

DEVELOPING EXEMPLARS OF VALUE CO-PRODUCTION IN THE GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE

This project, funded by the Community-University Partnerships Initiative (CUPI), supported Susanne Martikke from GMCVO and Claire Hannibal from Manchester Metropolitan University to examine co-production in 5 VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester.

BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH

- Developing and delivering services through co-production with the people who use them is a well-established approach in the VCSE.
- What is less clear is *how* co-production is actually achieved.
- We conducted a pilot study during summer 2018 to gauge interest from the Greater Manchester VCSE in sharing and learning more about co-production.
- We found that although co-production is perceived as desirable, there are a shortage of good practice examples as to how it can be incorporated into day-to-day running of VCSE organisations.



AIM OF THE PROJECT

- The research study used self-described examples of co-production by VCSE organisations.
- The aim was to develop understanding of whether value has been co-created and how this worked in practice.
- We were keen for organisations and people who used the services to have time to reflect and discuss co-production.
- We wanted to create exemplars for VCSE organisations to use as guidance and inspiration for their own work.

RESEARCH METHODS

- We asked staff from the VCSE with experience of co-producing a project or service to be involved in the research.
- Participants were then asked to identify someone that they had co-produced with (usually someone who had used the service).
- 5 VCSE organisations, and co-production examples, were selected as case studies.
- The researchers conducted joint interviews with the VCSE organisation and the co-production partner. These interviews discussed definitions of co-production, examples of co-production that both interviewees had worked on together and went into detail about what had worked and why, what had been less successful and the key learning from the process.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

- Three main themes arose from the analysis of the interviews:
 - Co-pro recruitment: How did the VCSE organisation find and identify co-production partners?
 - Co-pro implementation: How did co-production work in practice? What made it work and why?
 - Benefits of co-production: What were the benefits to the organisation and to those that use the service?
- We developed 5 posters presenting each of these three themes for each of the case studies.
- We also produced a more comprehensive report detailing the cross-case findings.