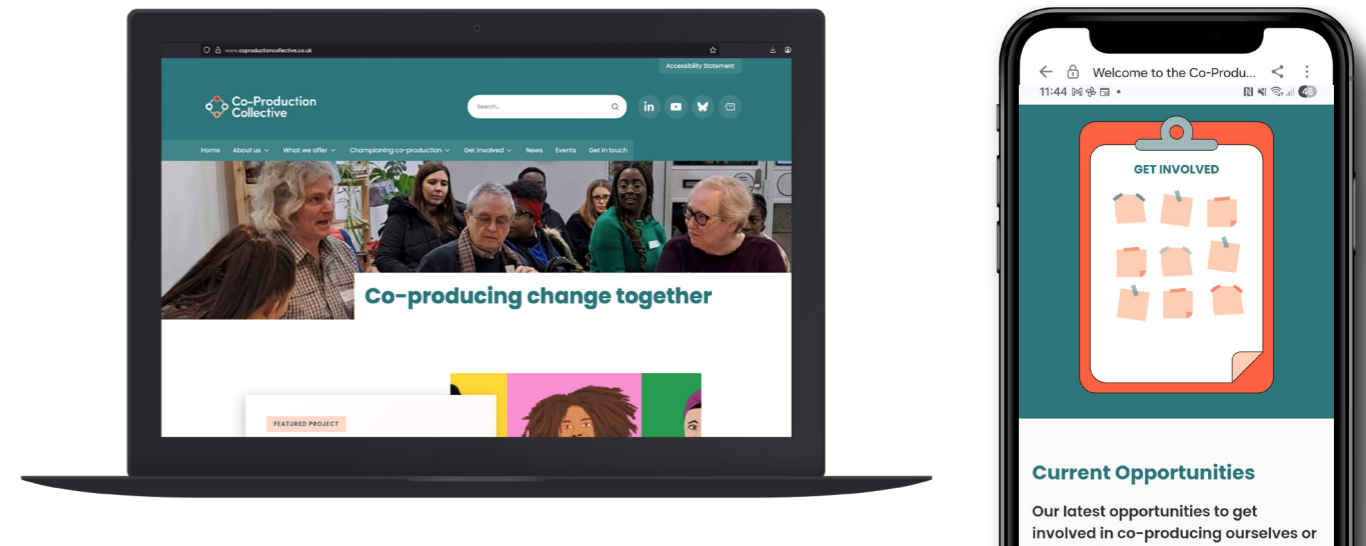


Communications

At the beginning of 2025 we launched **our new website** which has been designed to grow with us as we develop and has lots of new features that make it easier for people to better understand and get involved in what we do. Our new website was co-produced with our Communications Sub-Group, community members, and our web agency Big Lemon. It addresses key feedback from our 2022 and 2024 Community Surveys, especially around understanding what we do and reducing barriers to getting involved. We look forward to reporting on the numbers of people who visited the new website as well as more about the impact it has had in next year’s Impact Report.

Key features of our new website:

- ‘**About us**’ section which includes information about our relationship with UCL and our governance, as well as access to notes from our Allies Group meetings.
- ‘**What we offer**’ section dedicated to what we do, so that anyone interested in our services can more easily find these out
- ‘**Championing co-production**’ section that has dedicated pages to our projects (like The Value of Co-Production Research Project and Measuring Success) that build the evidence for co-production and indicate ways to go about it.
- ‘**Get involved**’ section that shares how people can get involved in what we do as well as our policies to support involvement. This includes a live ‘**Current Opportunities**’ message board and more information about our Co-Pro Cuppas etc.



“ My aim is to encourage as many as possible to embark on getting involved with co-production. The new website provides the most convincing evidence to do so thanks to its new ‘Championing co-production section’, which gives people the evidence they need plus the confidence to start themselves. I strongly encourage visiting the live ‘Current Opportunities’ message board where you can easily identify opportunities without lengthy searches. Truly timesaving and helpful for everyone.”

– Rachel Hill, co-producer

Growing and supporting our community

Our community is made up of people from across the UK and beyond who get involved in what we do because they have an interest in co-production. This year we made an even more concerted effort to support our community members and find ways we could better support their needs.

On our new website we created a **'Join the Community' form** which we asked people to sign up to so that we could find out where they are based, what their interests were in relation to being a member of our community and the types of things they would like to get involved with, so that we could better support them with their involvement.

From when the website was launched at the end of January to the end of December, **380** people signed up to be a member of our community and were sent a welcome pack that shared key information about how we work:



We will use this information build relationships with our members and better support their needs in 2026.

Following feedback we received in the 2025 Community Survey and using what we had learnt so far from those who filled in the Join the Community form, we started working on the **Community Member Journey Project**. This project aims to help us to better understand our community members involvement in the Collective and what we can put in place, aside from payment to better support people.

In 2025 we had two meetings with community members that came up with recommendations about how we could improve our existing processes and provide better wrap around care for co-producers involved in our projects. They also put forward other ideas about what else we could do to support the development of our long-term members and people new to our community.

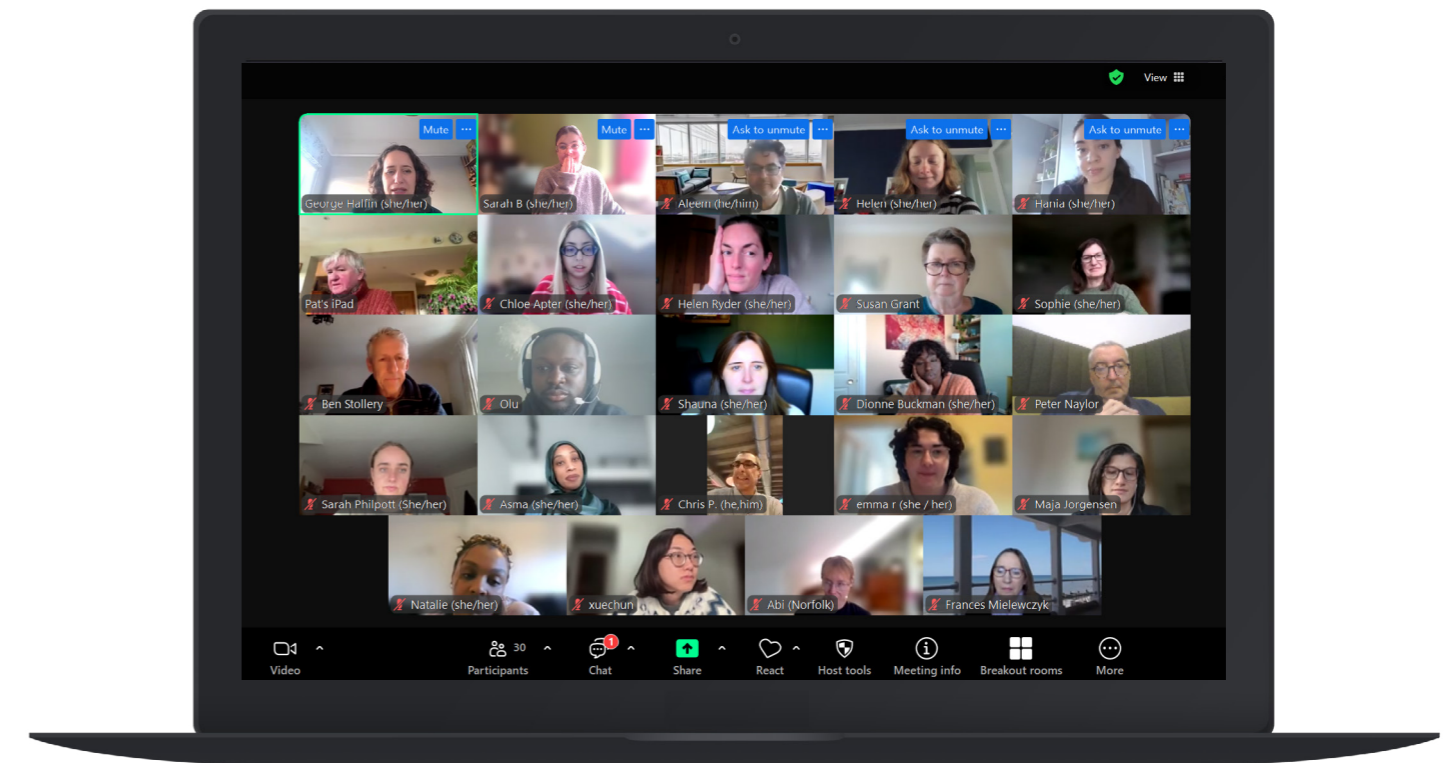
We have already put in place some of the recommendations regarding improving our processes and will be co-producing some of the ideas from these initial meetings, including a video and options for face-to-face induction meetings in 2026.

Last year we co-produced an online **LinkedIn training session** which brought together people with different levels of experience to learn how to use LinkedIn more effectively and in a way that worked for them. As a result of the popularity of this session, we provided another training this year, and look forward to offering more in the future, subject to demand.

Thanks to feedback we received from our 2025 Community Survey and Co-Pro Cuppa survey we hosted a **themed Co-Pro Cuppa** in December on the subject of *"How do we get others to understand what co-production really means?"*. This theme was chosen by a poll of community members (who had signed up to join our community) from the most popular ideas that were put forward in the 2025 Community Survey and Co-Pro Cuppa surveys. The event was then co-produced by a team of community and staff members. We received positive feedback from those who attended. In 2026 we plan to build on this success, and further develop what we offer for the different groups of people who attend our Co-Pro Cuppas.

“ The richness of discussion and new format was really great! So good to see a diverse range of people and experiences too. ”

Themed Co-Pro Cuppa attendee



“ Being part of Co-Production Collective has shifted my thinking about co-production, moving away from a one-size-fits-all solution and towards valuing each person’s unique experiences and perspectives. On a personal level I’ve been able to show up openly and share my thoughts without being overly self-conscious and feel like my contributions truly matter. ”

Adeyinka Agunbiade, co-producer

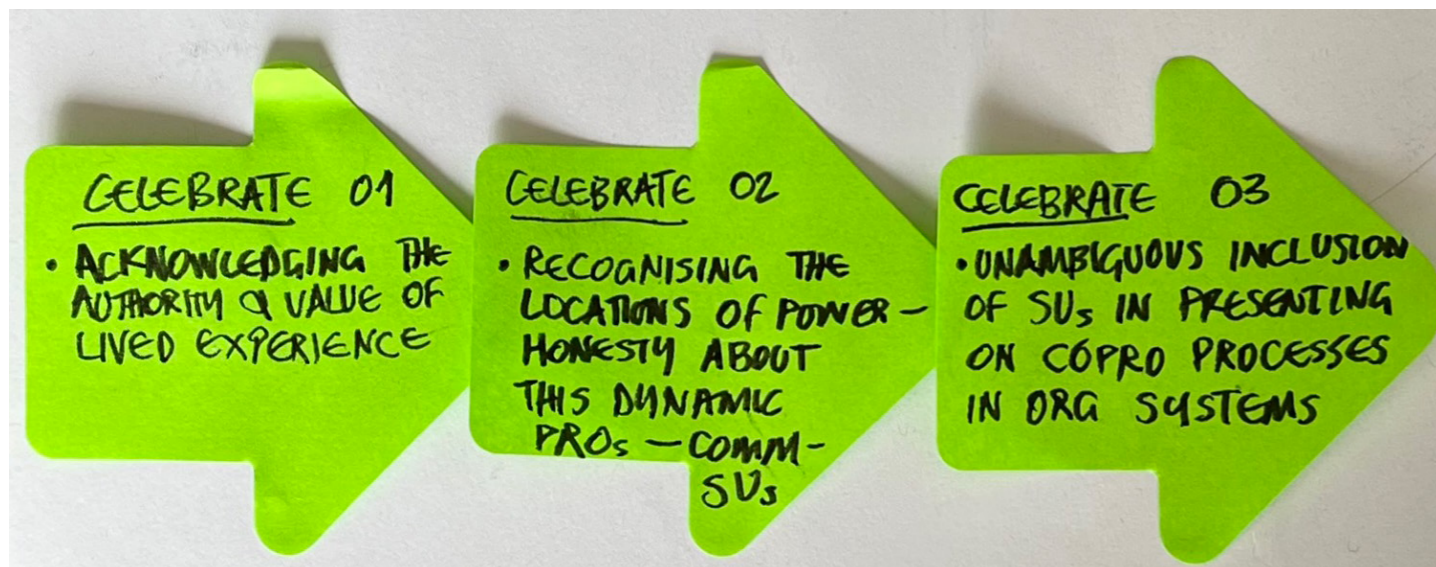


Championing Co-Production: How we impact our community

Our community is made up of a wide range of people from different backgrounds and walks of life including researchers, people with living or lived experience, and people who work in jobs where co-production is part of what they do (some of whom also have living or lived experience). It also includes people whose organisations don't currently do co-production and want to learn more to change their culture. All of them have found their way to us because of their interest in co-production.

This year in addition to the opportunities for members of our community to co-produce with us, we supported 6 members of our community to join us at 3 conferences:

- Debora and Stuart T attended The National Co-Production Conference hosted by Co-Production Network for Wales in May.
- Stuart D and Jacqui attended the Anti-Racism Summit in Cumbria in October.
- Kanika and Rachel attended the Stronger Things Conference in London in June.



Stuart's notes from the National Co-Production Conference

“ ...Experiencing the breadth and depth of diverse, concrete implementation of co-production processes in the Welsh context was inspiring.”

Stuart Taylor, co-producer



“ The Cumbria Anti-Racist Summit highlighted the power of co-production in advancing anti-racist practice. Bringing together lived experience, practitioners and community voices created space for learning and accountability. The keynote from Lemn Sissay was particularly powerful and grounded the day in reflection and action.”

– Stuart Dodzo, co-producer



Stronger Things Conference

“ As one speaker reminded us, everyone has something to learn and something to teach. I'm grateful to have shared the space with so many passionate people, and I'm excited to keep these conversations going.”

Rachel, co-producer

“ It was fascinating to talk with experienced professionals about their career journeys and connecting with like-minded individuals to share insights about our respective projects. ...I thoroughly enjoyed the day and look forward to applying some of these practices in my future work.”

– Kanika, co-producer



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

“ As someone who is involved in a range of highly impactful research projects as a public contributor, I value being part of the Co-Production Collective community. It is great to know that there are a group of supportive people who can come together in the regular Co-Pro Cuppas. There is an opportunity to discuss challenges and also learn about the work that others are doing. ”

Sara-Jane McAteer, co-producer



“ Co-Production Collective has enabled me to find a meaningful voice amongst a group of people who always value my lived experience. They see me as a person first, amongst others, who are all treated with respect, regardless of differences or backgrounds. I have been able to create change by influencing organisations to challenge their current ideas, to incorporate genuine co-production for better services and research, that benefits everyone. ”

Naheen, co-producer

“ For me personally, being part of Co-Production Collective allows me to learn, reflect and collaborate. My involvement there has been a powerful opportunity to learn from others and contribute my own experiences in a supportive space. What stands out the most is the everyone’s voice is valued equally. As co-producers we are encouraged to contribute openly and support each other in creating better work. It always reminds me that meaningful change happens when research and lived experience comes together as equal partners. ”

Tania, co-producer



“ Being part of Co-Production Collective has meant being part of a community that truly values my lived experience. It has given me opportunities to connect with others, share knowledge, and strengthen my confidence in co-production, whilst learning from people committed to making research more inclusive and meaningful. ”

- Yasmin, co-producer



“ Co-Production Collective has transformed my mindset and teaching practice. The opportunities it has created have been life changing. It’s a place where people and organisations genuinely connect, where true co-production is born, and where meaningful co-production leads to real outcomes that make this work worthwhile. ”

- Natalie Whyte, co-producer

Reflecting on 5 years of co-producing together and looking forward to the future

When we reflect on the last 5 years, we are proud of what we have been able to do so far to embed co-production in organisations, research and policy. As well as contributing to understanding of co-production via our:

- Blogs
- Value of Co-Production Research Project
- Measuring Success in Co-Production: Learning by Dong programme
- Co-Pro stories
- Anti-racism project
- Resources library
- Research ethics guidance

Many other people have encountered our work as a result of:

- Receiving training of seeing a talk by us
- Being involved in a project we are part of
- Coming to our Co-Pro Cuppa
- Co-producing with us



Now that we are at the mid-point in our co-produced strategy ‘Our Direction 2023- 2028’ we will be reviewing this with our community in 2026, along with our core values to make sure they are still fit for purpose. We will also be working to further embed the recommendations from our anti-racism work and 2025 Community Survey in how we operate, support and develop our community members and find ways to share understanding of co-production more widely.



If you would like to be part of this journey with us, we’d love to hear from you. So please email coproduction@ucl.ac.uk.

Thank you!

- A 2nd Voice
- Alzheimer's Society
- ARC South London
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System
- Big Lemon
- British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence at UCL
- British Pain Society
- Cavendish Square Group
- Change Communication
- City Bridge Foundation
- Collaborate CIC
- Croydon Council
- Disability Rights UK
- EDI Research Centre in York
- Equalities Trust
- FND Action Charity
- FND Hope UK
- Glentworth House Nursing Home
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System
- Ideas Alliance
- Innate Health Research
- King's College London
- LEED Research Collective
- Mayor of London's Civic Partnership Programme
- National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
- National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA)
- New Local
- NHS England
- Nifty Sustainability
- NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Blood Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections at UCL
- NIHR Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health
- Oedipa
- Pathway
- People's Voice Media
- Seashell Trust
- Social Care Futures
- Social Origin
- South Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
- St Andrew's Healthcare
- Stroud Town Council
- The Academy of Medical Sciences
- The Big Simple
- The Evaluation Exchange, a partnership between UCL and Compost London CIC
- The Health and Adult Social Care Commissioners' Conference
- The Love Tank CIC
- The Psychological Professions Network
- Tommy's
- UCL Centre for Equality Research in Brain Sciences
- UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences
- UCL Evidence for Policy and Practice Information (EPPI) Centre

- UCL Global Business School for Health
- UCL Grand Challenges
- UCL Health Economics Policy Lab
- UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience
- UCL Institute of Healthcare Engineering
- UCL Research, Innovation and Global Engagement (RIGE)
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- University of Manchester
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick
- VIVALDI Research Project Team at UCL
- Voices of Colour
- Wellcome Trust
- 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 2026.

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 our team, please email coproduction@ucl.ac.uk.

We'd love to hear from you!

