



## 1.9 Co-production

### What is co-production?

Co-production is a long-term, trusting partnership between school/setting and the family. The term 'co-production' refers to a way of working where the people who use services (in this case children and young people with SEND in South Gloucestershire), their parents, carers and service providers, all work together to create a service that works for them all.

Co-production is about trust and builds upon transparency, open communication and equal value being given to each participant's contribution. It happens when all team members together agree outcomes, co-produce recommendations, plans, actions and resources as a collective. It is an approach which builds upon meaningful participation and assumes effective consultation and information.

The concept of co-production means that all parties need to be involved in the planning, design and delivery throughout the process. Having parents/carers at the heart of strategic decision-making helps to bring parents and services together to form a shared vision, make a difference, and to bring about real change. South Glos Council works with the South Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum (South Glos Parents and Carers) and other parent/carer groups to make sure parents and carers participate in strategic decision-making. The Special Educational Needs reforms require each Local Authority to demonstrate how they co-produced and reviewed their Local Offer. South Glos Parents and Carers have worked together with the council and health colleagues to write the [Council's SEND Local Offer](#) website – a source of information on help and support for families, children and young people aged 0-25, with special educational needs and disabilities.

Consultation, engagement and informing encourage people to input their views by asking for their ideas, experience and opinions. You may be asking them to choose between different ideas. Co-production is different because it also needs people to be involved in the planning from the start. This can happen through 1-2-1 relationships with professionals where people play an active role in shaping and implementing their own support, or in wider peer or community support between people and professionals at a strategic level. Co-production means that power is shared more equally between those who use services and those who provide them. Everyone's skills and personal resources are put to use.

### What is best practice in co-production in schools and settings?

## **The South Glos Way: A SEND and inclusion toolkit for South Gloucestershire education settings and professionals**

Co-production sits hand in hand with participation. It can't work unless there are opportunities for CYP to be involved in decision making and for their voices to be heard. It relies on parents/carers and children/ young people with SEND being actively involved in the decisions that affect them.

- CYP and parent/carer voice central to decisions that are made
- CYP and their parents have regular planned opportunities to talk about what's working and what could be better
- Parents/carers and CYP work together to produce the SEN Information Report
- Co-identification of need and areas for improvement
- Co-design, including planning of curriculum, additional interventions, safe spaces, sensory rooms, preparation for adulthood
- Co-delivery of provision, including peer support, buddying, mentoring, anti-bullying initiatives
- Co-evaluation/review of assess, plan, do review

## **Further information**

The Council for Disabled Children and Contact for families with disabled children has an extensive range of resources aimed at helping practitioners involve children and young people and parents and carers in decision-making:

[Council for disabled children](#)

[Contact](#)

[South Gloucestershire's SEND Local Offer](#)

[South Glos Parents & Carers \(sglospc.org.uk\)](http://sglospc.org.uk)