

Towards Collaboration – the Council’s future framework for working with the VCS

Presentation to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum

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Definitions of Co-production

‘Co-production essentially describes a relationship between service provider and service user that draws on the **knowledge, ability and resources** of both to develop solutions to issues that are claimed to be **successful, sustainable and cost-effective**, changing the **balance of power** from the professional towards the service user. The approach is used in work with both **individuals and communities.**’

Co-production

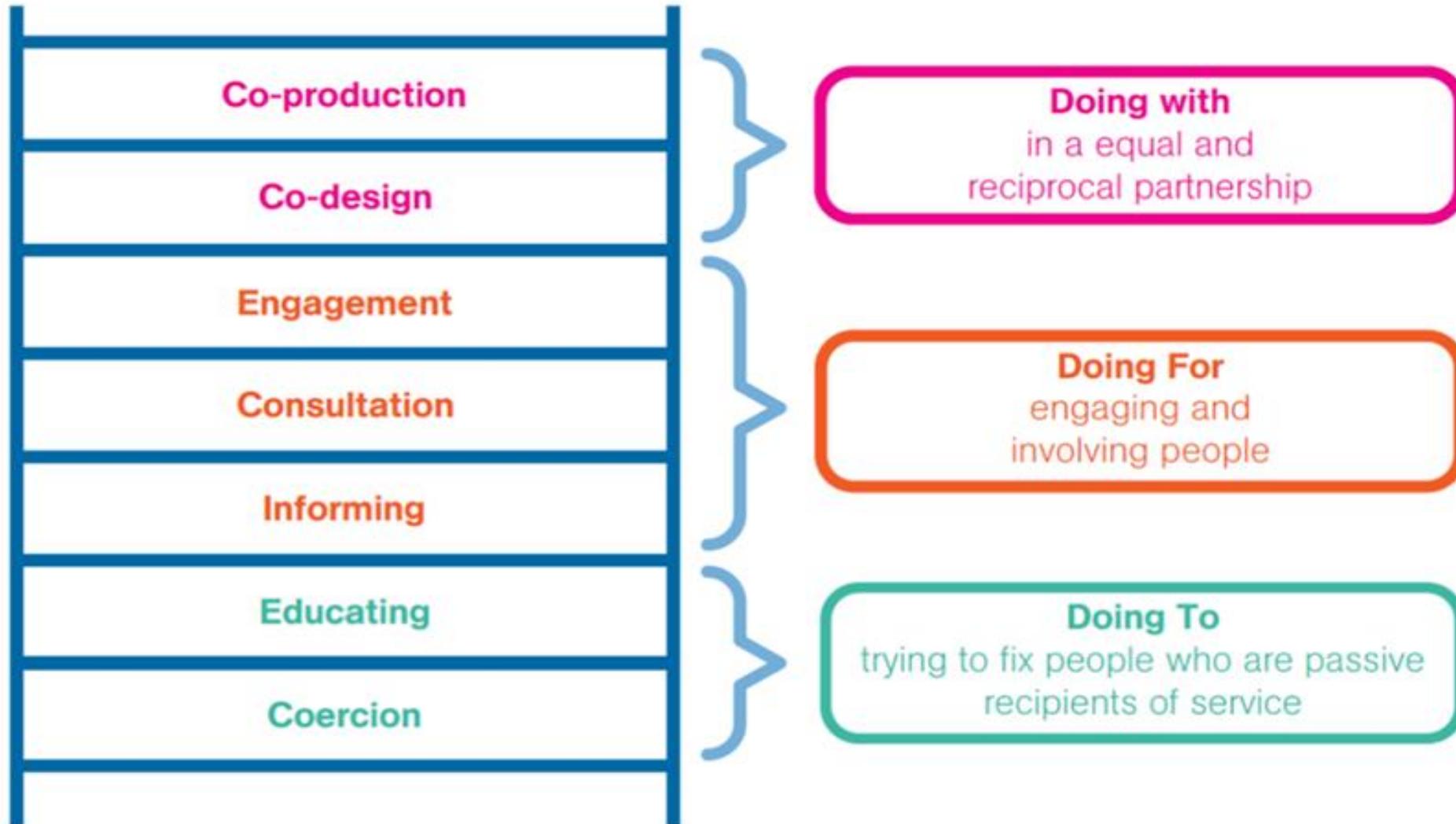
- Co-production is not just a word, it's not just a concept, it is a meeting of minds coming together to find a shared solution
- The approach is value driven and built on the principle that those who use a service are best placed to help design it

“Co-production is an approach for sharing power in an equal and mutual relationship, bringing together professional, service users, their families and neighbours to design and deliver public services”

The Principles of Co-production

- Recognising people as assets
- Building on people's capabilities
- Developing two-way, reciprocal relationships
- Encouraging peer support
- Blurring boundaries between delivering receiving services
- Facilitating the process rather than delivering

The Ladder of Participation



Timeline

- VCS Review conducted in 2018
- Collaborate undertook options appraisals commencing in July 2019 – (interviews, VSLF – 4 July, document review)
- Reported back Autumn 2019
- New model proposed to VSLF – February 2020

Collaborate – Options Appraisal

Options appraisal of four potential models of support

The four models were:

- Continue the current arrangement with the CVS
- **Commissioned Partnership** – a consortium of organisations
- **Cooperative model** – with a focus on increased collaboration
- **Community Interest Company (CIC)** - to provide infrastructure support

We could move from one of these models to another over time

Options appraisal: the 4 models

Model	Key findings
Current CVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A clear commitment from the council to work with the CVS in a positive way• Independence is valued• Seeking to work together in enabling change
Commissioned partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To succeed would need to be broad based and inclusive, within a supportive environment• A positive focus on partnership working
Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could be a future aspiration• Would need to balance independence and influence
CIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Least understood model by the sector• Might need to be supplemented with other mechanisms for sector voice

Principles

- Understanding of shared priorities and agendas
- Trust is built on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of each other's roles, skills and knowledge
- Progress is made, recognised and built on
- Existing strengths are built on and new ones developed
- A reflective model which is adaptable to what works well and what doesn't
- Using this learning to deepen our relationships and make them more effective

Key Findings

- Brent's VCS is diverse and passionate, with a reach into many communities
- The Council and the VCS want to work positively together - good examples of collaborate working - Community Hubs, Homelessness Forum
- Partnership potential is not fully realised – but lots of opportunities for joint working
- Better co-ordination of the sector is needed as is greater confidence between the council and VCS
- The role of smaller community sector organisations needs greater clarity
- Engagement needs to be more consistent, although this has improved in the past months

Our Vision

“Our vision is to work collaboratively with the voluntary and community sector so we can together deliver on shared objectives to secure an inclusive, prosperous and sustainable future for all Brent’s people”.

So what?

Model of Collaboration

- Objective – to deliver clear and lasting positive outcomes for the people of Brent
- On both sides, resources are stretched – people, money and time
- Three main relationship areas – commissioning, lobbying and advocacy
- Building on the strengths of our locality working while also orienting and improving service delivery and outcomes through applying the thematic approach

Thematic Approach – Design Principles

- Reflect and make the most of the diverse nature of the borough, its residents and neighbourhoods
- Delivers against the borough outcomes
- Basis – data and insight - shaped with the needs and circumstances of the community and voluntary sector in mind
- What works
- Promote resident independence which is sustainable over time
- Build on and amplify service delivery at locality level
- Foundations for future innovation, such as participatory budgeting

Localities

- Community Hubs in 5 key locations - opportunity for VCSOs in that area to operate collective voice
- VCSO may be best placed to deliver particular services
- Place-based locality approach - address complex issues that exist at a local level
- Building community capacity
- Localities, Voice and Engagement are pivotal to the effective operation of this model
- Resident engagement is a vital part of effective collaboration

Effective Resident Engagement

- New approaches to resident engagement
- Vibrant participatory democracy - participatory grant giving
- Reinvigorate Brent Connects – the voice of the people
- Lead Member invited to all Strategic Partnership Group meetings
- Ward Councillors will play a key role in this approach including via Brent Connects and their engagement with local communities

Capacity

- Having the right competencies and capabilities
- Ability to building and broaden understanding across sectors, organisations, services, themes and localities
- Promoting knowledge exchange and learning from one another, using lessons learned to improve relationships and delivery
- Multi-disciplinary leadership and capacity building programmes across thematic and locality groups, between services and across sectors

Model of Collaboration

- Locality and thematic based representation
- Self-organising thematic groups that bring together VCSOs working on similar issues – collective voice, partnership
- Strategic Partnership Group (SPG) representing the council and VCSO
- The SPG will be underpinned by resident views from wider council consultation and engagement as well as through Brent Connects
- A key role of the SPG is to ensure effective communication across the sector as well as leading on the VCSO Strategy
- SPG chaired by the ACE and a rep from the VCSO

Timescale

Action	Timescale
Model of Collaboration discussed and agreed	December 2019 - February 2020
Governance agreed	February 2020
Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum	February 2020
Thematic Leads agreed	March 2020
Five Community Hubs operational	March 2020
Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum (launch changes)	April 2020
Strategic Partnership Group (first meeting)	April 2020
Thematic Groups (first meeting)	April 2020
Participatory grant giving introduced	June 2020
Evaluation and review	December 2020

Wider Discussion

We are keen to hear your views.....